

AeroStats



November 2022

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

Volume 24, Number 11

*You are invited to the
WAS Christmas Party!
December 3, 2022
2:00 PM
The Loflin's Home
35392 Gore Drive
Albany, OR*



*There are more details on page 4.
We are looking forward to seeing you!*

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2022 WAS Officers

President:
Shari Gale

Vice President:
Marianne LeDoux

Secretary/Treasurer:
Dale Justice

Others:

Newsletter Editor:
Shari Gale

Activities Director:
Sallie Loflin

Web Master:
Cory Miller

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

Email: ExecComm@wasballoon.info



Willamette Aerostat Society Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Willamette Aerostat Society General Meeting in the Garmin building at the Salem Airport Saturday, October 29, 2022

Present:

Shari Gale, President & Newsletter Editor
Marianne LeDoux, Vice President (on zoom)
Dale Justice, Secretary/Treasurer
Sallie Loflin, Activities Director
and 16 additional members (6 of them on Zoom).

1. The October 29, 2022 meeting was called to order at 2:04 p. m. by Shari.

2. Moved by Edie Stoaks, seconded by Roger Rollman, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2022 meeting as printed in the June, 2022 WAS Newsletter. Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's report – from Dale, as of October 28, 2022.

2022 Members 58 (35 memberships paid)

Checking	\$524.58
Savings	<u>105.00</u>
Total	\$629.58

Expenditure: \$215.09 for renewal of the web site.

4. Correspondence – None

5. Regulatory news –

The FAA released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) concerning Class 2 Medical requirements in November, 2021. The comment period will be 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, which has apparently not happened yet. The regulation should be released by May, 2023. There is another NPRM about drones in the system. Larry Simburger had some input on that subject.

6. Events –

Any upcoming events will be published in the AeroStats newsletter.

The last 3 days of the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede were canceled due to wind and rain.

7. Old Business –

Some Members have membership credit for 2023 and beyond. Please verify before renewing.

8. New Business –

1. Nominations for 2023 officers were held, since they must be made before the November newsletter is published. The election will be held at the Christmas party in December. Ballots will be emailed to all current members and must be in the hands of the Executive Committee prior to or at the December meeting. The following slate was nominated:

President: Sallie Loflin

Vice President: Norma Ashley

Secretary/Treasurer: Larry Simburger

The ballot will allow other qualified candidates to be written in.

2. The annual Christmas Party (and meeting) will be held on December 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Jack and Sallie Loflin's residence this year. Other details will be in the November newsletter.

9. Shari thanked Jack and Sallie for their help getting the meeting place and setting up the Zoom connection again. Shari adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Justice, Secretary

/signed/dtj/10-30-2022

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.

Same WAS Christmas Party, New Location — The Loflin's Home!



The WAS Christmas Party will be here before you know it. It is set for Saturday, December 3rd at 2:00 PM. The Loflin's have generously offered to open their home to all WAS members. Their address is 35392 Gore Drive, Albany, Oregon.

As always, there will be a potluck. WAS will supply the meat course. The club will also provide soft drinks and water. Members are asked to bring the following based on your last name:

A-K = dessert
L-N = salad or side dish
O-Z = main dish

You have the option to participate in the gift exchange or not. It's strictly up to you. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped present, one per person or one per family. The value should be around \$15.00. After dinner, numbers will be given to every participant. One gift = one number. The person holding #1 will pick a wrapped gift. The person

holding #2 has the choice of taking person #1's gift or opening a new one. If a gift is taken from someone that person may take a new gift or take a gift from someone else. A gift is only allowed to be taken three times. After that it is "frozen." Confused? Don't worry, you will have lots of people willing to point out a gift is "frozen." That's part of the fun. The number one rule, of course, is to have fun.

Your ballooning family is looking forward to hanging out with you during this festive season.

See you at the party!

It's November. It's Time to Vote!

If you have not already voted for the 2022 WAS Executive Committee, now is the time to do it. The current slate of officers is listed below. No one is opposing them, but you can write in someone else if you choose. The candidates are:

- ◇ Sallie Loflin for President
- ◇ Norma Ashley for Vice President
- ◇ Larry Simburger for Secretary/Treasurer.
- ◇ Write-in candidate (just be sure to list the office).

Send Dale Justice an email at Outerlimits41@aol.com or you can use snail mail (Dale Justice, 2902 E. 2nd St., Unit 76, Newberg, OR 97132) to indicate your preferences. Results will be announced at the WAS Christmas Party on December 3, 2022.



It's time to renew your WAS membership for 2023

Join WAS Today!

