



AeroStats

April 2021

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 23, Number 4**

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival Rules Have Changed

Please be sure to read and follow the new rules if you plan to fly there

Due to Covid-19 the Oregon Health Authority has changed rules for outdoor gatherings. This means the Tulip Festival organizers have had to change the rules the balloonists must follow in order to launch from their fields. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the document the Iverson family has issued which applies to **all balloonists** whether they are flying for hire or just for fun.

Please read it carefully, and comply with the rules. Our invitation to fly during the tulip festival this year and years to come rests upon our cooperation with the rules. The Iverson family is in a tough spot. **To keep the festival open, they must comply with these rules, therefore the ballooning community must follow them as well.**

Here's a quick list of the changes:

- Follow all the Tulip Festival requirements. Including the Covid-19 guidelines.
- No balloons can fly from the farm on Easter Sunday, April 4.
- All balloonists, pilots and crew, need to buy Sunrise Entry tickets on line at <https://www.woodenshoe.com/events/tulip-fest/> . This is how the festival organizers know how many people are on the field during that time period. This enables them to comply with state rules.
- Crew and passenger vehicles will need to park in the front parking lot, so the cars do not obstruct

the view of Mt. Hood for the photographers.

- All crew vehicles must leave the parking lot once the balloon has launched.
- No return to the field by crew vehicles is permitted. That means pilots may *not* land back on the festival grounds and there will be *no tailgating* at the field.
- **However, a pilot may return their passengers to the front parking lot**, and then make a U-turn to exit the property.

Please see the article by the Iverson family on page 5.

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2021 WAS Officers

President:
Shari Gale

Activities Director:
Pasha Luber

Vice President:
Marianne LeDoux

Web Master:
Cory Miller

Secretary/Treasurer:
Dale Justice

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

Others:

Newsletter Editor:
Shari Gale

Email: ExecComm@wasballoon.info



Willamette Aerostat Society Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Willamette Aerostat Society General Meeting on ZOOM

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Present:

Shari Gale, President & Newsletter Editor
Marianne LeDoux, Vice President
Dale Justice, Secretary/Treasurer
Pasha Luber, Activities Director
and 18 additional members.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p. m. by Shari using Zoom on the internet following an excellent weather presentation by John Saltenberger on "Mountain Waves."

2. Moved by Edie Stoaks, seconded by Pasha, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting as printed in the March 2021 Aerostats newsletter. Motion passed.

3. **Treasurer's report** -- from Dale, as of March 9, 2021.

2020-2021 Members	69 (40 memberships paid)
Checking	\$ 862.47
Savings	105.00
Cash	7.00
Total	<u>\$ 874.47</u>

4. **Correspondence** – reports were received from OSHU hospital on Barb Iverson's (Wooden Shoe owner) condition. WAS wishes her a good recovery.

5. Events –

1. Safety seminars are still available on the internet.
2. Winthrop – 11 balloons attended on March 5-7. Many pictures were posted.
3. The Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival will be March 19 through May 2. The best flower viewing will be in April. There is no monetary support. Directions and waiver instructions are available.
4. There will be a memorial for Charitie Faith Lansing in Madras on May 8, 2021.

5. Wild Rogue HAB Rally – Grants Pass
6. Tigard Festival of Balloons will not be held this year.
7. Teton Valley Balloon Rally – July 1-4, 2021.
8. Balloons Over Bend – July 23-25.
9. Ruby Mountain Balloon Rally – Elko, NV, July 23-25
10. Three BFA sponsored balloon camps are scheduled during the summer.
11. Walla Walla has been postponed until either this fall or Mother's Day weekend in 2022.
12. A rally is planned for Winnemucca in September.

Other updates and rally information will be in the newsletter.

6. Old Business –

1. PayPal for memberships is on hold for now.

7. New Business – None

8. **The next meeting will be on April 14, 2021 at 7:00 p. m. using Zoom.** More information will be in the newsletter and sent to members by email.

