

AeroStats



February 2024

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

Volume 26, Number 2



Join us for the
February WAS meeting!

February 17, 2024

2:00 PM

The Nut Tree Ranch Activity Building
2902 E. 2nd Street
Newberg, Oregon
(see page 5)

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2024 WAS Officers

President:

Sallie Loflin

email: prez@wasballoon.org

Vice President:

Norma Ashley

email: vp@wasballoon.org

Secretary/Treasurer:

Joy Sibayan

email: sec@wasballoon.org

WAS website:

<http://www.wasballoon.org>

Others:

Newsletter Editor:

Shari Gale

email: newsletter@wasballoon.org

Activities Director:

Open

Web Master:

Jack Loflin

email: webmaster@wasballoon.org

Officers:

email: officers@wasballoon.org



Willamette Aerostat Society

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

WAS January 13, 2024 Meeting

<https://wasballoon.org/>

Present:

Sallie Loflin, President
Joy Sibayan, Secretary/Treasurer
Shari Gale, Newsletter Editor and Past President
... and 15 other WAS members

1. Call to Order: 2:01 pm

2. Approved minutes (December 9, 2023 meeting – in January newsletter)

3. Treasurer's Report: \$2,674.15 as of January 12

4. Correspondence: none

5. **News, Regulatory:** ruling in favor of Maryland company re trespassing and invasion of privacy

6. Upcoming Events

a. Next meeting: February 17, 2pm, The Nut Tree Ranch Club in Newberg

b. No monthly meeting in March

i. Safety Seminar: March 23, 2024 at ALC Bridge, 812 2nd St, Jefferson

7. Old and New Business

a. Website: all newsletters are now in password-protected Members section

b. Facebook: make a new community for us

i. Suggestion: PNW Ballooning Community

c. Bylaws

i. Access: password-protected in Members section

ii. Approval: voting will take place after everyone has reviewed the suggestions in Jan. newsletter

i. Article I

a. Section 1.2 lists WAS as a 501(c)(3) but WAS is a 501(c)(7)

i. Propose an update to reflect proper category

ii. Article II

a. Section C

i. Family members–

1. Propose limit to only 3 members of the same household

2. Currently are allowing up to 5 and we have some where the additional members are not part of the same household

ii. Out of area non-voting members

1. Recommend removing this category as we have members in multiple states

b. Section B

i. Update to reflect changes in Section C above

c. Section D

i. Propose strike out all mention of out of area non-voting members

d. Section H–Dues

i. Single and Family memberships have historically been the same cost.

1. Propose increasing family membership \$5-102. Remove charter membership category–

but keep the designations in our records to memorialize those that are charter members

2. Remove out of area memberships–no one has paid this in a long time and we have several people that are out of state

iii. Article III

a. Section C.1.4–Treasurer duties

i. Bylaws state that the annual IRS filing is due February 1. Statutory(legal) due date is May 15. The IRS doesn't send out the post cards before February 1

ii. Need to include the Oregon Department of Justice filing that is also due by May 15. Need to include the Oregon SoS business license renewal that is due by September 10 each year

d. Club promotion ideas

i. Crew school for Albany Festival like the one for Tigard FOB

ii. Add guest speaker to monthly meetings

i. Suggested: Devin re check ride

iii. Suggestion to hold meetings during summer months

iv. Meeting logistics: move from Zoom to Teams in April

v. Member engagement

i. Raffle fun flights with different pilots in WAS

ii. Competitions or contests

vi. Facebook: set up a Facebook page to invite curious potential members

e. Larry: Wanted to know if anyone knew a woman named Nicole Hiskey (Beaverton). She sent him a work of art. No one knows her.

