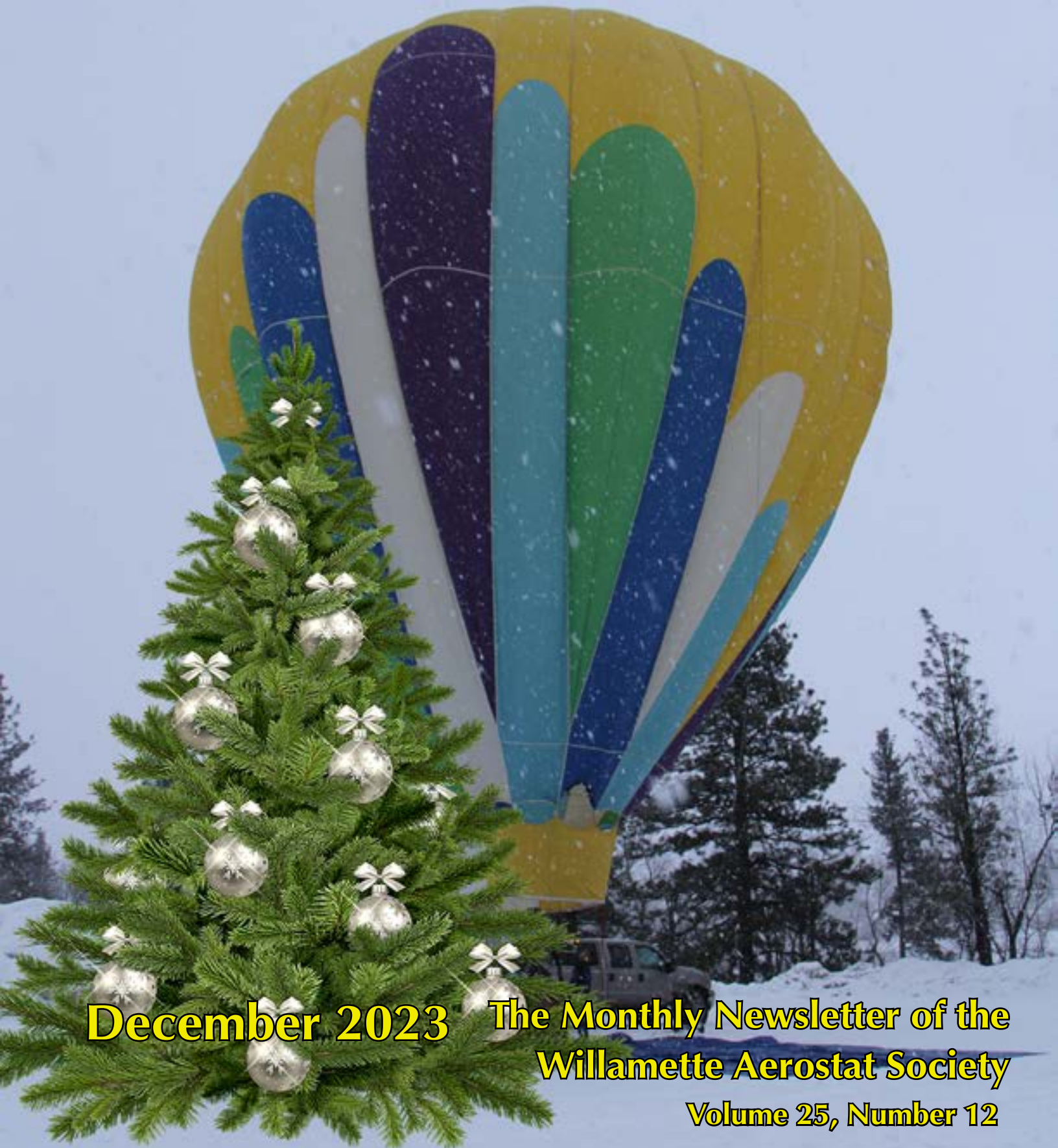


AeroStats



December 2023 The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 25, Number 12



*You are invited
to the
WAS Christmas Party!
December 9, 2023*

*1:30 PM
at the Loflin's home,
35392 Gore Drive,
Albany, OR*

*Please bring a dish to share.
There is a gift exchange also.
See page 4 for more details.*

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2023 WAS Officers

President:

Sallie Loflin
prez@wasballoon.org

Vice President:

Norma Ashley
vp@wasballoon.org

Secretary/Treasurer:

Larry Simburger
sec@wasballoon.org

Others:

Newsletter Editor:
Shari Gale
newsletter@wasballoon.org

Activities Director:

Open

Web Master:

Jack Loflin
webmaster@wasballoon.org

Officers:

officers@wasballoon.org

WAS website:

