



AeroStats

April 2020

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 22, Number 4**

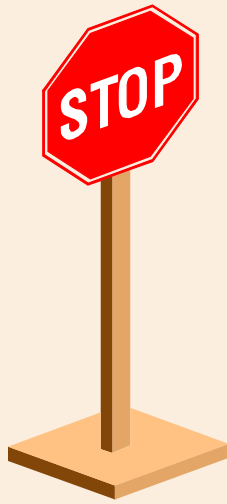
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Invite your crew,
friends &
family to join
WAS.



Support our local
ballooning community.
An application can be
found on page 9.



Don't travel to Aurora for either the April or May WAS meetings!

It's not easy to get the members of this club together and avoid hugs. With the COVID-19 virus in mind, the Executive Committee decided to take the conservative route. The April and May WAS General Meetings have been canceled, however...

We will try a Zoom meeting using your phone or computer instead. Cory Miller has generously offered to host a Zoom meeting on our original meeting date, April 18th at 1:00 pm.

You will need to download the Zoom App to your phone or to your computer. An email will soon be coming to all 2020 WAS members which will give you specific instructions on how to join the online meeting.

2020 WAS Officers

President:
Shari Gale

Vice President:
Marianne LeDoux

Secretary/Treasurer:
Dale Justice

Email: ExecComm@wasballoon.info

Others:

Newsletter Editor:
Shari Gale

Activities Director:
Pasha Luber

WAS website:
<http://www.wasballoon.info>

Happenings

in the Pacific Northwest and beyond



Event information in this newsletter is not to be considered as an endorsement by WAS, its officers, or its members.

April 18, 2020
WAS General Meeting
1:00 PM
Location: Link FBO,
Aurora Airport,
14357 Keil Rd NE, Aurora, OR

May 2, 2020
WAS General Meeting
1:00 PM
Location: Link FBO,
Aurora Airport,
14357 Keil Rd NE, Aurora, OR

May 29-31, 2020
Grants Pass Balloon & Kite Festival
Grants Pass, OR
<https://gpballoonfest.com>

June 3-7, 2020 (new dates)
Walla Walla Balloon Stampede
Walla Walla, WA

June 26-28, 2020
Tigard Festival of Balloons
Tigard, OR
<http://www.tigardballoon.org>

July 2-5, 2020
Teton Valley Balloon Rally
Driggs, Idaho
<http://tetonvalleyballoonrally.com/index.html>

July 3-5, 2020
Freedom Aloft Hot Air Balloon Rally
Prineville, OR

August 28-30, 2020
Northwest Art & Air Festival
Albany, OR
<http://nwartandair.org>

September 2-6, 2020
Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic
Boise, ID
<https://spiritofboise.com>

September 11-13, 2020
Great Reno Balloon Race
Reno, NV
<https://renoballoon.com>

September 18-19, 2020
Alturas Balloon Festival
Alturas, CA
<https://alturaschamber.org/balloonfest>

September 25-27, 2020
Great Prosser Balloon Rally
Prosser, WA
<https://www.tourprosser.com/the-great-prosser-balloon-rally.html>

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival Shut Down

The tulip festival in Woodburn has been cancelled. Per Wooden Shoe's own web site: "In regards to COVID-19, we have decided to keep our farm stand open daily from 10am to 4pm. That includes hemp products and wine bottles as well as fresh cut tulips and potted tulips. **Our festival is still cancelled for our 2020 season and the tulip fields are closed.** While we hope the fields can open later, we are uncertain. We hope to have more information to be released soon."

The Iverson family has always been so generous with the ballooning community. They've allowed us access to their farm for years and years. It's time to pay them back. If getting out to the gift shop is not possible due to the Stay Home decree, you can still shop on line.

Please go on line and order tulips, daffodils and more directly via their website. The bulbs will bring joy every year, and they make a splendid gift! You can shop on line at: <https://www.woodenshoe.com/shop/>

If the Tulip Festival should open back up, we will announce the change on the WAS Facebook page, and/or send out an email to all members.



Winthrop Traditions

by Shari Gale

The balloon rally in Winthrop, WA went on as scheduled this year. It was not canceled due to COVID-19 because it happened before social distancing was even a topic of discussion.

Having said that, there are always two traditional questions revolving around the Winthrop Balloon Festival. The first is “Will I be current in time fly in the first weekend in March in Winthrop, Washington?” With Western Oregon weather at the beginning of the year that is a legitimate question.

The second question is “Will Mother Nature cooperate with us during the rally?” After driving eight hours to get to the Methow Valley, buried in the Northern Cascade Mountains, there’s always a chance the weather will get nasty and stay nasty all weekend long. Of course, the Oregon balloon contingent has so much fun in Winthrop, it really doesn’t matter. Rain, snow, or even hail does not keep us from having a great time.

