

# AeroStats



**September 2023**    **The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Willamette Aerostat Society**  
**Volume 25, Number 9**

Join WAS 2024 Dues Are Due Renew

Willamette Aerostat Society

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Are Due

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**It's Easy!**

**Fill out the application form on page 12 or go to the WAS website**

[www.wasballoon.org](http://www.wasballoon.org)

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## 2023 WAS Officers

**President:**

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[prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org)

**Vice President:**

Norma Ashley  
[vp@wasballoon.org](mailto:vp@wasballoon.org)

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Larry Simburger  
[sec@wasballoon.org](mailto:sec@wasballoon.org)

**Others:**

**Newsletter Editor:**  
 Shari Gale  
[newsletter@wasballoon.org](mailto:newsletter@wasballoon.org)

**Activities Director:**

Open

**Web Master:**

Jack Loflin  
[webmaster@wasballoon.org](mailto:webmaster@wasballoon.org)

**Officers:**

[officers@wasballoon.org](mailto:officers@wasballoon.org)

**WAS website:**

<http://www.wasballoon.org>

# 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.

**September 15-17, 2023**  
**Alturas CofC Balloon Festival**  
Alturas, CA  
Contact: Dianna,  
[di\\_dino\\_6@yahoo.com](mailto:di_dino_6@yahoo.com)

**September 22-24, 2023**  
**Great Prosser Balloon Rally**  
Prosser, WA  
Contact: Morgan Everett  
[morgan@prosserballoonrally.org](mailto:morgan@prosserballoonrally.org)

**October 14, 2023, 8:30 AM**  
**WAS Meeting**  
**+ a solar eclipse**  
**Loflin's Home (see below)**  
Albany, Oregon

**October 7-15, 2023**  
**Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta**  
Albuquerque, NM  
<https://balloonfiesta.com>

## Get Involved!

Want to become involved in your local ballooning community? A great way to do it is to volunteer to become a WAS officer in 2024.

Send an email to [prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org) and tell Sallie you want to help out the club. You will make her day!



**We can watch  
the eclipse  
together!**

**There's a WAS Meeting + a  
solar eclipse in your future!**

**Saturday, October 14  
at 8:30 am  
The Loflin's Home  
35392 Gore Drive,  
Albany, OR 97322**

**Please bring a your favorite  
tailgate goodie to share.**

# August Brought the Northwest Art & Air Festival to Albany

by Shari Gale

The Albany balloon rally has had many names over the decades: Albany Balloon Fling, The Albany Great Balloon Escape and Wine Fest, and then just the Great Balloon Escape. Now it is the Northwest Art and Air Festival. If you add up all these versions of the rally, it is the longest running rally in Oregon. It is also the largest.

One thing Albany has at the end of August is an abundance of landing sites. There are literally hundreds of acres of harvested grass seed fields just waiting for balloons to come in for a landing.

Thursday, on media day, the balloons all headed south as usual. It was an easy choice to fly that morning. Friday, we faced another easy decision. No flights at all. Thunderstorms had rolled in that night. We were awakened by lightning strikes way too close to our house. We could see the flash even with our eyes closed and the big boom followed almost immediately. Then the hard rain came drumming down on our deck. We were very surprised to find the launch field dry that morning. It seems the rain

was very localized. Chris Whitfield, after checking the weather, closed the field. I overheard one spectator questioning that decision since the thunder clouds had moved just north of us. They might have been moving away, but they were still way too close for safe flying.

Luckily, the weather on Saturday and Sunday was much more friendly. We did head north, which is an unusual direction. Saturday Tim landed, along with at least six other balloons, in a big harvested field at the corner of Highway 99E and Scrael Hill Road. We had easy access and good company in that field. Sunday Tim landed in another huge field on southeast side of the small town of Jefferson. Once again, we had a lot of company in that field. In fact, some of the pilots were the same ones we'd landed beside the day before. However, there were several loud and continual protests to our presence on that spot of land. A big flock of geese had claimed that area as their own, and they were not at all happy to have been disturbed. They circled and circled above us, calling out to us — or cussing us



*Photos by Tevera Hesslink*



out, I'm not sure which. As soon as one balloon would pack up, another one would land.

The Albany Parks and Recreation Department did a fantastic job of hosting this event along with Chris and his team. Everything ran smoothly. We were treated to some really good food, and even better camaraderie. What more could we possibly want?