You will find an application on page 10. Simply fill it out, write a check and mail it in to Dale Justice. His information can be found at the bottom of the form.

You have the option to bring the application and your check to the WAS Christmas Party on December 3rd.

The electronic renewal payment option is not currently working, but hopefully it will be up and running soon.

And WAS lives on!

For a few months it seemed as though WAS would fade away, but circumstances aligned just right at the October/November meeting. Sallie Loflin volunteered to become WAS president, Norma Ashley is willing to be vice president and Larry Simburger will take on the secretary/treasurer job. Now it is up to you. Your vote is necessary. You can write-in a candidate other than those three people.

An email asking for your vote will be sent out in the next few weeks. You can also vote via paper ballot at the December WAS Christmas Party. The winners will be announced at the party.

Cory Miller has agreed to continue as the WAS webmaster and Shari Gale will continue as the newsletter editor.

A huge thank you goes to Sallie, Norma and Larry for ensuring that WAS will live for another day (year).

2022 Aeronaut/Crew of the Year Awards

The Willamette Aeronaut Society's Aeronaut of The Year Award and Crew of The Year are annual awards presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Sport of Ballooning during the past year. The Award process is as follows:

- Nominations, complete with a description of why the Award should be given, are received from the General Club Membership by the Executive Committee;
- Nominations are reviewed for appropriateness as defined in the Aeronaut/Crew of The Year Procedures.
- The Award is presented during a General Meeting, or other appropriate occasion.

It is time to consider nominees for the WAS 2022 awards.

Please consider accomplishments that your fellow Aeronauts (Pilots and Crew) made during the year 2022 and nominate those you feel have made a significant contribution to the Sport of Ballooning. Any WAS Member is eligible for nomination. In addition, when significant contributions by others have been made, by someone outside of WAS, they may also be considered.

Nominations should include a description of the Nominee's accomplishments. Nominations should be sent, or e-mailed, to Dale Justice at Outerlimits41@aol.com no later than November 28, 2022 in order to be considered.

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede — Tough Decisions Made

It did not go as expected (or hoped), but we made the best of it



Cheri White boxed back to the launch field repeatedly on Wednesday afternoon.

The oldest balloon rally in the Pacific Northwest is the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. It's been active since 1974! There were two years in a row that the rally could not be held due to Covid-19. We were all very excited to see it happen this year. Lots of WAS members attended. Walla Walla is worth a five-hour drive.

On Wednesday the Kid's Day tether went perfectly. About a dozen balloons took up load after load of children who were eager to get a "real" ride in a hot air balloon. The skies were blue and the winds were light. By the end of the morning there were a lot of happy, satisfied children in Walla Walla.

Taking advantage of the good weather while they could, several balloons chose to fly Wednesday afternoon. We were invited to fly with them, but we got the message as we sat in Joe's LaFiesta Restaurant in Pendleton, Oregon.

Tim had a beer in his hand as he read the message. We decided to go out anyway. We said good-bye to Joe and zoomed to town, checked into our motel room, and then headed out to the park. We could not fly, of course, but we could greet people, help launch a balloon or two and loan out our aircraft radios.

Cheri White was in town with her Columbia REA balloon. She repeatedly boxed back to the park. The other Sherry White, the one who lives in Walla Walla, flew with her son, Derek. He is working with his mother helping her get her commercial certificate. They landed at Garrison School, but school was already out for the day. The kids did not get a double dose of ballooning after all.

Thursday was Media Day. The weather was extremely variable. Tim landed at about 1 mph with the winds heading west. As we were setting up to take the balloon down the winds shifted 180 degrees, but still at about 1 mph. Since he'd flown right up to the road on the west, it was much easier to take the balloon down in an easterly direction. That was the last time Mother Nature was good to us.

As it turned out this was the last flight announcement for long time announcer Jim Bock's whose voice floated over Walla Walla. After 40 years Jim has called an end to his career. It just won't be the same without hearing his voice boom out his signature phrase "Walla Walla Balloo-o-on STAMPEDE," as only Jim can say it. His huge hugs will be missed as well. I hope he will miss us so much that he will wander out to the launch field next year anyway.

We had all looked at the forecasts. We knew the whole weekend looked iffy, but we kept

hoping things would change for the better. They didn't. The winds at tree top level on Friday were "sporty." We knew waiting for it to change would not make a difference. In fact, rally organizer, Laurie Spencer, made the tough call to cancel the entire weekend. Later she sent out an email to all the registered pilots that said in part, "Having to cancel the event was a gut wrenching one, but I know it was the right one. The potential damage to your balloons, chase vehicles getting stuck in the mud, tearing up the grass in Tietan Park and driving through soggy farmland to retrieve your aircraft all factored into the decision to not fly."