This year the currency dilemma was handled by Cheryl Isaacs. Her balloon had recently been through an annual inspection. She wanted to get it out of the bag and inflate it. In other words, she wanted to get the “kinks” out. The weather was not particularly flyable, plus there was the additional problem of “icky” local landing sites. (Icky is an Oregon ballooning term for standing water and goeey mud in almost every farm field in the Willamette Valley.) Cheryl invited a group of pilots to join her at the Aurora State Airport. She tucked La Brisa Del Mar into an open courtyard in the middle of the airport buildings. The concrete was mostly dry and the winds were not too brisk. We were able to set up the balloon and tether.

Every pilot got a turn at the controls.

Now, would we get to fly in Winthrop? We all took the eight-hour drive with our fingers crossed. Friday morning, while not perfect, was still flyable. It seemed weird, but we left our balloon in the trailer. Tim flew with Fred Dinkler in his balloon, Carried Away, instead. Fred needed a flight review. The winds were so light that Carried Away only traveled a few blocks to the north before coming back to the launch site. Fred landed right in the middle. He then offered tethered rides to any kids who wanted to go up.

Saturday we weren’t so lucky. We woke up to snow. Snow on the ground is definitely OK. Snow coming down to the ground is not. Everyone headed back to bed to get some extra sleep. The Oregon group had a sleigh ride scheduled at Sun Mountain Lodge that afternoon. We all hoped the sun would come out. It did! We had enough people to fill two large horse drawn sleighs. The route took us up to the top of the



The second sleigh was right behind us as we took the trail up the mountain.



Carmen Blakely and Laura Hancock inflated next to each other on Friday morning.

ridge. The view is spectacular. There was a lot of laughter, but even after the sleighs returned to the lodge we weren’t done. We all headed to the game room at the lodge. Cheryl Isaacs showed us her pool skills. She gave lessons to Edie Stoaks, and the rest of us listened in for pointers. Laura Hancock took on more than one table tennis challenger. She creamed each and every one of them.

We found out that the scheduled downtown glow had been canceled as we flooded into Cole’s rented house for a communal meal. There were about 30 of us there. (Doesn’t that sound strange now, with the Covid-19 social distancing going on at the moment?)

Sunday morning Mother Nature granted us the best weather of the entire weekend. Almost everyone launched and floated down to the small local airport. The manager had left the side gate open so we could drive on the aprons to get the balloons that landed on the airport property.

A total of four or five balloons landed on private property just south of the airport. The landowner told

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Winthrop Traditions

Continued from page 4

us that if he is lucky he gets one balloon a year on his front yard. He was very pleased to have so many drop in on one day. He helped all of them pack up. (We were there helping Dale Justice.)

Our next task was to pack up the motel room and hit the road. However, the Oregon balloonists weren't ready to say good-bye yet. We all met up at a restaurant in East Wenatchee, Washington for one final meal together. We took over the back section of the restaurant. The service was great. One of the waitresses even came out to take a group photo of us in the parking lot. Instead, she ended up in the photo.

Can you tell we had a great time? We always do during the first weekend of March. It's tradition!



The local airport does not have a tower. It's heaviest use comes during fire season when the smoke jumpers use it as their airbase. It is the perfect spot to land in Winthrop. There's easy access and during the winters with lots of snow on the ground, the runways and aprons are regularly plowed.



One of Bob Romaneschi's passengers asked if it is possible for a balloon to touch water. Bob showed them it was definitely possible.



Bob was not the only one to touch the icy water of the Methow River.



Those same two balloons landed in the front yard of the guy who lives just south of the airport.



It was quite cold even though there wasn't much snow on the ground. Megan Smith grabbed a chance to warm up her hands as Carried Away was inflated.

All photos on this page taken by Shari Gale — who left her camera at home. Christel Dinkler came to the rescue and loaned her a camera! Thanks, Christel.)



Winthrop Traditions — More Photos

(some even feature balloons in flight)



An adult beverage was smuggled on the Sun Mountain Lodge sleigh. A toast to Steve Hays was made. From left to right: Laura Hancock, Carmen Blakely, and Edie Stoaks.



Here's the Oregon group! Standing left to right: Pat Bowen, Laura Hancock, Susan Plummer, Dale Justice, our waitress, Mary Heath, Kim Boyle, Tim Gale, Shari Gale, Gerald Bales, Michael Isaacs, and Edie Stoaks. Kneeling left to right: Cathy Steele, Megan Smith, Carmen Blakeley, Cheryl Isaacs and camera shy Maddie.



Please note that talented WAS members, like Cheryl Isaacs (front left), can hold a drink in one hand while playing Foosball with the other hand.

Oh, Now You Have Your Ground Training Done

What is next?