9. Shari adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p. m. The Zoom meeting was continued for open discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale T. Justice
/signed/dtj/3-15-2021

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.

March 19-May 2, 2021
Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival
Woodburn, OR
More details on pages 2 & 5

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
WAS General Meeting via Zoom
7:00 PM

April 24, 2021
BFA Online Safety Seminar
<https://www.bfa.net/events5/all-event-list/event/537-2021-bfa-online-safety-seminar>

June 25-27, 2021
Tigard Festival of Balloons
Tigard, Oregon

June 4-6, 2021
Wild Rogue Hot Air Balloon Festival
Grants Pass, Oregon
Contact: Bob Raper,
406-853-2498
This is a tentative date. Stay tuned.

June 20-25, 2021
High Sierra Balloon Camp
Reno, Nevada
<https://bfa.net/bfa-summer-camps>

July 2-4, 2021
Teton Valley Balloon Rally
Driggs, Idaho
<http://tetonvalleyballoonrally.com/index.html>

July 2-4, 2021
7th Annual Freedom Aloft
Prineville, Oregon

July 23-25, 2021
Big Sky International Balloon Rendezvous
Billings, Montana
<https://www.facebook.com/bigskyballoonrally/>

July 23-25, 2021
Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival
Elko, Nevada
<http://rubymountainballoonfestival.com>

July 23-25, 2021
2021 Balloons Over Bend Balloon Festival
Bend, OR
<http://www.balloonsoverbend.com/>
This is a tentative date. Stay tuned.

August 27-29, 2021
Northwest Art & Air Festival
Albany, OR
<http://nwartandair.org>

September 1-5, 2021
Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic
Boise, Idaho
<https://spiritofboise.com/>

September 10-12, 2019
The Great Reno Balloon Race
Reno, NV
For more information:
<http://www.renoballoon.com>

September 24-26, 2021
The Great Prosser Balloon Rally
Prosser, WA
For more information:
<http://www.prosserballoonrally.org>

September 24-26, 2021
Winnemucca Balloon Festival
Winnemucca, NV
<https://winnemuccaballoonswixsite.com/winnemucca-balloons>

**Please join us for
the April 2021
WAS Zoom Meeting**

**Wednesday,
April 14
7:00 PM
via Zoom**



**It will be good to
see you and to talk
to you!**

Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm 2021 Festival Vendor Covid-19 requirements – Hot Air Balloons

Submitted by the Iverson Family

We want people to enjoy their flight and make it a memorable experience.

In consideration of Covid-19, we are requiring, even from our long-time partners and vendors, that each company/group/organization provide a written policy that shows what they are doing to mitigate Covid-19 and how they will follow Covid-19 guidelines. (The Oregon Farmer's Market Association has great resources [OFMA COVID 19 Resources - Google Docs](#). This is for the protection of all of our employees, customers, and businesses. What you do impacts all of us.

There are rules we have put in place to make a great experience and keep people safe. We expect all guests and visitors to follow the rules. No exception for any groups or vendors. We are following the Oregon Health Authority guidelines that anywhere six (6) or more people are gathered whether indoors or outdoors, face coverings are required. Face coverings must be worn over the nose, covering the mouth, and under the chin.

Customers coming in for balloon flights will need to purchase a sunrise pass. We have limited capacity this year and need a record of persons on site. All guests are part of the traffic flowing into our parking areas which are especially full on weekends and during peak bloom.

Please no flights Easter morning.

Please be courteous to our parking attendants and park in designated parking spaces only. Photographers are taking sunrise photos and we will not be parking vehicles in the back lot until after 9:00 am daily. If our parking people ask you to move please follow their request, there is a reason they are asking you to move.

Please drive slowly and respect all employees, visitors, and guests.

Please follow the road direction signs. Do not go the wrong way on designated one-ways. We have designated them intentionally.

No post flight gatherings on the farm site.

If you haven't already read it, please go back to page 2 for more information.

