

AeroStats

A person is standing inside a large, colorful hot air balloon envelope. The envelope is made of panels in shades of orange, pink, and yellow. The person is wearing a brown hoodie and a patterned skirt. The balloon is inflated and the person is looking up at the structure.

May 2023

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 25, Number 5**



*Next WAS Meeting:
Saturday, May 20th
at 2:00 PM*

The meeting will be held at Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates Recreation Center in Newberg (the same place where we held the April meeting).

See page 9 for directions.

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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 April 2023 Meeting

<https://wasballoon.org/>

Call to Order: Order called 02:00pm

Approval of Minutes (February 18, 2023 – in March newsletter): February Minutes Approved

Treasurer's Report:

A new bank account has been opened with US Bank. Current balance of \$1,406.61.

Member update (how many active members)?
As of April, the club has 43 active memberships equalling to a total of 66 members.

Correspondence

None

News, Regulatory

None

Upcoming Events

- Walla Walla Balloon Stampede, May 11-14
- Winnemucca Balloon Festival, May 11-14
- Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival, now through May 7th
- Rock of Ages, August – Organizers are looking for more participants. Reach out to Andrea McEvoy for organizer contacts if interested
- May WAS meeting scheduled for May 20th, 2pm at Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates Rec Center in Newberg. This will be the last scheduled meeting until September.
- Summer WAS shindig planning is the works and will take place end of July, early August
- Albany Fire Department meetings May 3-5. Tim is presenting on burner assemblies and providing brief education on how to approach a balloon incident.
- June newsletter will be slightly delayed. Shari is always looking for content. Be sure to reach out to her with ideas or articles.

Old Business

- Crew of the Year – Sallie present Joy with her 2022 Crew of the Year award -YEAH Joy YOU ROCK!
- Reminder – order club t-shirts. Order is being placed first week of May

New Business

- Website updates provided by Jack Loflin. Red zone maps for Oregon and Washington have been compiled and placed under the Pilot/Crew Info page. The thought is to make the Red Zone maps publicly available, while having "Green Zone" and friendly launch area maps available to WAS members only via a password protected page on the site.
 - ◊ All maps are available in a KMZ format that you can overlay on Google Maps on your phones/tablets
- TFOB
 - ◊ Sallie requested volunteers for the booth and suggested 2-hour blocks of time
 - Full details on schedule will be announced at a later date
 - ◊ Proposal for creating posters for the booth. Funds were requested for these posters.
 - Up to \$200 was approved for Sallie to use to build educational posters for the booth
 - ◊ Sallie suggested we have a coloring contest for kids where they are given an outline of a balloon and the kids can design their own balloon. Parents can email the drawings and WAS members can vote for the winner. The winner will receive a box of balloon pins and cards.
 - Request was made for pins and cards as a result. Send Sallie an email if you are willing to provide pins and cards to the pile.
 - ◊ Tim Gale has a propane tank for display and discussion was held with Alan Sanderson about borrowing some of his old equipment for display in the booth

Adjourn: 2:59pm

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.

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

May 20, 2023, 2:00 PM

WAS General Meeting

Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates

Newberg, Oregon

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

<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/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

September 22-24, 2023

Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Prosser, WA

Contact: Morgan Everett

morgan@prosserballoonrally.org

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

There'll be a BFA Youth Summer Camp in 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.

TFOB Needs Your Help

- ✓ Volunteer your time
- ✓ Volunteer your basket

Tigard Festival of Balloons will be at the **Tigard Home Depot Home Show May 27th from 10am-2pm.** (14800 SW Sequoia Parkway, Tigard) We are looking for a volunteer to bring a basket and burners and who are willing to burn for the 4 hour period. The event is intended to promote the Festival. TFOB will pay for propane. If you are interested in bringing your basket, please contact Sallie at prez@wasballoon.org.



Sallie Loffin, WAS president, presented Joy Sibayan, recipient of the WAS Crew Person of the Year Award for 2022, her award during the May meeting.

Congratulations, Joy!



Jack Loffin (left) and Joy Sibayan hold up the new WAS banner which will be used during the Tigard Festival of Balloons in June.

We are looking for volunteers to staff the WAS tent at the Tigard Festival of Balloons!

