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Inside *{local}* October '26



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NEW CLUB FOR DRONE PILOTS

Local organization to introduce drone flying to everyone



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ON THE COVER: Photo provided by the Gulf Coast Drone Club

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FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION contact David Williford dwilliford@wilcolocal.com or David Green dgreen@wilcolocal.com or Jeff Bryant jbryant@wilcolocal.com
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Love and Braxton Nolan, Founders of the Gulf Coast Drone Club. Photography provided

AN AERIAL PERSPECTIVE

BY LINDA WILLIFORD

Something is fascinating about seeing the world from above. A bird's-eye view—an aerial perspective captured by a drone. This perspective is both interesting and amazing.

Braxton and Love Nolan founded Gulf Coast Drone Club. It serves Baldwin County, including Foley, Fairhope, Orange Beach, and Gulf Shores. It is an active local community of drone pilots and drone enthusiasts who meet in Foley every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. at the Foley Sports Complex.

The Nolans felt the need to connect with other drone pilots in the area. So, on March 31st of this year, they started the Gulf Coast Drone Club. "It's a way we can learn from each other and also share the camaraderie with other drone pilots," said Braxton Nolan. The club is free and open to anyone interested in drones as

a hobby or a business.

Braxton Nolan originally wanted to go into drone flying so he could do videos and photography for real estate. He is now a Certified Part 107 Commercial Drone Pilot and an instructor for aerial videography and photography.

"Anyone can learn to fly a drone," said Braxton. The Gulf Coast Drone Club welcomes all ages. "We have members from age 5 to 80 years old." Members can bring their own drone, or if they're just getting started, the club will let them fly one of theirs. The club provides hands-on drone training at their meetups in Foley.

Braxton Nolan explains that everyone must have a TRUST Certificate to fly a drone. There is no charge for it. The certification ensures that you understand the regulations, operating require-

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Photography provided

< FROM PAGE 8

ments, and procedures for safely flying a drone. Braxton said, “We want everyone to fly legally and safely. We can help you get a certificate online at the meetup.”

If you want to use your drone for commercial business, the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) requires drone pilots to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate. The FAA governs the commercial use of small, unmanned aircraft systems (drones) in the United States. It requires drone operators to adhere to specific operational rules and safety guidelines. Braxton Nolan teaches the Part 107 drone courses to help prepare the student for the FAA Remote Pilot exam.

Braxton Nolan also participates in Drone Racing, a competitive sport in which pilots fly small, fast drones through a course as quickly as possible. The drones are usually equipped with cameras, and pilots wear FPV (first-person view) goggles that let them see what the drone sees. The pilots experience the race from the drone’s viewpoint. Drone Racing is officially recognized as a professional sport primarily categorized under competition. The World Air Sports Federation (FAI) is the official world governing

body for drone sports, managing international records and sanctioning the annual FAI World Drone Racing Championship.

Braxton’s wife, Love Nolan, said that they are very active in the community and have been involved in social media for over eight years. They recently worked with the Wounded Warriors Project in Robertsedale to encourage drone flying activities for their veterans. They are also working on a children’s after-school program. “We do events, real estate videos, and beach photography—“anything media involved; we do,” says Love Nolan.

Love talks about their GoFundMe account on their Facebook page. She says that they give out “free” t-shirts and stickers to everyone who comes to their meetups. All donations to the GoFundMe account will go toward buying more drones for adults and kids, more t-shirts and stickers, and other club supplies. Love Nolan says, “We want everything about the club to be free.”

The club will host a Halloween costume contest for kids and adults this month. Prizes will include gift cards from local businesses, and one drone will be given away to a lucky winner. Visit their Facebook page for contest details. For more information about the Gulf Coast Drone Club, *visit their Facebook or Instagram, or contact Braxton and Love Nolan at 251-487-4008.*

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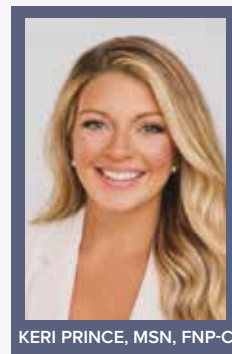


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MARINADE

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar or other vinegar
- 1/8 cup soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic salt, & pepper to taste

KABOBS

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 orange bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 small zucchini, cut into 1-inch slices
- 1 small yellow squash, cut into 1-inch slices
- 1 red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 4 wooden skewers
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS

To make marinade: In large bowl, whisk olive oil, vinegar, soy sauce, lemon juice, brown sugar and garlic. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

To make kebabs: In bowl, toss chicken, bell peppers, zucchini, squash and red onion with marinade. Cover and refrigerate 1-8 hours.

Soak wooden skewers in cold water at least 30 minutes to prevent burning. Preheat grill to medium-high heat.

Thread chicken pieces and vegetables onto skewers, alternating ingredients. Cook 5-7 minutes on each side, or until chicken is cooked through.

Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

Visit Culinary.net to find more recipes to inspire your game plan.

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