Meet John Kent and Carrie Bohl

By Shari Gale with generous help from John and Carrie



John Kent and Carrie Bohl were destined to meet on a balloon launch field. It is amazing how fluffing a little fabric can get sparks flying.

John was born in Oakland, California. When he was 3-years-old his family moved to Vanport, Oregon. His family lost everything in the famous Vanport flood. After losing their jewelry store they moved to Spokane. That's where John and his seven younger siblings grew up.

Carrie was born in Seattle, but spent her early years in Metairie, LA. Later she moved to Federal Way, Washington. She didn't move to Oregon until 1986.

During the 1960's John worked as a draftsman for Boeing, Lockheed and Fairchild-Hiller Aircraft. In 1972 he received four hours of flight instruction in a single engine airplane. He loved it, but couldn't afford to continue his training. His fascination with aviation eventually brought him to Vista Balloon

Adventures, based in Newberg, Oregon. Roger Anderson and Catherine Driver owned/operated Vista. John was asked by a mutual friend in 1992 if he wanted to crew for them. He said yes. "I gave her my phone number to give to Roger. That was on a Friday, on Saturday Roger called me and on Sunday I was a volunteer crewman." After he started crewing John quickly got his private LTA license, and his commercial certificate the following year, 1993. His single engine land rating followed that.

Carrie's route into the ballooning community went through Kelly Haverkate. Carrie and Kelly's sons were friends growing up. Kelly was, also, Carrie's tax preparer. Carrie can remember Kelly studying for her LTA pilot certificate during the boy's baseball games, and of course, Kelly invited Carrie to come out to crew for Vista. Eventually, Carrie accepted Kelly's invitation.

Carrie started to crew in 2005. After only volunteering two or three times she was assigned to John's balloon. It did not take long for sparks to fly. John soon asked Catherine to put Carrie on "my crew as often as possible." They started dating in 2008, and were married in March of 2009.

Besides meeting Carrie, John says, "My favorite part of ballooning, besides flying, is taking passengers for their first flight, and flying in events. I really liked flying in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta even though it was highly stressful. I also had the opportunity to fly in Sun Valley, Idaho one week for Rupert Murdock. The flights consisted of two 10-minute hops over/on the golf course. After that I got to play in Sun Valley the rest of the day."

Carrie says that besides meeting John, her favorite part of ballooning is "...meeting all the people, working with the crew and the physical activity. And, of course, watching those beautiful orbs float up to the sky!"

Away from flying for Vista John is involved in ham radio. He has a license, is a member of YCARES (Yamhill County Amateur Radio Emergency Services); CERT (Community Emergency Response Team); and SAR (Search and Rescue). Carrie is a gardener, hiker, and loves to do anything that is outdoors. If the activity involves her grandchildren then is it "doubly wonderful."

Undoubtedly, the most important fact about John and Carrie is that they are both cancer survivors and "life thrivers." They supported one another then and now.

Carrie states, I love the balloon community. It's a special group of people who love adventure and life, and who have very generous hearts." John says he has missed flying in 2020 and is hoping this year will be better. He is not ready to retire yet.



More photos on page 7

Photos of John and Carrie

by Dale Justice, Shari Gale and Keith's Custom Photo



Photo left: Cheryl Isaccs, John Kent and Carrie Bohl prepare for a flight together.

Photo above: John Kent (right) gave instruction to the new owner of Vista Balloon Adventures, Pierre Jourda in 2014.



Photo left: John Dragt, John Kent, Kelly Haverkate, Carmen Blakely and Robert Craig pose in one of the Vista baskets in 2010.



In the lower left and right photos John was flying Crater Lake, the multi-blue colored envelope, during the 2015 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede in Walla Walla, WA.

Balloons Welcomed Back With Enthusiasm

2021 Winthrop Balloon Round-Up

by Cory Miller



My wife, Angela, and I recently attended the Winthrop Balloon Round Up in Winthrop, Washington. This was my second time attending, and Angela's first. The last one I attended was in 2009. This was also our first official balloon event in over a year. Our last rally was in Lovelock, Nevada in February 2020.