8. Adjourn at 2:55 pm

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, February 17, 2024

2:00 PM

WAS General Meeting

Nut Tree Ranch Club House

Newberg, Oregon

Directions on the following page

March 1-3, 2024

Winthrop Balloon Roundup

Winthrop, WA

[https://winthropwashington.com/events/](https://winthropwashington.com/events/balloon-roundup/)

[balloon-roundup/](https://winthropwashington.com/events/balloon-roundup/)

March 22 to May 5, 2024

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

Woodburn, Oregon

May 10-12, 2024

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Walla Walla, WA

June 21-23, 2024

Tigard Festival of Balloons

Tigard, OR

Contact: Kristin Romelhardt

kristin@murcoproductions.com

September 6-8, 2024

The Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, Nevada

Contact: Katie Griggs

katie@renoballoon.com

September 27-29, 2024

35th Annual Great Prosser Balloon

Rally

Prosser, Washington



**Don't Miss Out On the
2024 Pacific Northwest
Safety Seminar!**

March 23, 2024
from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
at ALC Bridge
812 N. 2nd Street
Jefferson, Oregon
(next to Dollar General)

There is an application in the newsletter
or you can go to the WAS website to find one.
<http://www.wasballoon.org>

Put Safety First on Your 2024 Calendar

Plan to attend the 2024 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar

The upcoming Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar has come together nicely. It will be held at the ALC Bridge building in Jefferson, Oregon on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Check in begins at 7:30 AM. The program will start at 8:00 AM.

I have approval from the FAA for WINGS credit, and the BFA has sanctioned the seminar.

There will be some munchies as well as coffee first thing in the morning. Lunch will be provided as usual.

You can look forward to the following lineup of speakers:

John Saltenberger (our own favorite meteorologist) • Low Level Wind Shears/ Atmospheric Mechanics

Devin White • Accident Scenarios/ Error Chain

Koh Murai • Effects of Aging Pilot Performance

Jack Lofin • Flight Reviews/Airport Interaction

Sallie Lofin • Crew Management

Norma Ashley • Crew Scenarios/ Group Activity

Mandy Johnson • Aging Balloon Systems

The cost will still be \$50 per person. After March 1st the cost will jump up to \$60 per person. You will

find an application in this newsletter and on the WAS website.

The location is new this year. The ALC Bridge building is located at 812 N. 2nd Street, Jefferson, Oregon. It is right next door to the Dollar General Store. It should be easy to find. There is lots of parking. Since it is not a historic building, there will be no posts in the middle of the room. Everyone will have an unobstructed view.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Tim Gale,
Seminar Coordinator
HABsafety@comcast.net

We Will Happily Tell You Where To Go

Directions to the February 2024 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.

Upgrading Meeting Content

Let's Work Together!

The WAS Executive Committee wants to add topics of conversation in upcoming meetings. The discussion does not need to be long. It doesn't need to be fancy. It could be a five-minute story, or it could be a 45 minute PowerPoint discussion. Are you willing to step up to lead a discussion on a topic like the ones listed below? Or would you like to bring up another balloon related topic that you think will be of interest to the club members? If yes, please contact our club president, Sallie Loflin, prez@wasballoon.org

Topic Ideas:

- How my recent check ride went
- Things I like/don't like about my balloon system
- Things I like/don't like about my trailer setup
- It was all going well, until....
- I learned a lot when....
- Things I wish my instructor would have told me...
- I went to xxx balloon rally and saw yyy which I thought was really cool/scary/interesting
- Flying my R/C Balloon
- Building my own balloon envelope (R/C or full scale)
- Unusual things that happened during my annual inspection
- How my biannual flight review went
- Things that are helpful/not helpful from pilots when crewing for a new pilot
- Things I pay attention to when crewing / Things people should pay attention to when crewing
- Different balloon competitions and how to fly them
- Flying dawn patrol
- Flying long flights (over the cascades, etc.)
- Different methods of managing crew/pilots/chase coordination - advantages/disadvantages - useful mobile apps, etc.
- Landowner relations/stories/good/bad ways to handle things that come up
- Landing site selection, powerline avoidance, etc.
- Launch selection, navigation
- Weather interpretation/sourcing
- Things I see in annual inspections that are problematic/good/annoying/etc.
- My path to private pilot went like....
- This is how I provide instruction to someone for their private rating
- Things required to start a ride business



Roles and Communications with Various Aviation Entities

By Jack Loflin

If you hang around aviation long enough, you're likely to hear some unfamiliar terms. Here's the skinny on some of them:

FSDO – The Flight Standards District Office (pronounced fiz-doh) is the branch of the Federal Aviation Administration that pilots are most familiar with. There are 80 FSDO offices in the United States, each covering their respective geographical area. FSDO inspectors are primarily responsible for investigating reports of pilots violating regulations, providing oversight for airlines and other commercial aircraft operations, and also, provide oversight for pilot examiners. If someone from the FSDO calls you, unprompted, it generally isn't a good thing! The FSDO can provide minimum altitude waivers for balloon festivals. If you're ever at a big festival and see someone with an FAA badge walking around, inspecting paperwork, etc. they work for the FSDO. If you're following all rules/regulations and don't attend big festivals such as Albuquerque, there's a good chance you'll never meet a FSDO inspector.

FBO – Fixed Base Operators (pronounced eff-bee-oh) are businesses located at an airport that provide some sort of service. Services provided are normally aviation fuel, airplane/helicopter rental, instruction, charts, rental cars, courtesy cars, some sort of pilot lounge, etc. Courtesy cars are vehicles that pilots can utilize for a few hours free of charge to go grab something to eat while they are at an airport. I've seen courtesy cars range from freshly waxed Bentleys at a high end FBO at an airport catering to the rich and famous to

the 40-year-old ex-police car with 3 flat tires that barely started. For balloon pilots, FBOs can provide a way (gate code) to get into an airport if you happen to land there. That's if they are open at the time you land! A common misconception is that FBOs own the airport. Generally speaking, airports are owned by government entities (City of Albany, Port of Portland, etc.) – not the FBO.

ATC – Air Traffic Control (pronounced eh-tee-see) are the nice people in the control tower you'll need to establish radio communications with if you're operating in class B, C, or D airspace. Their primary role is to separate aircraft from other aircraft. As balloons have very little control in direction and have right of way over almost all other aircraft, the response from ATC when you call them will generally be "Okay, thanks for letting me know."

Airport Manager – The airport manager (you can probably figure out how to pronounce this one) is a person hired by the airport owner. Most airport managers at small airports have many roles – and airport manager is just one. Most of them are not pilots, and it would be a complete fluke to find an airport manager familiar with balloons or even recognize the fact that they are aircraft regulated by the FAA just like airplanes and helicopters. Remember that private airports (such as Newberg Sportsman and Lenhardt near Aurora) may not have received public funding for their airports and thus may be able to legally request that balloons not utilize their airport. Publicly owned airports or airports that have received public funds are required to allow all aircraft (including balloons) to use their airport. I've found that many airport managers are unfamiliar with the public-use rules for their airports.

2024 Willamette Aerostat Society (WAS) memberships are due now.

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.

You can write a check and mail it to the treasurer along with your application if you choose. (A copy of the application is on page 10.)

You can, also, renew via the website just click on this link:

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

2024 Havasu Balloon Festival

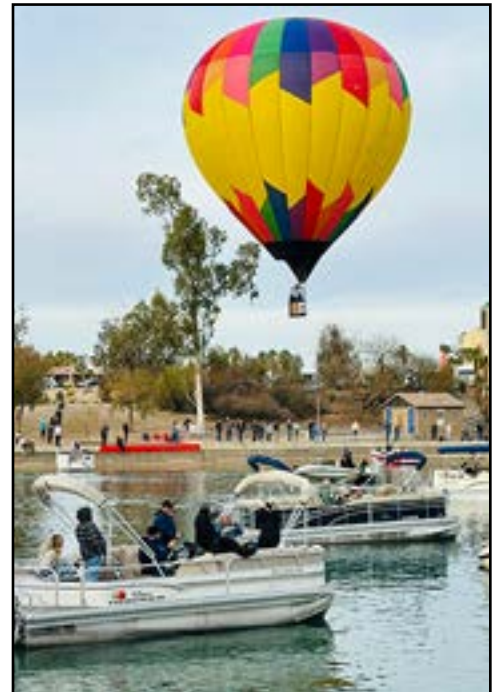
The 13th Annual Havasu Balloon Festival was a success. After suffering a few years with unfavorable weather, things got going in the right direction in 2024. Beginning with a “pre-function flight” on Thursday and through the weekend, balloonists were able to fly five times. They also were able to set up three night glows and do several school visits. They only canceled the Saturday evening and Sunday morning flights. This event always draws huge crowds of people. The spectators loved it.

