



AeroStats

April 2023

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

Volume 25, Number 4



**Next WAS Meeting:
Saturday, April 22, 2023
at 2:00 PM**

**The meeting will be held at
Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates
Recreation Center in Newberg**

**(Thanks to Dale Justice and Mary
Heath for setting this up)**

Directions can be found on page 4

Table of Contents	
• Happenings	Page 3
• WAS T-Shirts	Page 4
• Directions	Page 4
• Wooden Shoe	Page 5
• Safety Seminar	Page 6
• Ernie Hartt	Page 7-8
• Boise Youth Camp	Page 8
• Global Weather	Page 8
• Photo tribute to Ernie Hartt	Page 9
• Vintage Tulip Flights	Page 10
• WAS Application	Page 11

2023 WAS Officers

<p>President: Sallie Loflin prez@wasballoon.org</p>	<p>Activities Director: Open</p>
<p>Vice President: Norma Ashley vp@wasballoon.org</p>	<p>Web Master: Jack Loflin webmaster@wasballoon.org</p>
<p>Secretary/Treasurer: Larry Simburger sec@wasballoon.org</p>	<p>Officers: officers@wasballoon.org</p>
<p>Others: Newsletter Editor: Shari Gale newsletter@wasballoon.org</p>	<p>WAS website: http://www.wasballoon.org</p>

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 2023

Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm Festival

33814 S. Meridian Road,
Woodburn, Oregon

April 22, 2023, 2:00 PM

WAS General Meeting

Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates
Newberg, Oregon

May 11-14, 2023

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Walla Walla, WA
by invitation only
Contact: Laurie Spencer
laurie@scottspencer.net

May 19-21, 2023

Winnemucca Balloon Festival

Winnemucca, NV
Contact: winnemuccaballoon@gmail.com

June 17, 2023

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Night Glow

Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm

June 20-25, 2023

BFA SE Balloon Camp*

Vienna, Georgia

June 23-25, 2023

Tigard Festival of Balloons

Tigard, OR
www.tigardballoon.org

July 8-13, 2023

BFA Rio Grande Balloon Camp*

Albuquerque, NM

July 16-21, 2023

BFA High Sierra Balloon Camp*

Reno, Nevada

July 28-30, 2023

Balloons Over Bend

Bend, OR
<http://balloonsoverbend.com>

July 28-30, 2023

KONGregation No Host Rally

Ferndale, WA
Contact: Scott Shields
(360) 961-6745

August 24-25, 2023

DinahSOAR BFA Youth Camp*
Vernal, Utah

August 25-27, 2023

Northwest Art & Air Festival

Albany, OR
<https://www.cityofalbany.net/parks/events/nwaaf>

August 30-September 3, 2023

Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic

Boise, ID
by invitation only
Contact: Laurie Spencer
laurie@scottspencer.net

September 1-2, 2023

Boise BFA Youth Camp*

Boise, ID

September 7-10, 2023

Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, NV
Contact: admin@renoballoon.com

September 15-17, 2023

Alturas CofC Balloon Festival

Alturas, CA
Contact: Jeff Haliczzer,
LilHal1@sbcglobal.net

*For more information on BFA Youth Camps go to: <https://www.bfa.net/divisions/junior-balloonists>



Make A Difference Volunteer!

- **WAS members are needed to staff the WAS booth** at the Tigard Festival of Balloons, June 23-25.
- **Do you have a balloon system** to loan to the club for the WAS booth?

Please contact Sallie: pres@wasballoon.org

These Awesome WAS T-Shirts Available Now

Hurry! The Time to Order is Running Out!

Want to wear one of the coolest looking balloon T-shirts while also claiming your allegiance to the Willamette Aerostat Society? Here's your chance! Follow this link to place your order.

<https://wasballoon.org/shirts>

The order needs to be in by April 30, 2023. Don't delay!



We Will Happily Tell You Where To Go

Directions to the April WAS meeting in Newberg at 2902 E. 2nd St.

From the south, take I-5 to exit 278 Aurora/Donald. Turn left on Ehlen Rd. and go under the freeway overpass. Take Ehlen Rd NE and McKay Rd NE to OR-219 N 10 min (6.9 mi). Turn right onto OR-219 N. 5 min (3.8 mi). Turn right on E 2nd St. Go one block to Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates driveway and turn right. The recreation center building is straight ahead. Park in front or on either side.