It was great to see our ballooning family from Washington. Even though it has been about a year and a half since seeing most of them, our greetings seemed awkward at times. Many times it involved pulling the mask down for a brief nano second then going in for the handshake or hug but then pulling back to the air hug and fist bump. On the occasions that we did hug our ballooning family members the thoughts afterwards were "I hope that my 3-layer gaiter is enough or I really hope they are remaining COVID safe."

Angela and I are generally very outgoing extroverts thriving on human interaction and experiences. However, this weekend as more and

more people came near our bubble, we found that we became more introverted and were constantly looking to avoid standing too close to people. We are definitely more aware of social distancing.

Before the event, I read on the winthropwashington.com website that due to COVID only 200 people would be allowed on the property. People could sign up for free tickets. The website stated this was a way to judge how many would be on the launch field.

Friday morning came and we showed up for the event. They had a line set up for everyone to enter with very few showing tickets. They were just counting the people and limiting to the 200 number. Since many have attended before, they were avoiding the line and coming through from other access points. Trying to limit the number of people on the launch field seemed to work about as well as nailing Jello to a wall.

A little after 7:00 AM, an announcement was made that they were at capacity with about 50 still waiting in line. That number grew closer to 100 as the morning went on. The pilots met with the local pilot giving them the weather for the day. He stated that the winds aloft above the ridge were fast and the pilot confirmed this. There were a few pilots who opted not to fly that morning, but soon the sky was filled with about 10 balloons taking to the air. Staying below the ridge line offered some great steerage and they were able to fly over parts of the town.

After the flight, we stopped in to a few stores and the energy of the balloons being in town was amazing. Everyone asking if you saw the balloons and saying "It's great to have them in town."

Saturday morning came with much anticipation and hoping for a clearer day. Also more people came out than the day before. Learning from the day before, those that didn't get in showed up early. The volunteers with the event also learned from the previous day and set up some barriers so everyone had to use the main entrance. You could over hear the excitement as each group talked about going for a flight with one of the balloons. Winds Saturday were light, even above the ridge line. All the balloons set up with many of the crown lines snaking in between vehicles. It was amusing to watch as some of those on the crown line were going over the tall snow banks. It was also the first time I got to see the Amazon balloon inflated. This balloon was created for the movie "The Aeronauts" on Amazon Prime. It was also part of a program created to help teach younger adults to fly.



All photos for this article by Cory Miller
Continued on page 9

Winthrop

Continued from page 8

Saturday afternoon we toured the town. Each store was bustling with energy. Each merchant talking vividly of rallies in the past and how it has changed over the years. People were talking about the colors in the sky against the snowy background. (There was some snow on the ground, but not as much as in the past.)

Saturday afternoon also brought a pop-up glow of the Amazon balloon. Since it was not advertised or really talked about few got to experience it. The video posted to Facebook showed it brought even more joy to those who witnessed it.

We looked at the forecast for Sunday and decided it would be best to sleep in and get ready for the drive back to Salem. We were staying in a great, secluded cabin in Mazama. We would have been rushed if we went in the morning and tried to make it back in time to check-out. The forecast held true with light snow falling and the balloons not flying. The Amazon balloon did set up for a quick preview for those in attendance.

All in all, it was fantastic to attend a balloon event again. I am looking forward to this becoming the norm again and not a rarity.





Burner Cast Podcasts are of Interest to All

Three under 30 pilots from around the US recently came up with an idea that is growing in popularity. Joey Strutz from Michigan and McKenna Secrist from Washington were on a Zoom call when the idea of starting a hot air ballooning podcast was hatched. They soon brought in Brad Hosmer from Wisconsin to help on the project.

