

AeroStats



January 2024

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

Volume 26, Number 1



Join us for the first WAS meeting
of the new year!

January 13, 2024
2:00 PM

The Nut Tree Ranch Club
2902 E. 2nd Street
Newberg, Oregon
(directions can be found on 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 December 9, 2023 Meeting

<https://wasballoon.org/>

Present:

Sallie Loflin, President
Norma Ashley, Vice President
Shari Gale, Newsletter Editor and Past President

1. Call to Order 2:40 pm

2. **Approval of Minutes** (November 18, 2023 – in December newsletter) motioned, seconded, passed.

3. **Treasurer's Report** - \$2,404.55

4. **Correspondence** - None

5. **News, Regulatory** - None

6. Upcoming Events

January meeting date – **January 13th at 2pm**
at The Nut Tree Ranch Club in Newberg

7. Old and New Business

Safety seminar – send email to Tim,
habsafety@icloud.com with ideas

Dues are due!

CoY and AoY – send nominations to Sallie
ASAP

Officer voting results were announced:

Sallie Loflin – President
Joy Sibayan – Treasurer/Secretary
Norma Ashley – Vice President

All newsletters are now behind a password.
Let Sallie know if you need the password.
Jack will work on Facebook pages in
January

Laura suggested a crew school that the club
puts on

8. Adjourn - 2:55pm



*Don't forget to pay your
WAS dues for 2024, and
please nominate a worthy
candidate for Aeronaut
of the Year or for Crew
member of the Year.
(Details on page 5.)
Please do it sooner
rather than later!*

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, January 13, 2024

2:00 PM

WAS General Meeting

Nut Tree Ranch Club House

Newberg, Oregon

Directions on the following page

June 21-23, 2024

Tigard Festival of Balloons

September 6-8, 2024

The Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, Nevada

September 27-29, 2024

35th Annual Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Prosser, Washington

**Please remember to
Renew your WAS membership!**

Safety With A Clear View

Yes, there will be another local safety seminar this year. Once again, Tim Gale will set up a safety seminar in Jefferson, Oregon. However, there is a major change.

Same town, different location

Thanks to Marianne LeDoux we have booked a different location, ALC Bridge. The best part is that it is a “new” building rather than an old historic one. There are no posts in the middle of the floor in the conference room to obstruct your view. There is also plenty of off street parking available. ALC Bridge is right next door to the Dollar General store. That makes it easy to spot.

We have access to a full kitchen, so there will be snacks and lunch provided, just like always.

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.

More information will be supplied next month as details are worked out.

**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)

We Will Happily Tell You Where To Go

Directions to the January 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.

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@was-balloon.org ASAP.

Do You Know That Dues Are Due?

Your 2024 membership dues are due now.

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://wasballoon.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 in the newsletter.

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

Two Pacific Northwest Pilots Have A Lot To Celebrate This Holiday Season!

by Shari Gale

Consider this scenario: The holidays are swooping in at any moment. The top of your wish list is getting your pilot certificate. Two pilots in the Pacific Northwest got exactly what they wanted for Christmas!

Designated Pilot Examiner, Jack Loflin, was visiting his father-in-law in Yakima, Washington leading up to Christmas Day. When that word leaked out along side a favorable weather forecast both Devin White of Walla Walla and Ryan Geib of Renton, Washington jumped at the chance to take their oral exams along with a check ride while Jack was “nearby.”

Devin went first. He was more than ready to take his exams for his commercial certificate. Saturday, December 23rd Devin took his oral exam in the morning. They were meeting up at a launch field in Yakima by 2:00 pm. By 3:00 he

was in the air with Jack. I found out when a long-time friend/crew member who lives in Yakima sent me a photo of a balloon flying above town. She was so excited. It was the first time she’d ever seen a balloon over Yakima. She called it a “surprise in our sky.” When I saw it, I instantly guessed what was going on. Tim and I were madly texting Devin to see what happened, when Sallie Loflin sent us a text message to tell us Devin had passed. We both cheered. No one heard us, but we just had to voice our happiness at full volume anyway.

