

# *AeroStats*



**June 2023**

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

**Volume 25, Number 6**



No meetings are scheduled in June, July,  
August or September.

See you out on the launch field!

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## 2023 WAS Officers

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Open

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**Officers:**

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**WAS website:**

<http://www.wasballoon.org>



# Willamette Aerostat Society Secretary/Treasurer's Report

## WAS May 2023 Meeting

<https://wasballoon.org/>

**Call to Order:** Order called 02:01pm

**Approval of Minutes** (April 22, 2023 – in April newsletter): April Minutes Approved

**Treasurer's Report:**

Checking account balance of \$2,050.17

**Correspondence**

None

**News, Regulatory**

None

**Upcoming Events**

- Tigard Festival of Balloons — June 23-25  
Kristin Romelhardt was present and gave an update for pilots and crew.

**New Business**

- TFOB — volunteer opportunity May 27th at the Tigard Home Depot if anyone wants to stop by Sallie will be there with her basket.

**Old Business**

- T-shirts have been ordered and will be delivered around June 2nd.
- TFOB booth update and call for volunteers.

**Adjourn:** 2:25pm

Stay in touch with your ballooning community!

# Join WAS today!

You can join WAS here:

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

Or you can send a check to the  
club treasurer.

An application can be found on page 10.

# 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.

**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](http://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

<https://balloonoverbend.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/](https://www.cityofalbany.net/parks/events/nwaaf)

[events/nwaaf](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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@renoballoon.com)

**September 15-17, 2023**

**Alturas CofC Balloon Festival**

Alturas, CA

Contact: Jeff Haliczzer,

[LilHal1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LilHal1@sbcglobal.net)

**September 22-24, 2023**

**Great Prosser Balloon Rally**

Prosser, WA

Contact: Morgan Everett

[morgan@prosserballoonrally.org](http://morgan@prosserballoonrally.org)

\*For more information on BFA Youth

Camps go to: [https://www.bfa.net/](https://www.bfa.net/divisions/junior-balloonists)

[divisions/junior-balloonists](https://www.bfa.net/divisions/junior-balloonists)

## Red Zone Maps Available

Jack Loflin, our web master, has set up a red zone map on the WAS website. It is under the Pilot/Crew Info tab. Or you can go directly to <https://wasballoon.org/flying/>

There is a .KML for the Tigard area. Kristin Romelhardt sent it out to participating TFOB pilots.

Pilots and crew: If you know of any red zones that are not included in the KMZ file, please let Jack know. via email at [webmaster@wasballoon.org](mailto:webmaster@wasballoon.org) The more accurate this map is the better.

## The WAS Website now has Green Zone maps!

If you are a WAS member and would like the link and password to the green zone maps, please email [prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org). Red Zone maps are available to everyone at [wasballoon.org/flying/](https://wasballoon.org/flying/)

# Important!

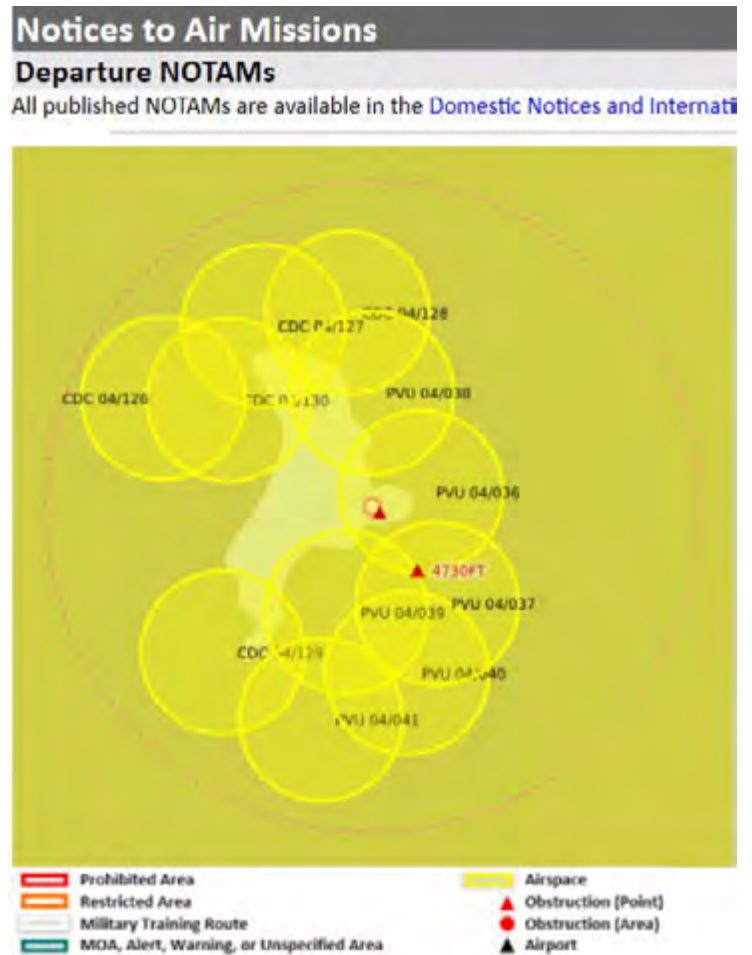
## Your Input is Needed Right Away! A Call to Action From the BFA.