The City of Walla Walla welcomes the balloons, but has told Laurie they do not want ruts left in the park. The hard rain that came down on Friday and Saturday meant ruts would happen if a vehicle drove on the grass. Waiting for a turn in the weather on Sunday was just not a way to stay on the good side of the Walla Walla Parks Department.

Then there was landowner relations to consider. Doing drag



Rally organizer, Laurie Spencer, had to stand on a chair in order to be taller than retiring announcer, Jim Bock. Jim will be greatly missed. Photos on this page by Shari Gale.

Continued on page 6

landings across a farmer's field and then compounding it by driving across that field is a good way to turn a hearty welcome into a red zone.

I commend the LaQuinta Inn and Suites for allowing a refund if pilots/crew checked out early. A lot of motels/hotels would not do that. I was impressed with their positive attitude. When Laurie asked the manager to extend that offer to us, she did not hesitate. I hope we will be back at the LaQuinta next year. They deserve our business.

I, also, have heard that the primary sponsor for the rally, Columbia REA, whole heartedly supported this decision. They did not want the pilots to feel like they were being "held hostage." Instead they wanted everyone to look forward to flying in Walla Walla next year.

That's exactly how I feel. I look forward to being part of the Balloon Stampede in 2023. It will be our 42nd year. We've made lasting friends that feel more like family and the whole valley just feels like home.



That's Derek White flying along side his mother, Sherry White, over downtown Walla Walla Thursday morning.



WWBS Photos by Shari Gale



Thursday afternoon, after Scott Shields landed back at the launch field he offered this little boy a chance to try out the burner. This kid was so excited. His eyes lit up and he did not hesitate to climb in the basket with Scott.



The balloon on the left is a radio controlled balloon. It was made to look like Stampede founder Bill Lloyd's balloon "Columbia." It was made and operated by Justin Anderson.

Kong Was a Poet

There was a memorial service for Jeff “Kong” Shields on Saturday, October 22, 2022 in Walla Walla. He suddenly passed away on June 21, 2021, but this was the first time a memorial service was able to be held in his hometown.

We’d known Kong for years, but did not know he loved to write poetry. Here’s a poem that Kong wrote which was given to everyone attending the memorial.



The Spirit

By Jeff “Kong” Shields

The air is crisp and the sky is clear
and the winter sun has yet to appear
‘oer the mountain tops that guard so
well
the sleeping town in which I dwell.

Yards of colored lifeless fabric
lay on the undisturbed white snow
the quiet is shattered, the colors spring
to life
as the mountain tops begin to glow.

Larger and higher it grows
as joy wells up inside,
the joy of seeing an old dear friend
in which I can confide.

The flame is lit and the cold white snow
melts beneath the fire
and a spirit rises to stand on its own
in multicolored attire.

And as the sun breaks over the
mountain tops,
a Grand Illusion stands alone
straining to break its earthly bounds
and leave the world below.

Once again the dragons breath
spits flames of transparent blue,
and we are lifted, this spirit and I,
above the earthbound few.

We are once again, the spirit and I,
as we rise into the sky
completely at peace with the world
around,
a purely natural high.

And as we drift above our home,
the town begins to stir
they stare up at this wondrous sight
their gaze we do deter.

The beauty of the flight overwhelms us
now,
as we traverse time and space,
we have eluded earthly troubles
and everyday problems that we face.

The pressures and pitfalls of earthly life
have no bearing upon us here.
The wicker is a sanctuary
and here there is no fear.

Enveloped in a peaceful feeling
deep within our soul
we know that we are better able to cope
with life’s tides ebbs and flows.

We are past the snowcapped houses
now
the town is far behind
below are vast white fields of sleeping
wheat
and ice-covered highway lines.

The time has come and oh how sad
To find a place to land
we would rather fly on forever
but our journey has to end.

The wicker creaks and the fabric stirs
as we touch the frozen ground
our earthbound friends are close behind
they approach without a sound.

After saying farewell I pull the line
and there is a hated sound
and Grand Illusion once standing tall
falls slowly to the ground.

The spirit dies a quiet death
and part of me dies too,
but we will be reborn again
another day quite soon.

The snow is covered with bright colors
again
and the spirit’s life is gone
I pop the cork and drink a toast
to one of which I have grown so fond.

But the spirit and I, we live in each
other
and we will escape again
up in the air when the weather’s fair
to talk and play on the wind.

(copied as received)



2023 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:

Laurie Spencer lifted off for an afternoon flight on Thursday, October 20, 2022 from Tietan Park during the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. Photo by Shari Gale.

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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