

# *AeroStats*



**July 2022**

**The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Willamette Aerostat Society**

**Volume 24, Number 7**





There aren't any WAS meetings  
scheduled during the summer months,  
instead join us for the

**WAS Summer BBQ**  
at Jack and Sallie Loflin's home!  
**Saturday, August 6 at 2 PM**  
**35392 Gore Drive, Albany**

**It's a potluck.**  
**Please bring a side dish or a dessert.**

## Table of Contents

- Happenings Page 3
- Congrats Will Page 4
- Will's Photo Page Page 5
- Jack Loflin, DPE Page 6
- Jim Smith Page 7
- Thanks, Cory Page 7
- Tigard Festival Page 8
- Kongregation Page 9
- Teton Valley Rally Page 10
- Provo Rally Page 11
- WAS Application Page 12

## 2022 WAS Officers

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**Web Master:**  
Cory Miller

**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.

## WAS meetings are on hold during the summer months.

(The next meeting will be in October. Details will be in the September newsletter.)

July 22-24, 2022

### Balloons Over Bend

Bend, Oregon

<https://balloonsoverbend.com/night-glow/#morning-launches>

July 29-31

### Ruby Mountain Balloon Fest

Elko, Nevada

<https://www.rubymountainballoons.org>

August 6, 2022, 2:00 PM

### WAS Summer BBQ

Jack & Sallie's House

35392 Gore Drive, Albany

It's a potluck. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

August 20, 2022

### Arlington Sky Fest

Arlington, Washington

<https://www.arlingtonskyfest.com>

August 26-28, 2022

### NW Art and Air Festival

Albany, Oregon

<http://nwartandair.org>

August 31-September 4, 2022

### Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic

Boise, Idaho

<https://spiritofboise.com>

September 9-11, 2022

### Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, Nevada

<https://renoballoon.com/>

September 23-25, 2022

### Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Prosser, Washington

October 1-9, 2022

### Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta

Albuquerque, New Mexico

<https://balloonfiesta.com/>

October 19-23, 2022

### Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Walla Walla, Washington

## Please Respect Our Landowners!

Only drive one recovery vehicle into a farm field.  
If there is an abundance of crew, people from additional cars can walk in.

And of course, *never land* in an unharvested field!

Your choices impact the entire ballooning community





# Congratulations, Will!

Will Vavra, Reno, Nevada, is a WAS member along with his mother, Karalyn and brother, Thomas. All three of them visited Albany, Oregon recently. Their trip was set up for one purpose: Will's commercial check ride.

Jack Loflin in his quest to become a Designated Pilot Examiner for balloons needed a check ride "guinea pig." Will jumped at the chance. The timing was right. He had just graduated from high school, and his goal was to get his commercial certificate during summer break.

After finishing up his shift at work Saturday, the three family members headed to Albany very early Sunday morning. They arrived at Tim and Shari Gale's home about 45 minutes before Will was to meet Jack at the Albany Airport for his oral exam. Will passed that exam with flying colors. The next step was a check ride.

Now if the weather would just cooperate! It didn't. Monday was rainy. So they made lemonade from the lemons Mother Nature gave them. (If you know the name of the balloon Will was flying that weekend, you'll get the joke – check out the photo captions if you don't.) Will, Thomas and Karalyn headed to Newport, Oregon. They visited the beach and the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and ate a lot of great seafood. On Tuesday it was still raining. That's not unexpected in Western Oregon in the spring. The boys played a lot of pool in the basement while Shari and Karalyn went thrift store shopping. While these activities were fun, it sure wasn't what they wanted to be doing. Will was checking the weather charts about every 15 minutes throughout the day. Wednesday was their last chance.

Luckily, for everyone involved, Wednesday morning's weather was good enough for a flight. Will launched from the parking lot at the Linn County Expo Center. Everyone had hoped the winds would be light enough that flight could be kept to a small geographic area. The 12 knot winds aloft dictated a change of plans. Will handled it well.