The following letter has been reprinted from the Balloon Federation of America (BFA) June 2023 newsletter, Quick Release.

Most of you will remember that we brought to your attention a few months ago, an attempt by some commercial drone operations to change the right of way rules to allow drones operating BVLOS, or beyond visual line of sight, to have the right of way over all other aircraft. **What that means to balloons is that a drone, the size of a washing machine, and weighing over 90 lbs., traveling in excess of 60 mph, could fly directly into your balloon without having any means to detect that you may be in its flight path, and YOU would be at fault.** This is because they would have the right of way. The BFA and other organizations made public comment to attempt to stop this madness. The BFA, AOPA, and many other users of Class G airspace below 400 feet, where these drones intend to operate, have been monitoring this situation since our public outcry, during which we warned these operators that they were going to cause an accident and that they would be at fault because of the lack of the very inexpensive modification of detect and avoid. Please see the attached call for public comment. It appears that the drone industry intends to adopt a detect and avoid system for some of these drones, but it seems that they are intending to use these to avoid collisions between drones. They have not said that they are for the intent of detecting other non ADS-B objects in their path. Further, in the last section of this latest call for comment, they are still asking for the right of way in what is called a “shielded” area. They fail to define this area, which seems to indicate that they are still wanting to change the right of way rules anyway but are restricting that right of way to areas yet to be designated. Please also see Kent Barnes graphic below showing 11 drone-related NOTAMs that show how this process works. It seems to blanket the flying area used by balloons in this area. Effectively this is just another way of grabbing control and right of way from balloons without them defining where “shielded” airspace will be. Once again, we need your help to send public comment on this subject. Please do this within the next 15 days as the comments period of 20 days has already

started. (Please see time line noted below article.) BFA will work with all other aviation concerns to put an end to this blatant attempt to change the current right of way rules.

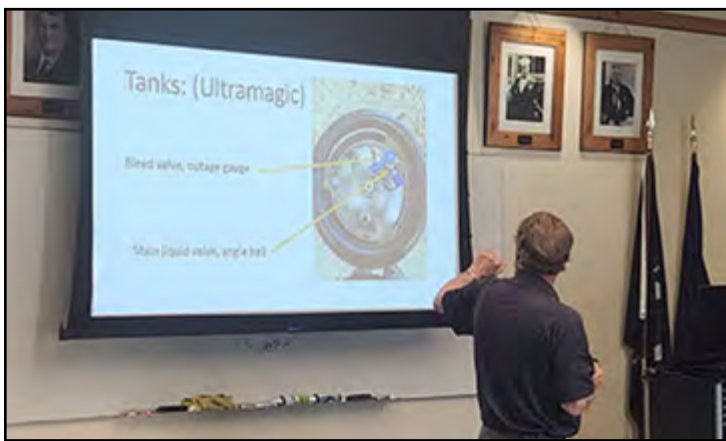
PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO COMMENT  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/FAA-2023-1256-0001>



Sincerely,  
Pat Cannon, BFA President

**Your input has to be in no later than June 14!**  
**So do not delay. Please send in your comments immediately.**

# WAS Makes Presentation to Albany Fire Department



During the first week of May Tim Gale and Sallie Loflin visited the Albany Fire Department's main station house to make a presentation. Three separate visits were needed to connect with all three shifts. The talk was simulcast to each station within the district. A big thank you goes to Tim for setting up the presentation and to both he and Sallie for representing the club. Another thank you goes to Alan Sanderson for supplying the cut out propane tank.

With the Northwest Art and Air Festival coming up in August it will be good for the fire department to know more about our propane systems.

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## Mae Breeden — Was Much More Than Just Crew

Contributed by Larry Simburger



*Mae Breeden recently passed and I was able to attend her celebration of life. Mae and her husband Art (died in December 2021) were enthusiastic crew not only for their son Tim Breeden, but for many other balloonists in the Pacific Northwest.*

### Mandy's tribute: Mandy Johnson, April 14

The sun has set for yet another of our chosen family. We met Mae Breeden, aka Polly to a chosen few of us (yes, there's a story there from long ago), too many years ago to even fathom at the moment. Art (her husband) and Mae became regular fixtures crewing,

traveling and having fun with us, there to support their son Tim in learning to fly and also in adopting us 'kids' and our kids...spreading their care and love for all of us. At a moment's notice they would come on over to help out in whatever the ask was...even babysitting when/as needed at the shop or in the crew truck or at a rally. Their family became our family and vice versa. At least



our hearts are full knowing that Art was there to meet her and many other friends who I'm sure were happy to see Mae's smiling face come through heavens gates. Our prayers are with her wonderful family tonight and all of her extended family and friends who will miss her.