<http://www.wasballoon.org>



Willamette Aerostat Society

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

WAS November 18, 2023 Meeting

<https://wasballoon.org/>

Present:

Sallie Loflin, President
Larry Simburger, Secretary/Treasurer
Shari Gale, Newsletter Editor and Past President
and 23 other WAS members

1. Call to Order - 2:55PM
2. Approval of Minutes (October 14, 2023 – in November newsletter)
3. Treasurer's Report - \$2,209.83
4. Correspondence -None
5. News, Regulatory

A) Upcoming Events

December meeting/Christmas party Pot Luck. Please let Sallie know if you can attend. Look for an email from Shari on contributions to bring. There will be White Elephant gifts. – **December 9, 1:30, Sallie's house**

Kristin Romelhardt announced the **Tigard Festival of Balloon dates June 21-23, 2024**

B) New Business

Safety seminar – send email to Tim with ideas. Tim is looking for new approaches to provide fresh ideas. Especially ideas for crew.

C) Dues are due! You can pay online from the WAS website or print the application and mail it to Larry. Please ensure you have updated your personal information.

D) Announce nominations for 2024 officers

Sallie Loflin – President
Joy Sibayan – Treasurer/Secretary
Norma Ashley - VP
Approved, no nays.

E) Proposed changes to WAS social media:

Putting newsletter behind a password on WAS website, Along with anything else that should be for paying members only

Shari and Larry motion – motion passed

Facebook page – recommend closing down current page, reopening it to be public but still require people to join to comment

Discussion ended with agreement to close down current WAS Facebook page, make a new public one as well as a new private page for WAS members only -motion passed

F) Larry discussed his new position at BFA as a Board Director representing the Western region of United States, and what contributions he can make to WAS. One of those benefits is aligning awards and nominations. Discussed awards that are given at the BFA level

Proposing additional awards that WAS could create and then send those nominations to the BFA level for a BFA level of awards. Koh discussed FAI awards are often unclaimed as well

In addition the BFA is having a lot of discussions about their own membership issues and is updating website. Larry agreed to provide a separate article outlining some of the things he has learned in his short tenure at the BFA.

Adjourn 3:34 pm

**2024
WAS Dues
Are Due!**



<https://wasballoon.org/membership/>

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.

Saturday, December 9, 2023

1:30 PM

WAS Annual Christmas Party

Loflin's Home

Albany, Oregon

Please RSVP to prez@wasballoon.org

2024 Dates:

June 21-23, 2024

Tigard Festival of Balloon dates

September 6-8, 2024

The Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, Nevada

September 27-29, 2024

35th Annual Great Prosser Balloon

Rally

Prosser, Washington

Don't Forget to

Renew your WAS membership!

What will be happening at the WAS Christmas Party? Here's all you need to know.



The WAS Christmas Party will be here before you know it. It is set for **Saturday, December 9th at 1:30 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 main course. The club will also provide soft drinks and water. Members are asked to bring the following based on your last name:

A-M = salad or side dish

N-Z = dessert

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 \$20.00. 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!

Please Vote!



for 2024 WAS Executive Committee

Now is the time to vote for the 2024 WAS Executive Committee.

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
- ◇ Joy Sibayan for Secretary/Treasurer.
- ◇ Write-in candidate (just be sure to list the office).

Send Sallie Loflin an email at prez@wasballoon.org or you can use snail mail (Sallie Loflin, 35392 Gore Drive, Albany, OR 97322) to indicate your preferences.

The Results will be announced at the WAS Christmas Party, so send in your vote *no later than Friday, December 8, 2023.*

Stop Lurking In The Woods!

It is time to join/renew your membership in the
Willamette Aerostat Society (WAS) for 2024

Please note: All Auto renewals have been shut off.
You must renew either on line or by check.

Dues need to be paid by March 31, 2024.

If you want to renew via the website just click on this link:

<https://wasballoon.org/membership/>

BFA News from your new Western Regional Director

This fall I was elected to the BFA Board of Directors. I did not have any previous experience with the BFA Board, I am on friendly terms with some of the past and present members but for the most part I was very much a newbie.

As you can imagine, ballooning events and topics in Albuquerque take up quite a bit of energy. They do keep the meeting formal and people who are responsible for various things are brought in as needed to conduct business. The BFA Board meets monthly and the teams that are formed report their progress and receive guidance from the Board members.

One of the things I was impressed with is the awards available from the BFA. I plan to get involved the best I can to ensure that the awards and recognition are accurate and generously supplied. If

you are interested, here is the link to the list of current awards: <https://bfa.net/information/awards>

Here are some quick updates:

It is estimated there are about 4000 active lighter than air balloon pilots and only 1800 or so are members of the BFA. There will be many efforts in the next year to increase those numbers to a sustainable level (we need 2500 plus to be in a better sustainable level). It is understood we need to better serve the Ballooning community to win those memberships.