From the west, use OR 18 or OR 99-W to Dundee and follow OR 18 (Newberg bypass—don't continue to Newberg) to OR 219. Turn left on OR 219 and Turn right on E 2nd St. Go one block to Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates driveway and turn right. The recreation center building is straight ahead. Park in front or on either side.

From the north or east, either follow I-5 to Exit 278 and use the instructions above, or use the following instructions. Use OR 99-W through Tigard and Sherwood. Enter Newberg and turn left on Springbrook Rd. In one mile, turn right on E. 2nd St. Go 1/2

block and turn left into the Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates at 2902. The recreation center building is straight ahead. Park in front or on either side.

Planning to Fly at Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm?

Here's what you need to know:

There will be tulips blooming in the fields. It's our privilege to put balloons in the sky above those flowers.

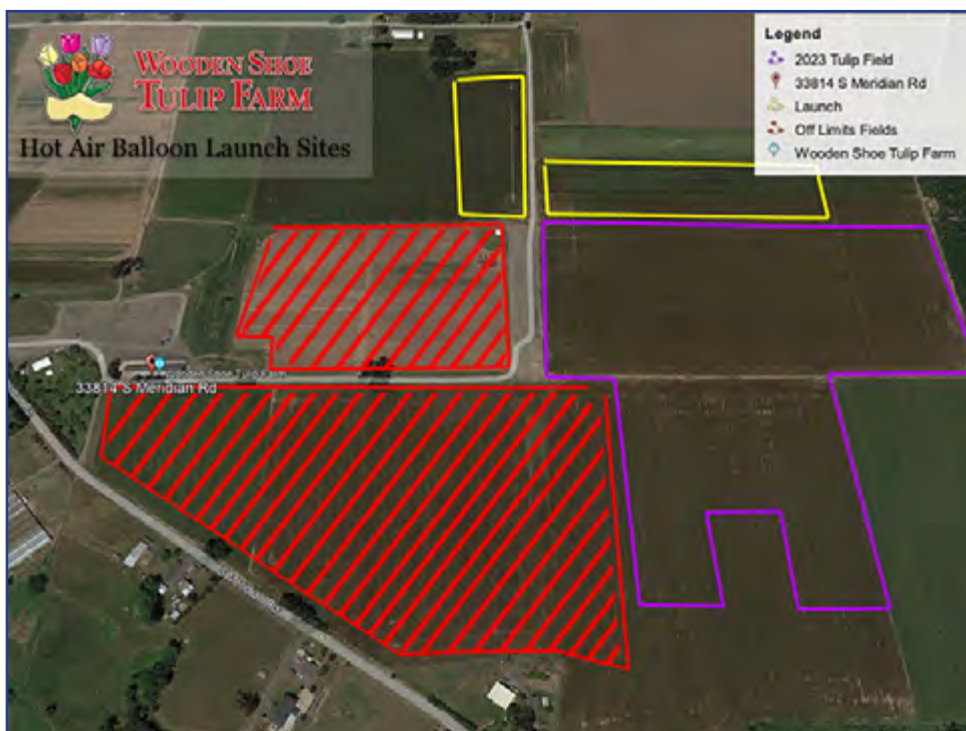
The Iverson family has once again generously offered their farm as a launch site during the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival. The opening date was Friday, March 24, 2023. The farm is located at 33814 S. Meridian Road, Woodburn, Oregon. (They are 15 minutes east of I-5.)

Pilots and crew will not be charged admission. Paid riders, however, do need to buy an admission ticket on line at: <https://www.woodenshoe.com/events/tulip-fest/ticket-information/>.

No waiver is needed this year, unless you are taking up paid riders. If you do have paying passengers then everyone needs to sign a waiver and the balloon owner needs to add the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm as an additional insured on his/her insurance policy.

Balloons and their chase vehicles will be allowed back on the farm property after the flight.

Be forewarned, there is a big red zone nearby. The Rose family owns a huge chunk of land east of the tulip fields. They are not at all balloon friendly. They do not want anyone landing on their property. You can find a copy of the Red Zone map for the area surrounding the tulip



The map above was provided by Barb Iverson. Stay totally out of the red areas. Launch from the areas designated by the yellow lines. The tulips this year are planted in the area outlined in purple.

fields on the WAS web site: <https://wasballoon.org/wp-content/uploads/RedZones/2022-Rose-Property-Red-Zone-Map.pdf> Please make some extra copies of the red zone map to take to the field with you in the event someone has forgotten to bring theirs. As always, carry one map in the basket and have one in the chase vehicle. We all want to keep landowner relations as good as they

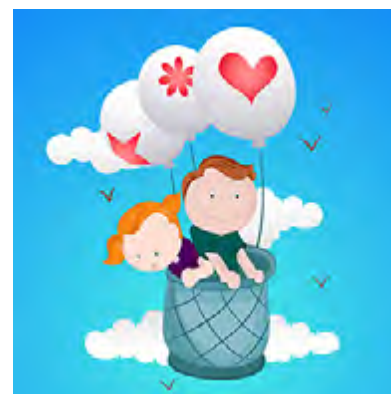
can be in this area.