Attending the rally again this year were Cory and Angela Miller. Once again, Cory generously has shared the photos he took over the weekend.

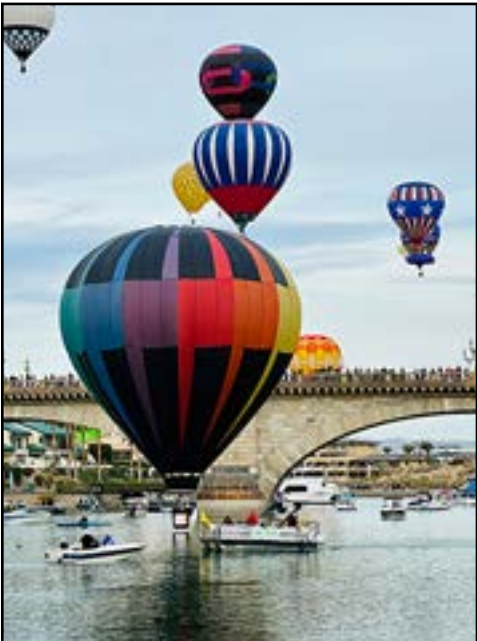
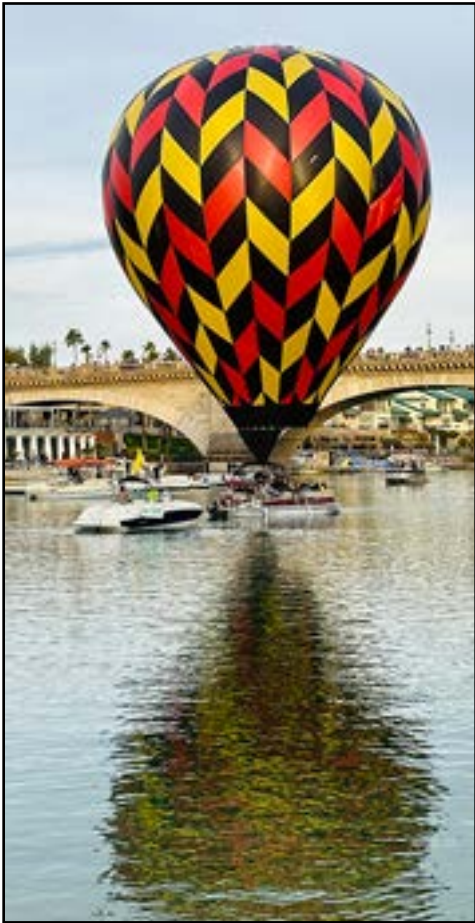
Thank you, Cory!



Cory and Angela Miller along with Nevada WAS member, Karalyn Mumm. A photo Cory took of her balloon is below and another one is on the cover.



Havasu Rally by Cory Miller





2024 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar March 23, 2024

ALC Bridge, 812 2nd Street, Jefferson, Oregon

Registration Form

Name: _____

First

Last

E-mail address: _____

(If you want Wings credit, please be sure to use the same email address on file with the Wings Program.)

WAS member BFA #: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Phone #: _____

cell phone

land line

Pilot Student Pilot Crew

Insurance Company: RPS AIR Evolution Welker Other: _____

Cost: \$50 for the first 50 people to sign-up. Price will increase to \$60 after March 1, 2024
Lunch included.

No refunds after Saturday, March 9, 2024.

Please print out this form and send it along with your check to: **Tim Gale / Seminar**
1300 39th Ave SW
Albany, OR 97321

Phone: 503-369-6123
habsafety@icloud.com

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 Joy Sibayan
22834 SW Forest Crk Dr, Unit 202
Sherwood OR 97140

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:

WAS member, Karalyn Mumm, recently flew over the London Bridge during the Havasu Balloon Rally. Photo by Cory Miller.

Waiver

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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.