WHEN: June 23, 24, 25. Exact times will be posted soon, but we are asking for two hour shifts that will start some time after 10am and go until the evening glows.

WHERE: Cook Park in Tigard

WHAT: We are looking for volunteers that are excited about ballooning and are willing to answer any and all questions about ballooning and/or crewing that come up. We will also be selling raffle tickets and t-shirts, handing out coloring sheets and stickers to kids. We will also have various pieces of balloon equipment available for people to see, touch and of course

smell (because old envelopes are stinky!!)

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Sallie at prez@wasballoon.org. Once more details are available she will be in contact with you to confirm your slot.

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 link to the Rose Property map. Their land is located east and a little north of the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm. If you plan to fly there, please print out copies of this map.

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 The more accurate this map is the better.

Flying Season Starts With “Fluffing” Fabric

Recently Dale Justice and Tim Gale set up their balloons for the first time in months. Thanks, Mother Nature!



Dale Justice untangled his balloon after the recent annual inspection.



Dale Justice waited until he had a favorable weather forecast before he inflated “La Jolla.”



Tim Gale, along with Koh Murai, flew out of Yamhill recently. This photo was taken during deflation.



The flying season is upon us!

**Don't be left out.
Join WAS today.**

You can pay by check. See the application on page 12, or you can pay online.

Electronic payment option:

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

Chairlift One Takes to the Skies!

by Shari Gale with a great deal of help from Stephanie Hughes

When Stephanie Hughes was just 13, living in Moses Lake, WA with her parents, Steven and Mary Beth Shinn, she flew in a hopper balloon with the goal of setting an endurance record on January 16, 1983. That's 40 years ago! She



Here's Stephanie Hughes flying her first hopper with her mom in hot pursuit.

recently said, "Honestly, the world record was kind of easy. It really was my parent's idea — not my idea. Everyone thought my parents were crazy to send their only child strapped to highly flammable fuel in the air. And they were crazy and safe. They gave me lots of training and it's all about safety. They were confident nothing would happen. The flight was in the desert and the only obstacle was an irrigation circle that was 40 feet high." Additionally, Stephanie admitted, "I actually broke the distance but we didn't apply for that record so I did not get it. We applied for the duration so that is the record I held until Dr. Coy Foster broke it."

I should add that both Steve and Mary Shinn were hot air

balloon pilots themselves. They flew "Spuds," the yellow Avian with potato artwork all around the equator. This meant that Stephanie grew up in our ballooning world.

Fast forward a bit, Stephanie now lives in Spokane, Washington; she is married with three kids. She has twin sons who are juniors in college and a daughter in high school.

Stephanie eventually bought Spuds from her parents. "Ballooning was my way of getting out of the house. Spuds was my mistress. I could go fly on a weekend morning and no one knew I was gone. I would come home and Mark would be making breakfast for the kids and I got to eat what was left over. I usually never brought the kids with me. My pilot limitation is I can't be a mom and a pilot at the same time. Each kid had to wait until they could look over the basket before I took them for a free flight. Jonathon and Cc first flew in Winthrop. And Daniel got his flight in Quincy. I don't think they have had a second free flight. Tethering yes, but only one free flight. I would only bring one kid with me to the rallies. I often say that some kids get bar mitzvah and quinceañera (or 'quince años'), for my kids coming of age, they got a balloon ride."

In 2022 and 2023 Stephanie took on the task of building her own hopper. As she put it, in 1665 the Bubonic Plague was raging in England. Sir Isaac Newton spent his time in isolation formulating a theory of universal gravitation, while Stephanie used her time during the Covid-19 pandemic building a balloon in order to defy gravity. After all, she had always wanted a hopper. Lucky for her Forey Walter, Avian Balloon, (<https://www.avianballoon.com>) lives in her town.

She had an easily available resource. "I asked Forey to make me a hopper 16 years ago. He said, 'No, you need to get your license first.' I bought my folk's balloon and you know the rest of that story.

"I then went to him again when covid hit and he said 'No,' again! His excuse this time was that he didn't have a hopper design registered with the FAA. He also wanted me to become self-sufficient. If I made a balloon then I could annual it and have the option to bring the balloon to a repair station for the annual or repair if I so wanted to do that.

