



The Villages Scuba Club

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Meeting Place: Laurel Manor Recreation Center

Meeting Time: 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: Mike Blatti, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition: New Members, Guests and Visitors

The January 2026 meeting of The Villages Scuba Club was conducted in person at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center. Approximately 96 members and guests were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Provided highlights and accepted

Secretary's Report: Accepted from minutes posted on website

REVIEWED OLD BUSINESS:

- Membership dues for 2026 are \$5. Mike Gann, Treasurer, is now collecting 2026 membership dues. Membership includes access to the Facebook page, email lists, and discounts for Club sponsored dive events (when offered).
- Club waiver forms must be signed by members and on file in order to attend Club-sponsored diving events. See Mike Gann for a waiver or download from the website. You only need to sign a Club waiver form once a lifetime.
- Check out our website at: thevillagesclub.org.
- The Village Scuba Club is on [Facebook](#). Go online and ask to join and a board member will accept you. You must be a paid Club member to be accepted. Please do not invite non-members to the Facebook page. Club policy is **no selling or advertising** of non-scuba products or events on our Facebook page.
- Club polo shirts can be purchased at Custom Apparel in Southern Trace Plaza.
- Mike Blatti has Scuba Club decals for sale (\$7)... or take a free one if you can get it posted at a dive destination.
- Reminder: Club policy is **no selling** of products or used gear during club meetings. **Also, please be sure to take your unclaimed gear after the meeting.**

Recapped last month's trips/events:

- Nov 6 - Night Golf at Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course POC: Warren Gross
- Nov 11 - Kyalami Scuba Club, Riviera Beach 2-tank dive **Cancelled**
- Nov 19 **10 AM** - Devil's Den Spring Dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Nov 24 - Kyalami Scuba Club, Riviera Beach 50'-60' Reef 2-tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Dec 1 - Kyalami Charters in Jupiter 2 tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Dec 3 - Holiday Party at Canal Street Recreation Center
- Dec 6-13 - Roatan at Seagrape Plantation Resort in West End, Honduras POC: Debbie Garcia



The Villages Scuba Club

- Dec 10 - Kyalami Charters in Jupiter 2 tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Dec 17 **10 AM** - Blue Grotto Spring Dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Dec 29 - Kyalami Charters in Jupiter 2 tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Jan 5 - Kyalami Charters in Jupiter 2 tank dive POC: Mike Blatti

REVIEWED NEW BUSINESS/ UPCOMING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Jan 14 - Kyalami Scuba Club, Riviera Beach 2-tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Jan 15-Feb 2, 2026 - Maldives Dive Adventure and Sri Lanka Land Safari
- Jan 22-Feb 2, 2026 - Maldives Dive Adventure POC: Gail Chapman (937) 903-9062
- Jan 21 **10 AM** - Devil's Den Spring Dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Jan 24-31, 2026 - Dive Paradise at Wyndham Hotel Cozumel POC: Jack Farrell (727) 861-3483
- Jan 28 - Kyalami Scuba Club, Riviera Beach 50'-60' Reef 2-tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Feb 2 - Kyalami Charters in Jupiter 2 tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Feb 4 - Club meeting at Laurel Manor Recreation Center
- Feb 9 - Kyalami Charters in Jupiter 2 tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Feb 18 **10 AM** - Blue Grotto Spring Dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Feb 25 - Kyalami Scuba Club, Riviera Beach 50'-60' Reef 2-tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Feb 27-28 - Outdoor Expo at Everglades Recreation Center
- Mar 2 - Kyalami Charters in Jupiter 2 tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Mar 4 - Club meeting at Laurel Manor Recreation Center - **Board Elections**
- Mar 11 - Kyalami Scuba Club, Riviera Beach 2-tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Mar 18 **10 AM** - Devil's Den Spring Dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Mar 25 - Kyalami Scuba Club, Riviera Beach 50'-60' Reef 2-tank dive POC: Mike Blatti
- Apr 16 - Club Picnic at DeLeon Springs State Park POC: Madeline Helbock
- May 2-9 - Wyndham Hotel Cozumel POC: Joanne Sargent (305) 989-7781
- Jul 4-10 Schooner Juliet, departing Miami for Bahamas. POC Jack Farrell
- Jul 11-18 - Little Cayman Island POC: Joanne Sargent
- Sep 5-12 - Van Der Valk Plaza Beach Resort, Bonaire POC: Joanne Sargent
- Sep 16-Oct 1 - Ultimate Egypt Adventure POC: Gail Chapman
- Dec 5-12 - Roatan at CoCo View Resort in Honduras POC: Joanne Sargent

See our website and Facebook for additional information on upcoming trips.

Gary Chapman raised a discussion point on potentially moving the monthly club meeting further south. While the club's 2026 permit is for Laurel Manor Recreation Center, the board will look at potential opportunities to move for 2027.



The Villages Scuba Club

Training Tip:

Mike Blatti presented information on DeLeon Springs State Park in anticipation of our upcoming club picnic. This presentation will be made available on the website.

Presentation:

Tiare (TJ) Fridrich, Manatee Biologist presented an overview of the Save The Manatee organization. This presentation will be made available on the website. A donation of \$500 was made by the club to the Save The Manatee organization.

50/50 Raffle

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Next meeting : February 4th at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center

The Villages Scuba Club board members contact information

President	Mike Blatti	blattima@aol.com	(937) 269-8506
Vice President	Madeline Helbock	helbockm@aol.com	(352) 409-0061
Treasurer	Mike Gann	mgann54@icloud.com	(812) 322-1174
Secretary	Warren Gross	wfgross@gmail.com	(315) 395-4981