His final landing site was at the very edge of a grass seed field. He'd skimmed the across entire field, landed on the edge, and had his crew walk him across the busy country road to a side street. (There were no

power lines on either road.)

The balloon got packed up, the paperwork was completed back at the launch site, and then everyone but Jack headed out to breakfast. Jack had a check ride to do in a multi-engine fixed wing in Salem. As soon as everyone else finished breakfast the Reno crowd headed home. They had an annual inspection in California the next day – on a different system, so they had to go home to Reno first. Then after a short breather they are off for several weeks to fly in Utah, Wisconsin and points in between.

Will did an excellent job on both his oral and check ride. He can now take time to reflect on his trip to Oregon.



*Above: Will Vavra and Jack Loflin took off from the Linn County Expo Center parking lot the morning of Will's check ride.*



*Top right: Will flew "Citrus in the Sky." The crew is known as the "Lemon Squeezers."*

*Bottom right: Will received a hearty congratulations from Albany's new DPE, Jack Loflin. Those smiles are legit.*





# Will Vavra's Check Ride Photos



*It is an understatement to say that Will's mom, Karalyn Mumm, was very excited!*



*You know you are in trouble when your crew consists of more pilots than not. Tim Gale (left) and Kearney Davis (right) were on the mouth. Karalyn Mum was on the fan, and Jack Loflin was carefully watching it all.*



*Above: Karalyn welcomed Will in for his landing as he skimmed above an uncut grass seed field.*

*Top right: Will gave the right of way to a local school bus. Unfortunately, it was empty. If it had been full of kids, they would have been truly buzzed by the time they got to school.*

*Bottom right: (Front row) Tim Gale, Will Vavra, Karalyn Mumm, Thomas Vavra. (Back row) Shari Gale, Kearney Davis and Jack Loflin. Photo right by Karalyn Mumm*





# Jack Loflin: Newest LTA DPE

The last time there was an active Designated Pilot Examiner in the Pacific Northwest was 2012. Since that time anyone wanting to get an LTA pilot certificate had to go to Utah, Southern California or wait until Kay West visited from South Dakota. In those cases, weather delays could be costly and/or could mean a significant delay in getting the check ride.

Those days happily have come to an end. Beginning at the end of June 2022 Jack Loflin, Albany, Oregon, is now a DPE for hot air balloons.

It is a delightful pleasure to introduce everyone to Jack Loflin, FAA LTA DPE.

Jack holds an Airline Transport Pilot certificate and is a certified instructor for airplanes, helicopters and balloons. He was already a DPE for fixed wing aircraft since 2017.

He works for Garmin in Salem.

In his spare time he and his wife, Sallie, have been building their own home just east of Albany. When it is said he is building it, that's exactly what it means. He is not just supervising a lot of subcontractors. He is putting his own labor into the build, as is Sallie. It might be safe to say that their dog, Dublin, could be considered the primary on site supervisor.

## Note From Jack:

*I've been trying to drum up both folks willing to instruct in balloons, and people wanting to learn. To my surprise, there seems to be an abundance of folks willing to teach, but not a lot of folks wanting to learn. I was hoping to bring these two groups together but it's a little one sided at the moment. If anyone knows of someone that is interested in learning to fly, please send them my way. ([loflinj@gmail.com](mailto:loflinj@gmail.com))*



*Will Vavra of Reno, Nevada was Jack's first check ride candidate. All went well.*



*Jack recently participated in the Tigard Festival of Balloons.*



*The garage in Jack and Sallie's new home can be used for annual balloon inspections. That's a nice bonus for the local ballooning community. In this photo Jack, Joy Sibayan and Tim Gale were helping with Carmen Blakely's envelope.*