"Forey was and is my mentor. I am a fortunate person to have him on my team and in my town. He basically barked lots of orders and I did what he told me to do. It took me longer to build the basket because it is one of a kind. Forey definitely designed it.

Stephanie started by learning to sew using old balloon fabric.

Continued on page 7



Meet Chairlift One built by Stephanie Hughes of Spokane, Washington.

Chairlift One

Continued from page 6

Once she started working on her envelope it took her three months to complete it. The basket took two years! Stephanie said, “I would go out to the factory when I could get away for three hours of work. It was about 250 hours of total (production) time... Forey did help with the apex webbing — that was the hardest part of the sewing work. If someone looks really close, they can see blood on some load tapes. Forey pushed me aside and took over the sewing work on the top webbing. He also didn’t let me use the table saw. Any time there was a possibility of blood, he said it was time to let him do the work.”

The first test inflation was on July 20, 2022. On October 27, 2022, Chairlift One was born. In other words, the FAA issued an



The basket/chair for Chairlift One was designed by Forey Walter, but primarily built by Stephanie Hughes. Although Forey did take over when blood spatter was a possibility.

airworthiness certificate. Her mom, Mary, tethered the balloon on November 14, 2022, and Stephanie took it to its first rally in Winthrop this last March. She glowed the balloon for the first time that weekend.

Stephanie has created a wonderful website chronicling her experience building this balloon. “I want the experience to inspire kids to do something and think big. It was a pie in the sky dream and I am proof — dreams come true.” She, also, used the website to help prove to the FAA that she had done at least 85% of the work in order to qualify for the airworthiness certificate.

The website contains a lot of interesting information. You can find it at: <https://hugheshopperaircraftcompany.com> “I’m always adding more to these web pages and the adventures continue.”



Stephanie’s mom, Mary Beth Shinn, happily took Chairlift One up on tether in November 2022.



“Spuds” was designed and built for Stephanie’s parents. She eventually bought it from them. She recently sold it.



Here’s the view from a recent flight Stephanie took in Chairlift One.



Chairlift One’s first rally was in Winthrop, WA. It glowed beautifully.

All photos (except the picture of Spuds) were taken, with permission, from Stephanie’s Facebook page.

The May WAS meeting will be back in Newberg

Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Estates Recreation Center, 2902 E. 2nd St., Newberg, Oregon

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.

Letter from BFA President, Pat Cannon Aeromedical Delays

The BFA has had some success with the Aeromedical Branch of the FAA lately. Approximately 3 weeks ago the BFA posted a request for anyone having applied for a medical and were waiting for the FAA to respond, to communicate with Pat Cannon regarding the delay. We received 42 responses to that request and the names of those and some of their personal information was transmitted to Aeromedical and to AFS-800 rulemaking for consideration. This was done in response to the Susan Northrup's request for that information.

Prior to this call for information, the BFA once again requested consideration by rulemaking to extend the compliance period for another six months to accommodate the workload at Aeromedical and the long delays being experienced by those that are applying for a medical. Their continued response is that they

will not extend the compliance period. However, they have committed to try to ramp up medical application from balloon pilots as long as they are in receipt of all information that Aeromedical has requested.

Some of the current delays at Aeromedical are based on the lack of their receipt of requested information from medical applicants. Those that had all requested information in house at Aeromedical were fast tracked and several have now received their medical. This is a win for the BFA and its members, but we have a long way to go. If you are one of those that has applied for a medical and it has been deferred to Aeromedical, they will send a letter requesting more information regarding the deferred medical condition, and/or request additional testing be done in order for them to make a decision on the issuance of the medical. In order for FAA and Aeromedical to speed up the medical request, all information requested by them must have been received. Those that have just started the process are go-

ing to fall behind and even with the incredible help we have been experiencing within the top management levels at both AFS-800 and Aeromedical Branch, there may not be time to get everyone through by the late May deadline.

If you have completed all paperwork and it has been submitted, please let me know immediately. Email me at p.e.cannon@turbineair.com. Include your full legal name and birthdate. If you have received a letter from Aeromedical confirming that they have received all requested information or testing, please scan and send a copy of that letter to me.