The Iverson family has been gracious in allowing balloons to launch from their fields for years and years. It's important for all of us to follow these requests.

If you have questions, you can reach Barb Iverson at her email address: Barb@woodenshoe.com or you can send her a text on her phone: 503-932-5817.

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE LATEST
CHANGES IN THE WAS WEBSITE
IT'S GROWING AND IMPROVING BY THE DAY!**

<https://wasballoon.org>



In-Person Safety Seminar Was a Huge Success

The Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar is now in the books. Forty-three people crammed into the Greater Jefferson Community Center on Saturday, March 11, 2023. The seminar received very high marks from the attendees.

John Saltenberger, our local micro-meteorologist once again received a ton of accolades. We are so fortunate to have him present at our seminars and club meetings over the years. He loves to share his passion for weather forecasting with others, and he especially likes to talk to balloonists since we start with a higher level of understanding than the average college student.

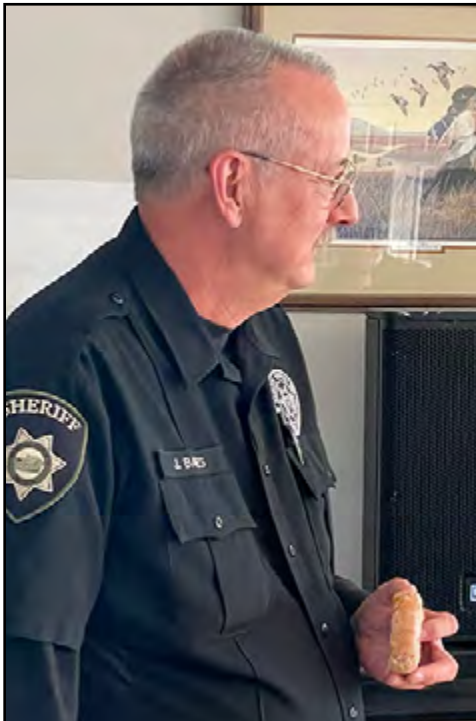
Larry Simburger did a great job of discussing accidents, pilot restraint systems, and accident analysis. His use of multi-media got more than one positive comment.

Laura Hancock's innovative approach to discussing distraction during flight was not only entertaining, but really drove her point home.

Mark Yonker gave an excellent presentation on the possible pit falls

in buying a used balloon system. Andrea McEvoy and Jessica Geib both added their personal stories to the presentation. Buying used is fine, but you can get in a "Sticky Wicket" even when you think you've thought of everything that can go wrong. Mark's advice is to have the system inspected by someone you trust.

Brent Black played the part of an obnoxious blogger hot on the trail of a sensational story of a balloon hung up on a tall light standard. He played his part to perfection. His counter point was Jerry Bales in his Yamhill County Sheriff's Department uniform (complete with a donut donated by Larry Simburger). Then there were the crew and spectators played by members of the audience. They were very creative and spontaneous. When an actual fire truck inadvertently drove by just as Brent was demanding to know when the fire department would arrive. It added an exclamation point to the presentation. Brent proclaimed, "That's it! I quit! I can't top that!" Those were the last "official" words spoken at the seminar. How perfect.



Left: Jerry Bales and his donut
Above: Laura Hancock
Right (top to bottom) Kristin Romelhardt;
Bob & Marianne LeDoux with Terrie
Sanderson; Jessica & Ryan Geib

Ernie Hartt

February 6th, 1963 - March 24th, 2023



“I’m not dead.” - Monty Python & the Holy Grail

To learn of Ernie Hartt’s passing comes with a deep and heavy sadness, weighing us down as we share this news. Ernie passed on to Stovokor on March 24, 2023 at 60 years young. Ernie loved hot air balloons, Great Danes, and, most of all, Jenny. Ernie, dear friend, you’re not dead in our hearts and minds. You have touched us all and made our lives better, richer, and more joyful in ways that will allow you to live forever in the memories of those whose lives you have impacted.