# A Wonderful Weekend in Walla Walla!

By Shari Gale

This year the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede was moved back to the traditional Mother's Day weekend in May. Would the weather be good enough for us to actually get the balloons off the ground? That was the big worry. Happily, the answer was "Yes!"



The long weekend started off with Kid's Day. Many pilots and crew members showed up on Thursday morning to tether at Howard Tietan Park. Families flocked to the park in order to get a tether ride for their kids before school started. (How long did it take those kids to settle down in class that morning?) There were long lines of kids at each balloon. There were a lot of smiling faces and grateful parents, too.

Friday the balloons were able to fly. No one took the "normal" track to the airport. Instead many of us headed south and little east. No one went too far. Tim managed a very brief stop at our old launch field at Walla Walla High

School, but he had not flown long enough to feel right about putting the balloon down so soon. He kept on going. I heard a few balloons did manage to land at the school a little later in the morning. Tim landed in a neighborhood we had never explored before. We had lots of people drive by and others pop out into their yards to greet us. He landed in a large city lot. The next-door neighbor said the lot belonged to a woman who lives in California. Since the lot was nothing but weeds, we did not worry about asking permission to land!

The night glow was another big success. We formed a circle around the Touchstone Energy balloon, piloted by Cheri White. The evening was warm, but not too warm. It was calm and the crowds of people were enthusiastic. What more could we ask for when it comes to a night glow experience?

Saturday was a slightly different story. The winds aloft were not stable. It looked good from the ground, but no one wanted to trust Mother Nature that day. The winds were "sporty" not too far above us and it was predicted the winds would mix down before



very long. Instead of free flying, pilots and crew set the balloons up for a static display on the field. While the spectators may have been disappointed not to see the balloons fly off, it gave them a lot of time to talk to the pilots and learn about hot air ballooning. In many ways, it was a richer experience for the onlookers.

Sunday wasn't even that good. Only one or two balloons inflated. Luke Cesnik, flying the POW/MIA balloon, launched and even managed to land back in the launch field. Laurie Spencer fluffed up Dawn Treader, but did not actually inflate. The rest of us hurried off to breakfast and an early check out from the motel.

It felt so good to be back in Walla Walla in the spring. The dogwood trees and the lilacs were in bloom. Asparagus was being picked from the fields. The signs of welcome to the hot air balloonists were in full bloom, too. It was a marvelous start to the 2023 flying season.

# 2023 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede



*Photo above: WA High, the launch site back in the 1980's, was surrounded by hot air balloons. Photo to the right: The lines for Kid's Day were long no matter where you looked. All photos on this page by Shari Gale, except the magnificent photo below. It was taken by Mary Sanchez.*





## WWBS — The Team That Makes It Work



Laurie Spencer spent countless hours organizing and getting everything ready for the Stampede this year.



Rob Ryerson and Ray Foster are part of Laurie's team. They were caught in this photo taking a break in the pilot briefing tent before they got the lanch field ready.

## You Will Not Want to Miss the 2nd Annual KONGregation

There is a new location and week-end set for the 2nd Annual KONGregation rally this summer. It will be held in Ferndale, Washington July 28, 29 and 30. A nightglow is planned for Friday, July 28. Free flights are planned for Saturday and Sunday.

This is a no host event.

It coincides with "Old Settlers Day" in town, so there will be other fun things to do that weekend.

Contact Scott Shields (phone number listed on The Happenings listing on page 4) if you are interested in attending.

## The New Voice of the Stampede



Dan Marvicson, of Spokane, Washington, stepped into Jim Bock's shoes as the field announcer for the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. That was no easy task! Dan did a masterful job. He is a retired HAB pilot, so he knows what he is talking about. That's always a plus.



Dan Marvicson, Larry Simburger, and Jim Bock stood together on the announcer's platform early one morning. Jim had announced the Stampede for decades. He finally stepped aside after last year. He did not adandon us, however. He was there to mentor his replacement, Dan Marvicson.

**Step Up To Help!**

**Volunteer!**

Your help is needed to staff the WAS booth at the upcoming Tigard Festival of Balloons, June 23-25.

Contact Sallie Loflin ([prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org)) to volunteer a wee bit of your time.

**It will be fun!**

If you are looking at selling your older, **AIRWORTHY**, system (a 90 or smaller), please contact Jack Loflin first ([loflinj@gmail.com](mailto:loflinj@gmail.com)). He and Sallie are interested in buying another system that can be used for flight instruction.

# 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:

*Dave Wiser, in Fruit Flies, took off from Howard Tietan Park in Walla Walla, Washington during the recent Stampede. 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.**

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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.**

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