

# AeroStats



**June 2024**

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

**Volume 26, Number 6**



*Join us for the  
June WAS meeting!*

*Saturday, June 29, 2024*

*2:00 PM*

*Nut Tree Ranch Activity Building  
2902 E. 2nd Street, Newberg, Oregon*

## Table of Contents

- Sec/Treas Report      Page 3
- Happenings            Page 4
- Walla Walla Balloon  
  Stampede              Page 5
- WWBS Photos        Page 6-8
- Drone Clearance     Pages 9
- WAS Application     Page 10

This newsletter is late in arriving in your inbox. The editor had the nerve to go on a three week vacation!

Fire her!!

## 2024 WAS Officers

### President:

Sallie Loflin  
email: [pres@wasballoon.org](mailto:pres@wasballoon.org)

### Vice President:

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

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Joy Sibayan  
email: [sec@wasballoon.org](mailto:sec@wasballoon.org)

### WAS website:

<http://www.wasballoon.org>

### Others:

#### Newsletter Editor:

Shari Gale  
email: [newsletter@wasballoon.org](mailto:newsletter@wasballoon.org)

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Open

#### Web Master:

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#### Officers:

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



# Willamette Aerostat Society

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

### WAS May 18, 2024 Meeting

<https://wasballoon.org/>

#### 1. Call to Order: 2:04

#### 2. Approval of Minutes (April 27, 2024 — in May newsletter) motion/second/carry

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

1. Membership: 66
2. Bank report
  - i. Deposit: \$602.92 from Safety Seminar
  - ii. Expense: \$1,000 to BFA for youth camps (Reno & Boise) donation sent 5/8
  - iii. Current balance: \$3,429.55
3. Tax forms sent 5/6
  - i. Oregon CT-12
  - ii. IRS Form 990-N

#### 4. Correspondence: none

#### 5. Upcoming Events

1. June meeting – June 29th - Newberg
2. June 21: Tigard Festival of Balloons
3. Suggest dates for WAS BBQ in July or August at Lofflin home
4. New festival to add: Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival – Elko, September 19-22
  - i. Karalyn Mumm will be Balloonmeister
  - ii. Her and her son Will are also going to do a small balloon camp that weekend

#### 6. Old and New Business

1. Donation to BFA balloon camps was mailed on May 8th
  - i. Send to BFA earlier (February) next year
2. Local balloon camps for Tigard and/or Albany
  - i. Karalyn will be in Albany to chat about setting up local camps
  - ii. Let Sallie know if you're interested in being part of this discussion
3. Facebook: new public page
  - i. Out of 264, 230 were culled individually

1. 45-50 new members since the page was set up

ii. Some members were accidentally removed from members-only Facebook page

1. Let Sallie know if you need to be added back

4. Reminders for the new flying season – open discussion

- i. Landowner relations
- ii. Crew etiquette

#### 7. Adjourn: 2:18

#### Attendees:

**Online:** Ryan, Eric, Mark, David, Larry (and two babies!)

**Onsite:** Sallie, Marianne, Bob, Cheryl, Chris, Lisa, Joy

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT  
THE LATEST CHANGES IN  
THE WAS WEBSITE**

**IT'S GROWING AND IMPROVING BY  
THE DAY!**

<https://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.

**June 18-23, 2024**  
**2024 BFA Youth Camp**  
Cordele, Georgia

**June 21-23, 2024**  
**Tigard Festival of Balloons**  
Tigard, Oregon  
Contact: Kristin Romelhardt  
[kristin@murcoproductions.com](mailto:kristin@murcoproductions.com)

**June 22-23, 2024**  
**Kongregation of Balloons**  
Pendleton, Oregon  
Contact: Mandy Johnson  
[kindaducky@gmail.com](mailto:kindaducky@gmail.com)

**Saturday, June 29, 2024, 2:00 PM**  
**WAS Meeting**  
Nut Tree Ranch Activity Building  
2902 E. 2nd Street,  
Newberg, Oregon

**July 4-7, 2024**  
**The Teton Valley Balloon Rally**  
Driggs, Idaho  
[www.tetonvalleyballoonrally.com](http://www.tetonvalleyballoonrally.com)

**July 13-14, 2024**  
**Sonoma County Hot Air Balloon Classic**  
Santa Rosa, California  
<https://www.schabc.org>

**July 13-18, 2024**  
**2024 BFA Youth Camp**  
Lake Tahoe, Nevada

**July 26-28, 2024**  
**Balloons Over Bend**  
Bend, Oregon  
<https://balloonsoverbend.com>

**August 10, 2024**  
**Valley View Fun Fly,**  
McMinnville, Oregon  
Contact: Chris Whitfield  
[cdwhitfield73@gmail.com](mailto:cdwhitfield73@gmail.com)

**August 23-25, 2024**  
**Northwest Art & Air Festival**  
Albany, Oregon  
<https://www.albanyoregon.gov/nwaaf>

**August 28-September 1, 2024**  
**Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic**  
Boise, Idaho  
by invitation only  
Contact: Laurie Spencer  
[laurie@scottspencer.net](mailto:laurie@scottspencer.net)

**August 31, 2024**  
**2024 BFA Youth Camp**  
Boise, Idaho

**September 6-8, 2024**  
**Great Reno Balloon Race**  
Reno, Nevada  
Information: <https://renoballoon.com>

**September 19-22, 2024**  
**Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival**  
Elko, Nevada

**September 27-29, 2024**  
**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Prosser Balloon Rally**  
Prosser, Washington  
<http://www.prosserballoonrally.org>

## It's Officially Summer!

Stay in touch with your local ballooning community!