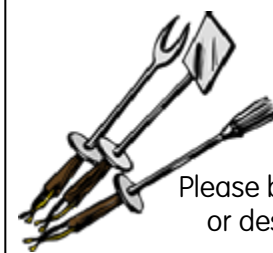


*Dublin has been happy to supervise all phases of the new house construction, until he discovered this is a doggie wash-room. He is not at all pleased with this idea. All photos by Shari Gale, except this photo of Dublin by Sallie Loflin.*

## Got An App To Share?

There are some great apps available for ballooning. Glympse and onXHunt have been covered in this newsletter. Do you have any other apps you'd like the ballooning community to know about? Please send your comments to: [ExecComm@wasballoon.info](mailto:ExecComm@wasballoon.info)

Join us for the  
**WAS Summer BBQ**  
**August 6, 2:00 PM**  
at Jack and Sallie's home  
35392 Gore Dr., Albany



Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



# Jim Smith Flies Once Again!

## Speaking of DPEs

Jim Smith was an important part of the Oregon ballooning community for years. He flew his balloon in many festivals, he took up paid riders, he was the Balloonmeister for the Tigard Festival of Balloons for years, and he was our FAA Designated Pilot Examiner. All that came to an abrupt halt in 2012 when he suffered a massive stroke. While he lived through it, the stroke removed his ability to easily communicate. It also

robbed him of his chance to fly since he is now wheelchair bound.

The Tigard Festival of Balloons changed all that this year. The organizers brought in Kim Lynch from Southern California with her balloon, which is accessible to wheelchairs.

The smile on Jim's face says it all. He was ecstatic to once again be able to be airborne in a hot air balloon.

Those of us who were there to witness this moment also sported huge smiles.



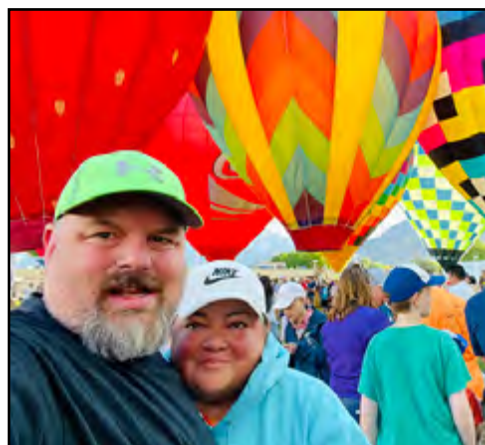
*Shari and Tim Gale enjoyed spending some quality time with Jim on the Tigard Festival of Balloons tether field.*



*Jim Smith, his honorary grandson Michah Weaver and rally organizer, Cindy Murphy, took the first ride in "Reach 4 The Stars."*



*Pilot Kim Lynch's smile almost equalled the smile Jim sported all morning long.*



## Cory's Efforts Deserve Praise!

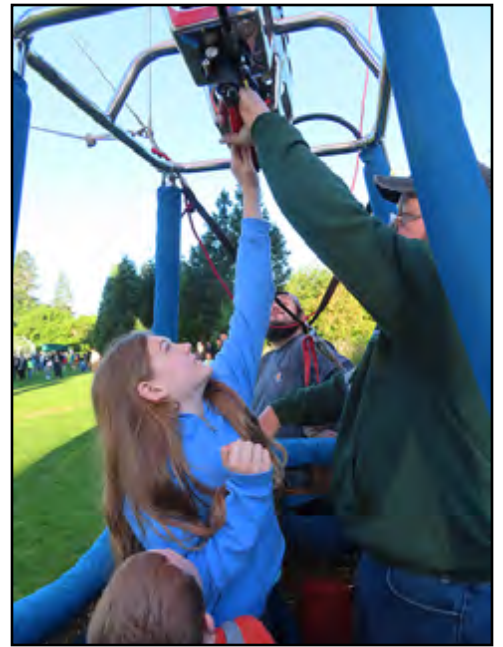
As you probably know the WAS web site was hacked. Someone installed a bot which attacked the site as soon as it was rebuilt. Eventually, the bot was disabled, but not before Cory spent hours working on the site only to see it disappear before his eyes. He didn't give up. He has kept working on the site between working full time, celebrating his anniversary and going on vacation. ***His efforts are 100% voluntary.***

So, Cory, thank you so much for all you've done and continue to do. Your fellow WAS members appreciate your dedication to the WAS web site. Your time and efforts are valued.