Look for several new things such as an updated website with views and information better laid out to include more information for our crew members. Sorry I do not have the roll out date for the new website, please stay tuned.

There is a new product being developed for BFA members, it is a standalone Theodolite system that uses a combination of your smart phone and software to track a Piball and provide wind speed and directional data. It is called Wind Explorer and will only be available to BFA members. It is being tested now. I am not sure when it will roll out but I will keep you informed.

If you have any questions about the BFA please feel free to reach out to me. If you have any issues that should be brought to the BFA also feel free to contact me.

Blue Skies and Soft Landings,
Larry Simburger
BFA Western Regional Director
lsimburger@gmail.com
425-879-6030

Ryan Geib recently soloed! Congratulations!

Who says you can't fly in Western Washington in the winter? When you are as motivated as Ryan, you talk really nicely to the weather gods and get some great flying weather. Way to go, Ryan!



More Memories Were Created

Montgolfier Party and Retirement Celebration



Kristen Romelhardt and Koh Murai started out with a glass of champagne, which was most appropriate.



Larry Simburger, along with his wife Gail, traveled all the way from Enumclaw, Washington to join the party.



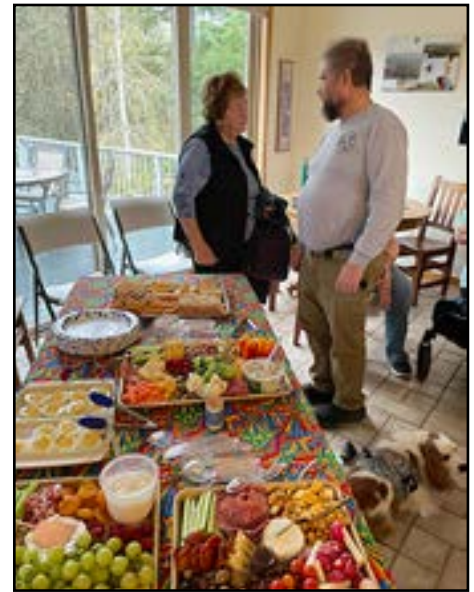
Long time friends Laura Hancock and Marianne LeDoux share a laugh.



Roger Rollman was the first in line for the food. He encouraged everyone else to follow his lead.



Laura Hancock happily filled out the paperwork for her life time VIP pass to the Tigard Festival of Balloons. Kristen Romelhardt presented passes to all the retirees; Laura Hancock, Jerry Bales, Camen Blakely and Cheryl Isaacs. (Cheryl and Michael were visiting South Africa, so they missed the party. We all decided that was a good excuse.)



Edie Stoaks and Larry Simburger were talking rather than dropping food on the floor for Larry's dog, Leo. How inconsiderate!



Jack Loftin won the RC balloon at the Albuquerque International Festival of Balloons. Jack could not be at the party due to work obligations, but everyone enjoyed checking out his new toy.

Don't Forget — Dues are due!

Your 2024 membership dues are due now. 2024 is less than a month away!

In years past, if you were a current member and had joined using the electronic link on the website, your dues were automatically renewed. This feature caused all kinds of confusion. ***It was decided to shut down the automatic renewals.*** That means you can't sit back and expect the money to be deducted from your bank account. You need to go back to the web site: <https://was-balloon.org/membership/> to renew your membership. You can include more than one family member. Just keep scrolling down the form.

Of course, you can always mail a check to our treasurer. There is a form on the very next page.

Dues for 2024 should be in no later than March 31, 2024.

Make Your Nominations for AoY and CoY Right Away!

It's time to let *that special* pilot or crew person know their actions this last flying season are appreciated.

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 make nominations for the WAS 2023 awards.

Please consider accomplishments of your fellow Aeronauts (Pilots and Crew) made during the year 2023 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, they may also be considered.

Nominations should include a description of the Nominee's accomplishments. Nominations should be sent to Sallie Loflin at prez@wasballoon.org no later than Tuesday, December 5, 2023 in order to be considered.

The New Kid on the Block

It's time to say congratulations to Andrea McEvoy who just bought a new envelope. She said, "I'm excited to have a new envelope to fly. I'm using her for the occasional fun flight and rally. I named her *K. Chameleon* because she's different on every side so she changes depending on how you see her. Also, as an 80's kid, I liked the tie-in to Karma Chameleon—the Boy George song."

We can't wait to see her in the Pacific Northwest skies.



2024 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:

With a little Photoshop work, a Christmas tree sprouted in front of *Morning Glory*. Original photo by Shari Gale in 2018 in Winthrop, WA. (And no, the snow was real, not a Photoshop trick.)

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.