## Join WAS right away so you don't miss anything!

It's easy to join, just go to: <https://wasballoon.org/membership/>

Or send a check to the club treasurer.

An application can be found on page 10.

# Walla Walla Balloon Stampede Still Going Strong



More than 40 years ago, the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede started out as our first balloon rally of the season. Then things changed up a bit for more than one reason. Now, after dropping the Winthrop event, and the Stampede moving back to Mother's Day Weekend, it is now back to being our opening rally. It felt so right.

The weather leading up to the rally weekend was definitely unfriendly. Fortunately, Mother Nature smiled upon the event. We had perfect weather for Kid's Day Thursday morning, the VIP launch on Friday morning and the Friday night Glow. Saturday was tricky to call. Rally organizer, Laurie Spencer, made the conservative (and correct) call to not free fly. Everyone stood their balloons up on the field. Some pilots even tethered. The spectators loved it. They had the opportunity to go from basket to basket and talk to the pilots and crew members. Sunday morning was an easy call. The winds were just too brisk to even think about taking the system out of the trailer.

Thursday morning Tim was asked to free fly rather than do tethers for kids. Our passengers were the adult children of the territory manager of AmeriGas. They were

delightful people. I'm glad we had a chance to get to know them.

Tim thought for sure he'd be landing at the airport. We followed protocol. I drove up to the Rainier Street gate and waited there for Tim to actually set down. The airport employee who

was manning the gate, was delighted to see him coming. He told me that last year they spent three days waiting for balloons to drop in on them, and did not even see a single balloon. As luck would have it, Tim disappointed him, too. Soon after entering the airport grounds, Tim dropped to a lower altitude and he was suddenly going southeast. Instead of landing at the airport, he landed at Walla Walla Community College.

Friday many, many balloons landed at the airport. The guy at the gate had a huge smile on his face as I drove in. We had made his day.

We've been going to the WWBS for over 40 years. We have crew members that have been with us for almost that entire time. At breakfast one morning I figured out that one crew person has been with us for at least 40 years, another couple have been with us for over 35 years, Jim Churchill, our local crew member, has been with us for over 20 years. The "newbies" have only been with us for 10 years. This goes a long way to making the Stampede one of the most special events of the year. It is impossible to beat getting together with long-time friends. Flyable weather just made the weekend that much more extraordinary.



*Above, Thursday morning lift off. Below, Tim's landing site at the Walla Walla Community College parking lot.*

A special thank you needs to go out to Laurie Spencer for working so hard to keep this event going year after year. (If you don't know it, this rally almost died several years ago due to lack of interest from the local organizers.) Laurie lives hundreds of miles away, but her heart is in keeping the WWBS legacy going strong. Without her, there would not be a Stampede as we know it today.

# 2024 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Photos by Shari Gale



# 2024 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Photos by Cory Miller



# 2024 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Photos by Cory Miller





# Amazon's Prime Air Delivery Drones Get A Major FAA Clearance

Reprinted from the Colorado Balloon Club Flyer, June 2024

[https://www.popsci.com/technology/amazon-drone-bvlos/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR3q58eMUyitAlIfF0PcxHhsViR2JH2idqxK9pA29cCVD-6v1Vsv1p5wfvY\\_aem\\_AfwnV1wFXd-pn8wtyLJie0GiV5Ce9ir6b-j5WJXqpaSOF8dLQ4gY\\_1X\\_g3u5V8HDmZJh-7AKUJ2r7D2kHE8zizzn](https://www.popsci.com/technology/amazon-drone-bvlos/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR3q58eMUyitAlIfF0PcxHhsViR2JH2idqxK9pA29cCVD-6v1Vsv1p5wfvY_aem_AfwnV1wFXd-pn8wtyLJie0GiV5Ce9ir6b-j5WJXqpaSOF8dLQ4gY_1X_g3u5V8HDmZJh-7AKUJ2r7D2kHE8zizzn)

Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) approval is a big step for the company's drone plans.

Amazon has spent nearly a decade working towards unleashing drones fleets capable of rapid, same-day deliveries to customers' homes. Since 2020, its aerial prototypes have dropped off small packages near a handful of Fulfillment Centers, but only within a human operator's visual line of sight. But that range is reportedly about extending much farther—in a blog post earlier today, Amazon confirmed it has received a Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration for Prime Air current line of MK27 aerial drones.