We are working hard to get as many through as possible prior to the deadline and we will stay on this project even after the deadline to assist as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Pat Cannon, BFA President
president@bfa.net

Defusing a Difficult Situation

By Shari Gale



Recently, I ran across an Internet article about defusing an argument. I found it interesting and decided some

additional research was needed. A Google search turned up many, many articles dealing with work place challenges, a few on toxic family dynamics, and *none* that covered literally dropping in on someone uninvited and asking for permission to drive onto their property. In other words, landowner relations.

After reading several articles I realized no matter the situation the key to de-escalating an argument boils down to these elements:

- Communicate
- Actively Listen
- Validation
- Composure
- Find an agreeable solution

Find out what is the biggest concern. In an angry landowner situation, ask them why landing or even walking on their field will affect them. A landowner might be unhappy that you are impacting his profit from his crop. For example, you are knocking off seed with each step you take on his unharvested grass seed field. An airstrip owner might be upset because his insurance covers only named aircraft. He might be afraid your balloon might impact his renewal costs and/or coverage.

Inc.com had a very helpful article. In it they said “most people get angriest when they feel dismissed, ignored, or misunderstood.” The author

suggested you repeat back what the other person has told you, ideally using your own phrasing. Doing this makes it clear you care about the other person’s point of view and concerns.

Tell them what you’ve learned from them. There again, you are validating their feelings.

Next, ask him/her what do you need to do right now to help solve the problem. Should the pilot fly on? Should only one crew member walk out to the balloon to guide it to an unplanted area?

Remain calm. Do not react to his/her raised voice and foul language.

Ask what it will take to make things right? Be empathetic and compassionate. You can offer to put his land on a red zone map that is available to all pilots and crew members. (WAS has a red zone map on our website, see page 6.) This offer lets the farmer know you recognize his concerns. Any new red zone can also be placed in this newsletter.

Passing on information about new crops is another avenue we can take to smooth out future landowner relations. It’s important to help other pilots/crew to learn from your mistakes. Last year we encountered a crop called meadow foam. We had no idea what it was and how sensitive it is — any pressure at all crushes the plant and the oil leaches out. Since it is grown for its oil, you are destroying the crop. I wrote an article about it in this newsletter in May 2022. (You can access the article by going into the newsletter archives on the WAS website.)

Sincerely apologizing is also a worthwhile strategy. The word sorry “can itself kill the spark of arguments.”

Warning: Before you submit a red zone map amendment, be sure to find out exactly where the farmer’s property lines lay. We had a farmer years ago, claim he owned everything from this road, to that road, to this other road. We knew he didn’t because we had talked to other landowners in the area in the past. We could not report his land on a red zone map, because we did not know exactly what land he owns. Instead of a win-win, it was a lose-lose situation.

We found a very effective way to make landowners happy is to offer to tether them, their children, their grandchildren and the neighbors. Admittedly, we usually are not dealing with an angry landowner in the beginning.

Going beyond just a tether can have lasting effects. Once we had a farmer slam the door of his truck as he rushed up to us. Gulp! There wasn’t a problem. The first words out of his mouth were, “How do I get a ride in one of these?” We offered to take him up the very next morning. We took up his mother and his daughter. In payment we asked that he spread the word to other farmers in the neighborhood that we do care about crop damage and we only want to leave positive vibes in our wake. A few weeks later we were having breakfast in a local restaurant and the waitress mentioned this farmer and told us he had been in talking about us to anyone and everyone that would listen. His advocacy had a positive effect in that area for years afterwards.

Landowner relations are important to our sport. Without landing sites, we are grounded. Please do what you can to keep landowners on our side.



2023 Flights Out of Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm

The day met all our expectations!



The photo directly above is by Kristin Romelhardt. (The steam is from one of the antique tractors, not from Knight-N-Gale!) The photo at lower center is by Kathryn Langstraat, lower far right photo is by Jim Churchill. Upper photos are all by Shari Gale. All photos were taken on Saturday, April 29, 2023



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
Enumclaw, 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:

Stephanie Hughes is seen here inspecting the positioning of the parachute valve in her new homebuilt balloon, Chairlift One.

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.