*Photo of Cory and Angela was a selfie taken in Provo, Utah.*



# Tigard Festival of Balloons



**The Whole World  
Is Short Staffed.  
Be Kind To Those  
That Showed Up!**  
**We ♥ Our Volunteers!**



*After a two year break, the Tigard Festival of Balloons was back! The weather wasn't as cooperative as everyone hoped. The only free flights happened on Thursday, June 23rd, and Friday, June 24th. On Saturday and Sunday low level winds kept the balloons on "display mode" only. Most pilots offered the public a close look at the basket and a few inflated long enough so people could see why we weren't flying.*





A tribute to Kong (Jeff Shields) was organized in Prosser, Washington the weekend of June 24 and 25. Balloons from all over showed up to fly in honor of Kong, who had always been a huge supporter of our sport. The following photos are by Stephanie Hughes, and WAS member, Gail Simberger.



*Many of the balloons flew black banners.*

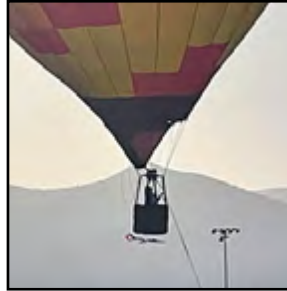
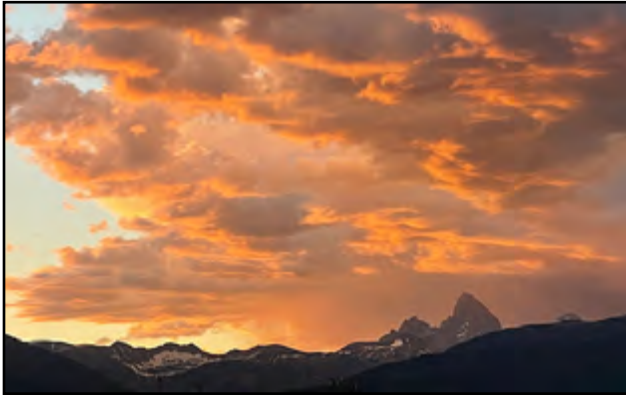


*The photo above and the two bottom photos to the left are by Stephanie Hughes. The rest were taken by Gail Simberger.*





# Teton Valley Balloon Rally



*Friday morning, July 1st, we were greeted with loud thunder and lightning. Monday morning, July 4th, the American flag was taken aloft long enough for the anthem to be played. It's there in the small photo above. See that line under the basket? That's the flag! That balloon was tethered. No one free flew that morning.*



*This is what the flag looked like on the only day we flew, Saturday, July 2nd.*



*Tim Gale took up long time friend and former balloon pilot, Mike Layman. It was an honor to take him aloft. Mike and his wife, Vicky, posed for photos on the field.*



*Norma Ashley did a great job on the crown line!*



*We could not fly most days, but we could still make spectators happy.*



# America's Freedom Festival in Provo, Utah

Photos by Cory Miller



*Mother Nature did not play well with the balloonists in Provo over the 4th of July weekend. They were plagued by low level winds just like the rally in Driggs, Idaho. In Provo no one was able to free fly all weekend. Everyone still had a good time. That's what counts.*



# 2022 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**

You may also join on line.  
The URL is: <https://www.wasballoon.info/member-ship-ap/>





# 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 Graphic:

*Citrus in the Sky* flown by Will Vavra during his commercial check ride graced the skies over Albany. Photo by Shari Gale.

## Waiver

**AeroStats is a monthly publication of the Willamette Aerostat Society.**

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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.**

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**Nor does it imply agreement with opinions, comments, or endorsement of any product.**