As a child Ernie was a paperboy - he knew the names of all the neighborhood dogs and kids. He was always sure to put the papers in between the doors to keep them dry. He played games not sports and was always a jokester. He first found his love of art in his youth, inspired by his family of artists. He also learned to embody his father’s loyalty.

At the start of his junior year of high school, Ernie moved to El Paso, TX where he graduated in the top ten percentile of his class. He earned a full scholarship to Texas A&M where he graduated in 1985 with a B.A. in biology and a minor in art history. He actively participated

in his college sci-fi club, Cepheid Variable, throughout college and served as art director and assistant vice chair of programming for AggieCon. Yes, he wore cowboy boots in Texas.

After graduation, Ernie moved back home to El Paso where he discovered his passion for hot air ballooning. He first joined Fred Spite’s crew in 1987, after his sister, Maria, introduced Ernie to ballooning. Immediately hooked, they became regular crew for anyone and everyone that needed a helping hand - the ‘Generic Chase Crew’. In January of 1988, Ernie and Maria moved to San Diego, where he started graduate school and they both crewed professionally for Pacific Horizons. This is also when Ernie met fellow grad student and love of his life, Jenny. They both completed their Masters of Science in Biology from San Diego State University in 1991.

During the 1990s, Ernie worked for the endangered species program at the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park, with the Condor breeding program, and later the Shrike breeding program, all of which led to published papers. The Shrike project saw him spend many hours of observation on San Clemente Island where the local wildlife was able to see him in his natural state.

Inspired by the great couples of literature and lore - Beren and Luthien, Heathcliff and Catherine, Calvin and Hobbes - Ernie married Jenny, the love of his life, on the beach in Del Mar in 1997, nine years after they first met. They were side by side from then on.

Ernie and Jenny bought their first hot air balloon, Spinner, in 1991 and both received their pilot’s certificates in 1992. When Ernie

and Jenny married they received a generous check from high school friends as a wedding gift with the memo line jokingly reading “for sex toys”. They immediately bought a hot air balloon and rightfully named it Sex Toy – Ernie loved to listen to announcers at balloon rallies pause to make sure they had read that name right. Along with Spinner, Skidbladnir, Sex Toy and the cloudhoppers The Bomber, and Twist & Shout, Ernie and Jenny took to the skies all over the country. In addition to being an accomplished pilot, Ernie was crew chief extraordinaire, not only for Jenny but for Elevated Ballooning and the Teton Valley Balloon Rally. Ernie brought his love of ballooning and education together at the BFA’s High Sierra Balloon Camp and as a board of director for the Teton Valley Balloon Rally, where he supported the growth of a scholarship program designed to give kids the opportunity to learn how to fly. In 2017 he founded the Easter Hop rally of cloudhoppers in Temecula.

Ernie spent his life in support of others. He was always Jenny’s biggest fan and shared her love of her work - Have Dane Will Travel, WolfHart Images, and Chicks Talking Pics. While he wasn’t a fan of small children, Ernie’s passion for expanding minds (not through LSD but through education) brought him to teaching at The Winston School in Del Mar, CA for twenty-five years. Ernie went above and beyond for the school and his students in so many ways – from taking the unique time needed by each individual student to help them understand something that stumped them to becoming the IT director and even the Dungeons & Dragons Master for after school gamers. His legacy resides in the life paths of his students, some of whom have kept in touch with him over the decades since they graduated from high school.

Continued on page 8

Ernie Hartt

Continued from page 7

Never one to sit still, years of playing Tetris enabled Ernie, together with Jenny, to pack a truck and camper with two hot air balloons, a tandem kayak, Great Danes, bloody Mary mix and some scotch and hit the road to travel the west for summer adventures.

Ernie embodied just how cool it can be to be a true nerd. His personal style consisted of well-worn t-shirts immortalizing 30+ years of balloon festivals, shorts, mismatched Converse sneakers (which sometimes resulted in him grabbing two left shoes instead of a pair), and always the pink cap so Jenny could find him in a crowd. Have you seen him wear pants (the wildlife on San Clemente Island never did)? If so, you're one of the lucky few. He could quote Monty Python in the same breath used to remind us of the nature of molecular structure. He loved kumquats and adventures, and his collection of fantasy art is nuanced and elaborate. He could dance a mean jig and was known for his moves at Renaissance Faires. His vinyl collection shows a love for rock'n'roll that appreciated the unknowns as well as the greats. Ernie's quiet steadiness and solid presence could fill a room, and he

had the ability to build a community wherever he went.