Later we were talking to Devin on the phone. He was outside with his dogs, trying to get them to settle down. I told him they were feeding off the vibes he was generating. We weren’t anywhere near him, but we could feel the excitement pulsing through the microwave towers.

Job well done, Devin.

His flight was the talk of the Yakima Valley. He forwarded several photos taken by their landowner, but also photos shared on the Yakima Facebook pages.

Next up was Ryan Geib. He took his oral exam for his private certificate that same night, December 23rd. He passed it, of course.

The next morning, Christmas Eve, everyone met up at the Johnson’s property, Hot Air Acres, in Prosser, Washington. The weather was cold and crisp. When they launched they headed northeast – right for the Prosser Airport. Ryan nailed it. He nailed the check ride, too. Mandy Johnson took some great photos and posted them on Facebook.

Job well done, Ryan.

What a way to celebrate the holidays!

Devin White’s Check Ride Photos



Look at those blue skies! December 23rd was obviously a great day to take your check ride. Just ask Devin White!

Ryan Geib's Check Ride

Photos by Mandy Johnson



The morning of December 24th started with Ryan Geib inflating for his check ride.



Ryan and DPE, Jack Loflin, getting ready for their launch. (Jack is already smiling, that has got to be a good sign.)



Ryan and Jack lifting off from Hot Air Acres in Prosser, Washington.



Ryan's goal upon launching was to make it to the airport in Prosser. He proved his piloting skills were up to the task.

Volunteers Needed to help with the March Safety Seminar

- Help with set up and clean up to the room
- Help in the kitchen (setting out food, etc.)
- Topic ideas
- Make/lead a presentation

Send an email to habsafety@icloud.com
and tell Tim Gale you are willing to step up.

You will make his day!

FAA Knowledge Test

by Jack Loflin, Designated Pilot Examiner

Many of us are familiar with the FAA Written Knowledge Test - that multiple choice test we all must pass in order to get your private or commercial pilot certificate. A 70% is required to “pass” the test - but many often wonder if it matters whether you get a 70% or a 100%.

When it comes time to take your check ride, the examiner is required to cover any material you missed on your written test. If you scored 100% on your test, there is obviously nothing to cover. If you scored a 70%, there will likely be multiple items to cover during your check ride. However, this may or may not extend the length or complexity of your check ride. Certain items are required to be covered on the check ride anyway - like airspace. So, if you missed a question about airspace on your

knowledge test, it’s really no big deal as that material was going to be covered on your check ride anyway. If you missed a question about reporting an accident/incident to the FAA/NTSB, that may extend the length/complexity of your check ride as that specific material is not normally required to be covered during a check ride.

Some examiners may utilize the knowledge test as a means for deciding what items to cover during the oral portion of a check ride. Example: The test standards may require either topic A or B, but not both. If the applicant has missed topic A on their written test, then covering topic A during the check ride satisfies the requirement to test topic A, and also covers the items missed on the knowledge test.

Some applicants take the

knowledge test before they start flight training, while others wait until just before their check ride. Generally speaking, applicants that have completed flight training will score better on the knowledge test as they’ve had more time to study and also draw upon the experiences they’ve had during flight training when taking the knowledge test.

You may retake the knowledge test multiple times, although testing fees can become expensive. Your instructor is also required to review any topics missed on your knowledge test prior to signing you off to take your check ride. As for whether it matters if you get a 70% or 100% — I’d say not really. If you think you can pass it, go ahead and take it. You need a 70% but getting a 100% doesn’t appreciably affect your check ride.

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

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

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 your dues in a more modern method, you can renew via the website just click on this link: <https://wasballoon.org/membership/>





2024 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar March 23, 2023

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:

Ryan Geib took his check ride over Prosser, Washington on Christmas Eve. He passed, of course. Photo by Mandy Johnson.

Waiver

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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.