By Tim Gale

Now that many of you have completed the March 14th Safety Seminar, you have WINGS credits available for the Basic knowledge topics 1, 2 and 3, as well as Advanced topics 1 and two credits for advanced knowledge topic two. Presuming you have an e-mail address registered in the FAAafety.gov site, you can gain flight credit through the various tasks available. If you're not registered with FAAafety and attended the seminar, you can register with the FAAafety site with the same e-mail address you submitted for the seminar and capture credits for the WINGS program. Keep in mind that the tasks have an expiration life of 12 months, after which they cannot be used for a Wings advancement and flight review. Putting it in another way: use it or lose it.

All said, how to get the flight credit, you might ask? That's through your instructor, read your friendly commercial pilot. Then it goes through a FAAafety team representative, such as Koh Murai or myself. I'd ask for some evidence of the various maneuvers or activities called for in the tasks. The descriptions are available in the FAAafety.gov site and are pulled from the LTAB (Lighter Than Air Balloon) practical test standards. Change is coming, yet the FAA still uses the PTS for LTA. Other categories use a new regimen that may show up in a year or more. Well see.

Going into the FAAafety.gov site and logged in with your registered email and password, head to Pilot

/ My Wings to find the matrix. Tabs allow selection of Basic, Advanced, Master, Wings Logbook. Below is a field of Knowledge activities and further down is the Flight activities. The necessary credits are called out, then there's the type and title. Further to the right is a block where you can request credit then one where you can initiate a search for alternate activities. There can be quite a range available yet some, like a new rating are not common for many of us. There's also tasks like a full flight review. Poke around for your options and see what fits. I've added my selections below for reference.

Once a task is selected and completed, click on the request credit box. It will take you to a screen where the completion date is selected and a validator selected. The choices are CFIs (not part of the LTA world), FAAST Representatives and FAAST Program Managers. Here's where you'll need to make choices and ultimately find a way to validate your experiences. Not everyone that you ask will say okay. Once you request credit of someone, they can validate your request, yet it may involve inspection of your logs or a flight.

After all of the flight tasks and knowledge topics are complete for any level, basic or advanced, the site will allow printing of a certificate of completion and a certificate for a flight review. The flight review is good for 24 months.

A070405-141, used for Basic task 1 & Advanced task 1, (odd but the selection works in both basic and advanced)
Syllabus S-BF1-W1.00-080123-002-01 & Takeoffs, Climbs, Approaches, Landings, Go-Arounds – WINGS , ,
SyllabusS-AF1-W1.00-091201-002-01, r Primary Accident Causal Factors - Category/Class Specific
From the Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards for Lighter-Than-Air
Area of Operation VII - Task B: Launch Over Obstacle
Area of Operation VII - Task C: Approach to Landing
Area of Operation VII - Task D: Steep Approach to Landing
Area of Operation VIII - Task A: Ascents

A070405-38, used for Basic task 2 ,
Syllabus S-BF2-W1.00-091201-002-01
Required from the Private Pilot Practical Test Standards for Lighter-Than-Air
Area of Operation II - Task B: Crew Briefing and Preparation
Area of Operation II - Task C: Layout and Assembly
Area of Operation II - Task D: Preflight Inspection
Area of Operation II - Task E: Inflation
Area of Operation IV - Task A: Normal Launch
Area of Operation IV - Task D: Normal Landing

A100125-42, used for Basic task 3,
SyllabusS-BF3-W1.00-080128-002-02 Tasks from the Private Pilot Practical Test Standards for Lighter-Than-Air
Area of Operation II, Task G: Pre-Launch Check



Contributed by Marianne LeDoux

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FAA Wings

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Area of Operation VIII, Task A: Recovery
Area of Operation VIII, Task B: Deflation and Packing
Area of Operation VIII, Task C: Refueling

Area of Operation VIII - Task B: Altitude Control (Level Flight)
Area of Operation VIII - Task C: Descents
Area of Operation VIII - Task D: Rapid Ascent
Area of Operation VIII - Task E: Contour Flying
Area of Operation VIII - Task G: Obstruction Clearance

A100126-22, for Advanced task 2 ,
Syllabus S-AF2-W1.00-080131-002-01
From the Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards for Lighter-
Than-Air

Area of Operation V, Task G: Pre-Launch Check
Area of Operation VII, Task A: Normal Launch
Area of Operation VII, Task D: Normal Landing
A070405-143, used for Advanced task 2 (yup, you need two AF2's),
Syllabus S-AF2-W1.00-080131-002-01

Note: Authorized instructors select Tasks appropriate to the needs of
the pilot to total 1 credit.