Eater of roadside plants, teacher to all those around him, lover of cooking and all good food, Ernie was a stocky and solid presence with a nimble and ninja-like mind. He could always be counted on to fall asleep anywhere. He was often the voice of reason and the source of a smile in the same moment. May we all be inspired to walk the world with the kindness and passion Ernie carried for others and our planet, never taking for granted the opportunities we have to do what we love with those we love.

Ernie is survived by his one true love Jenny Wolf, his father Ernie (Rita), sisters Linda (Shawn) and Maria (Roger), nieces and nephew, Alyssa, Bayley, Emily and Stuart (-Lyndsey), sister-in-law Wendy and Dane Martok. He joins his mother Christel and Danes Selar, Varel, and K'Ehleyr in Stovokor.

A celebration of Ernie's incredible life will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 11:07am with a gentle yoga practice at the Nude Beach in Del Mar, as this was one of Ernie's favorite ways to relax and restore. If nude yoga isn't your jam, please join us at The Winston School at 3:00pm that afternoon where we will be able to share memories and give comfort



to Jenny and each other. Lunch in the courtyard will follow the celebration.

In lieu of dying sex organs (or flowers, as most of us refer to them), please consider making a donation to one of Ernie's favorite charitable organizations in his honor:

One Dane at a Time: <https://onedaneatime.org/donate/>

Teton Valley Balloon Rally: <https://donorbox.org/support-the-historic-teton-valley-balloon-rally?fbclid=IwAR3GBzoyE xmUavfgvVlhBFOt-DZs6YKzMx7lcthNrg1V qDznbSNUjV5IJ1c>

Posted on Facebook by Margaret Rose Breffeilh, March 31, 2023

BFA Youth Summer Camp Coming To Boise

By Laurie Spencer

The Balloon Classic is excited and honored to be hosting a Balloon Federation of America (BFA) Youth Summer Camp this year. This program is designed specifically for kids from 13 to 18 years of age to encourage our youth to explore flight and become involved with hot air ballooning.

Orientation for our Day Camp is on September 1st with camp activities on September 2nd. Camp activities include a balloon flight (weather permitting) and camp workshops. There is a \$100 deposit that goes towards the \$175 tuition. Scholarships are currently available for attendees but they are limited and go fast so take advantage of them now and register your kids, or your friends' kids.

For more information, you can visit the BFA website: <https://www.bfa.net/divisions/junior-balloonists>. You can also contact Ron Cassidy at 603-548-9383 with any questions.

Global Forecast System

Contributed by John Saltenberger

Forecasted skew-t soundings from the Global Forecast System can be obtained at any point on this map simply by clicking on the point of interest: Can zoom in or out to other maps as well.

The map updates every six hours.

<http://www.pivotalweather.com/model>.

Ernie Hartt — Photos by Dale Justice and Shari Gale



The top three photos are by Dale Justice, which were taken in Gallup, NM in 2021. Ernie actually flew to the pilot briefing that morning. Lower center photo was also taken by Dale Justice.



All the other photos were by Shari Gale. Lower three photos were taken at the 2017 BFA Youth Camp in Reno, NV. Ernie and his wife, Jenny, allowed McKenna Secrist to fly their hopper. Jenny, Ernie and Martock posed with their skeleton crew awarded to them at the camp.

Are tulip fields in your immediate future?



**Happening Soon — Blue Skies
and Sunny Views!
Stay in touch with
your local ballooning
community.**

**Join WAS today!
Don't miss out**

You can find an application on the
following page, or join online at:
<https://wasballoon.org/membership/>



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 Larry Simburger
24900 SE 416th St
Emumclaw, WA 98022

Electronic Payment Option:
<https://wasballoon.org/membership/>



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:

Ernie Hartt flying his hopper in Gallup, NM in December 2021. Photo by Shari Gale

Waiver

AeroStats is a monthly publication of the Willamette Aerostat Society.

WAS welcomes you to reprint material from this newsletter by individuals or balloon club organizations for their personal or organization use.

We ask that you credit WAS, AeroStats and the author in any reuse of newsletter material.

Commercial use of material (articles or images) for any reason is prohibited without the express written consent from the Willamette Aerostat Society.

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.

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