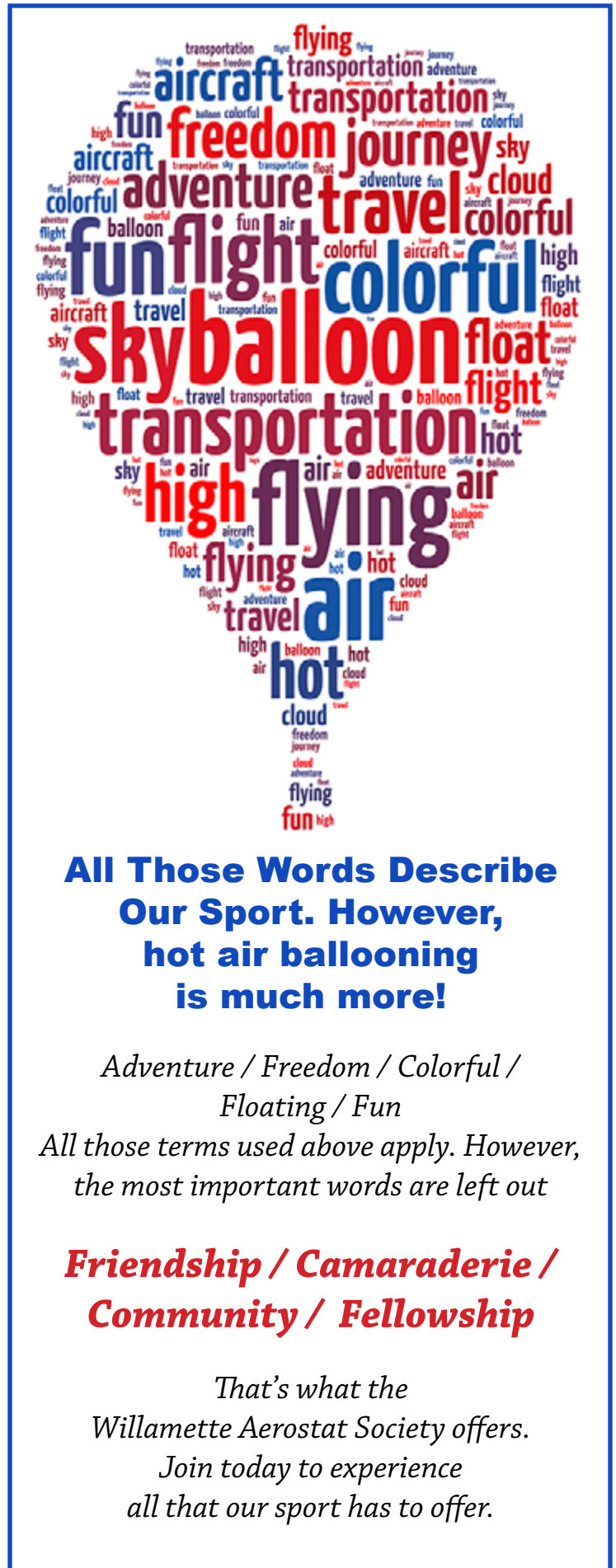
The three pilots brain stormed topic and speaker ideas. They tapped into all their resources. All three have been involved in the ballooning community for many years, even though they may all be under 30. They received a lot of support from the ballooning community.

The podcast is called Burner Cast. They have six episodes completed. All six were recorded and can be easily accessed. The speakers are knowledgeable and the topics are wide ranging.

You can find the podcasts on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/wat>
[ch/345674346628218/448569099592785/](https://www.facebook.com/wat)

Or you can find them on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekovXaPIIVY>

Take some time to watch the podcast. You will be glad you did.



**All Those Words Describe
Our Sport. However,
hot air ballooning
is much more!**

*Adventure / Freedom / Colorful /
Floating / Fun*

*All those terms used above apply. However,
the most important words are left out*

**Friendship / Camaraderie /
Community / Fellowship**

*That's what the
Willamette Aerostat Society offers.
Join today to experience
all that our sport has to offer.*

2021 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:

Our featured WAS member, John Kent, was flying one of the Vista Balloon Adventure balloons over the Willamette River. He'd just dipped in for a quick splash 'n' dash and had created a waterfall when Dale Justice took this photo.

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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