Area of Operation VI: Airport Operations - Radio Communications –
¼ credit

Area of Operation VII - Task F: High Wind Landing – ¼ credit

Area of Operation VIII - Task H: Tethering – ½ credit

Area of Operation VIII - Task I: Winter Flying – ¼ credit

Area of Operation VIII - Task J: Mountain Flying – ¼ credit

Area of Operation IX: Navigation – ¼ credit

Area of Operation X - Task A: Systems and Equipment Malfunctions
– ¼ credit

Area of Operation X - Task C: Water Landing – ¼ credit

Area of Operation XI - Task A: Recovery – ¼ credit

Area of Operation XI - Task B: Deflation and Packing – ¼ credit

Area of Operation XI - Task C: Refueling – ¼ credit

Introducing the WAS Aeronaut of the Year, John Kent!



John Kent of St. Paul, Oregon was voted in as Aeronaut of the Year. Dale Justice awarded him the plaque in a private moment. Once meetings resume we can congratulate John publicly.

Changes, Cancellations, Oh My!

This rally season is already being drastically changed even before it really has begun. Rallies in both Walla Walla and Tigard have made major announcements recently.

The **Walla Walla Balloon Stampede** has been moved from Mother's Day weekend in May to the first weekend in June. All other information is still the same.

The **Tigard Festival of Balloons** has been canceled completely. It was not an easy decision for them to make. They are optimistic that next year the rally will come back as strong as ever. The dates for next year will be June 25-27, 2021.

And While You Are Making Calendar Changes...

Remove your calendar entries for the next two WAS General meetings which had been scheduled for April 18 and May 2. Both meetings have been canceled due to the Social Distancing requirements.

We will try the Zoom application for the April 18th meeting. More information will come to you in an email soon.

*Considering joining the
Willamette Aerostat Society?*



*That's a simply
marvelous idea.
There is an
application on the
following page.*



WAS Membership Application



Name: _____

Pilot Crew Interested in hot air ballooning

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Home Phone #: (____) _____

Cell Phone #: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

BFA Membership #: _____

Pilot/Crew Achievement Awards

BFA Crew Level: _____ BFA Pilot Level: _____

FAA Wings Level: _____ Other: _____

Family Member Information

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Membership Type

Charter (\$20) Single or Family (\$20) Newsletter Only (\$10 outside Oregon & SW Washington)

Membership

The Willamette Aerostat Society communicates via e-mail, the WAS Facebook page and the website. We recognize and respect our member's privacy. If you do not wish personal information about you shared with other members, please indicate below. Your personal information will *never* be published on our website. It might be shared with other club members if a request is made unless you prefer to opt out.

- Do Not share name
- Do Not share address
- Do Not share phone number
- Do Not share cell phone number
- Do Not share e-mail

Please use a 2nd page if there are two pilots in the family, or if you have family members with additional information such as cell phone # and/or BFA #'s.

Mail completed form with fees to:
Willamette Aerostat Society
c/o Dale Justice
2902 E. 2nd St. Unit 76
Newberg, OR 97132



Willamette Aerostat Society

Willamette Aerostat Society Mission Statement

- ➔ To promote the sport of Hot Air Ballooning
- ➔ To educate new balloonists and the public
- ➔ To embody safety in all aspects of Ballooning
- ➔ To do all we can to support and encourage land owner relations
- ➔ To support our fellow balloonists and crews personally and in our sport

To obtain Member Contact information, send an e-mail to the Secretary/Treasurer.

For Privacy reasons, *AeroStats* will not publish member contact information without their express permission.

Contact and Submissions

Submissions of articles and photographs are encouraged and welcome! The editorial staff reserves the right to determine the suitability of a submission for inclusion in the newsletter.

Please email your pictures, articles, and comments to:

sharigaleOR@gmail.com

Advertising Policy

Club member's ballooning related or event information is published on a space available basis at no charge.

Business Advertising by Club members is considered Commercial Advertising, subject to fees shown below.

Material must be submitted in computer word processing format with pictures in JPG format.

AeroStats reserves the right to decline publishing submitted information.

Commercial Advertisement Space Rates

Full Page — \$30	1/2 Page — \$20
1/4 Page — \$15	Business Card — \$10

Ads will be published for 3 consecutive months, or until withdrawn, for the fee shown above.

The publishing of advertising in *AeroStats* does not imply an endorsement of the ad or its contents.

Text and images will be printed as submitted by advertisers.

Front Cover Photo:

Two good flying days were granted the weekend of the Winthrop Balloon Festival the first weekend in March. Photo by Shari Gale (thanks to a camera loaned to her by Christel Dinkler.)

Waiver

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Material to be considered for publication should be mailed or e-mailed to the Newsletter Editor at sharigaleOR@gmail.com

Publication deadline is the 2nd Saturday of each month.

AeroStats reserves the right to deny publication of submitted material for any reason.

Material published in AeroStats does not imply endorsement by WAS, its officers, newsletter editor, or its members of an event.

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