BVLOS approval allows pilots to use remote instruments and on-board monitoring technology to fly drones, even when operators can't physically see them, greatly increasing how far a drone is legally allowed to travel. And for Amazon, that means even more customers capable of receiving Prime Air deliveries. Amazon says it needed multiple piloting advancements to achieve BVLOS permission, including an "onboard detect-and-avoid technology" to ensure its drones can identify and fly around potential in-air obstacles. Real-world demonstrations in the presence of FAA inspectors were also required, which involved "real planes, helicopters, and a hot air balloon to demonstrate how the drone safely navigated away from each of them."

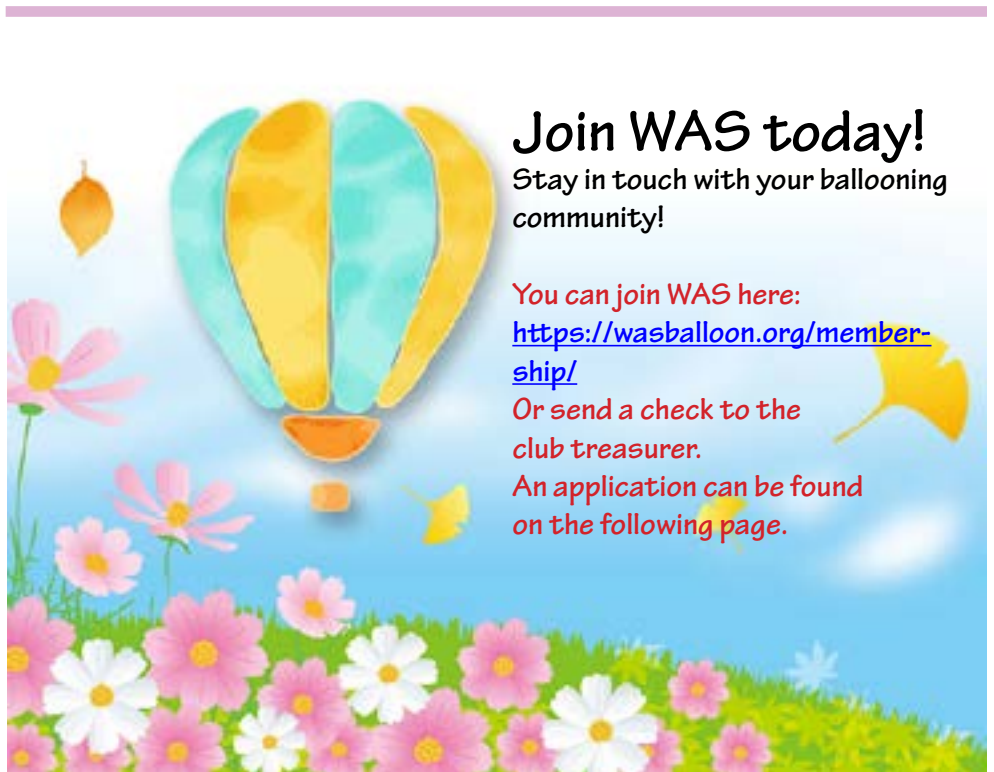
For now, Amazon's BVLOS certification appears to only apply for an expanded, "more densely populated" delivery area surrounding its Fulfillment Center in College

Station, Texas. Prime Air drones are also currently only capable of carrying five-pounds of cargo, which limits them to items like household essentials and drugstore products. Amazon says it plans to integrate its drones into larger delivery networks by the end of the year, including Same-Day Delivery sites. Prime Air testing is also occurring in Arizona, California, and in Italy.

There are also plans to soon replace its line of MK27 drones with the MK30, which the company says is half-as-loud and capable of flying twice as far as previous models. Using a vertical takeoff system that converts midair to a horizontal configuration, the MK30 is also cleared to fly in slightly inclement weather conditions like light rain, while MK27 is only making deliveries

when skies are clear.

Of course, the company isn't planning on stopping there. Amazon says its ultimate goal is to offer 30-minutes-or-less package deliveries from "highly autonomous drones" across much wider areas, with an aim of completing 500 million deliveries per year by the decade's end. Advocates argue an increased reliance on drones could cut down on costly vehicle carbon emissions and lessen the notoriously demanding (and some would say dangerous) Prime Delivery employee quotas. Meanwhile, there's always the question of just how much automation companies like Amazon truly envision, and what that could ultimately mean for the human labor force.



**Join WAS today!**  
Stay in touch with your ballooning community!

You can join WAS here:  
<https://wasballoon.org/membership/>

Or send a check to the club treasurer.  
An application can be found on the following page.

# 2024 WAS Membership Application



Single \$20     Family (\$30 — applicant plus 3 family members, all in the same household)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family #3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 e-mail

### 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:

The 2024 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede's primary sponsor is Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Their support is much appreciated!

Photo by Cory Miller.

## Waiver

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**Publication deadline is the 2nd Saturday of each month.**

**AeroStats reserves the right to deny publication of submitted material for any reason.**

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