# Northwest Art & Air Festival Photos by Cory Miller



# Northwest Art & Air Festival Photos by Shari Gale



## Who Has Made A Difference in 2023?

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](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org) no later than Tuesday, December 5, 2023 in order to be considered.

# The Spirit of Boise is Joyous

by Shari Gale

We always look forward to the Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic. It is now named the Scott Spencer Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic as a tribute to the rally's founder.

We did not travel to Boise in time for Kid's Day activities, but we heard that hundreds of children and their parents showed up at Ann Morrison Park in hopes of obtaining a tethered balloon ride. Their dreams were answered. At least 22 pilots participated in the perennially popular event.

We were there for the Media Flight on Thursday morning. We are sure glad we were there. The weather was ideal and the photographic opportunities were numerous. (Just check out the following photo pages to see for yourself.) We took up a VIP passenger, Lauren Benedict, and a new crew person, Amber Hanson. Neither had flown before. Their excitement was so high that Knight-N-Gale practically floated without the assistance of any propane.

Tim came down for a splash 'n' dash in Quinn's Pond. In truth, it is more like a medium sized lake than a pond. Lots of pilots came in for a dip in the water. Other nearby lakes also called to the pilots.

Tim landed at Veteran's Memorial Park along side Randy Hart. We were there to help Zack Clark land in the wooded area. I love that balloonists help each other out without even needing to be asked. That is one of the joys of our sport.

Friday the weather was not ideal for free flight, so everyone just put their balloons up and talked to the spectators — there are lots and lots of people who come to this event every year. Getting a chance to answer questions and meet the public is always fun.

After our static display the winds started to pick up as the day progressed. No one thought the Night Glow would work. It was just too windy! We had not been asked to glow this year for the first time in 20 years! Did we stay back in the motel? Nope. Of course not. We joined the chase vehicle procession and snuck into the park.

We still were not sure the glow would happen, but leave it to Boise, the winds calmed down in time for the Happy Dance. The Coke and CapEd balloons inflated and kids plus their parents were invited out onto the field to dance under the balloons. As always there were a lot of enthusiastic participants — young and old. By the time the sun set the winds were



*These two ladies were standing near the basket when the pilot unexpectedly hit the burner. Their reaction was to burst into laughter after being startled.*

*Photo by Patti McCarter.*

gone. 16 balloons had an easy glow. There were an estimated 32,000 people in attendance.

We had planned to skip out of the glow early to avoid the traffic jam. Instead we helped Fred and Christel Dinkler pack up. By the time we were done the spectators had just gone "poof." We were able to drive off the field easily. We were able to drive out of

the park with even greater ease. The organizers this year did not let anyone park on the north side of the park, which meant no traffic jam. There was a cop stopping traffic from one small parking lot, so we were able to drive right up to Americana Blvd without touching the brakes once. It was a vast improvement over years past.

For that matter, the new host hotel, the Fairfield Marriot, on Emerald Street, was a very easy commute to the park. Emerald Street turns into Americana so we were able to drive right up to the park entrance without making one turn! On top of that the hotel staff were very kind and efficient. The rooms were really nice, too. I hope this hotel stays as the official hotel from here on out.

Saturday morning looked a little iffy. Some pilots chose not to fly, but a lot did give it a go. Some of the pilots found a box wind and landed back in the park after a short flight. The box finally broke up, so other pilots landed here and there throughout town. Tim, alongside Randy Hart again, landed in the parking lot of the Red Lion Hotel.



*Spectators were crowding the field for Saturday morning's launch. All those little dots? They are people! Photo by David Ewing.*

# Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic Photos by David Ewing



It pays to take up an accomplished photographer in your balloon! A special thank you goes to Dave for sharing all the photos he took Saturday morning.



# Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic Photos by Cory Miller



It also pays to have an accomplished photographer as a friend. A special thank you goes to Cory Miller for always sharing his photos.

# Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic Photos by Shari Gale



*This guy set up a camera on his Segway so he could zoom through the launch field filming as he went. He drove very fast. It would be interesting to see what his photos looked like when he was finished.*





*Lisa Reid believes it is never too early to introduce someone to ballooning. Here she is with her grandson. The photo was taken in Albany on August 20, 2023 during a weekend flight. (It is too cute not to publish it!)*



**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.**



*Photos above and to the right were taken by Lauren Benedict during her flight at the Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic.*



# 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:

*Balloons flying over the pond at Timber Linn Park during the Northwest Art & Air Festival in August. Photo by Carrie Thacker.*

## 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.**