



AeroStats

October 2015

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 17, Number 9**



Willamette Aerostat Society President's Letter



Another month has passed and the Northwest has offered some great opportunities. It's the season of balloon events and many have progressed allowing great fun,

photos and camaraderie. Personally, I've found some new friends and enjoyed time in the air with them. Then there's the old friends from decades past, always good to catch up on their lives and share time.

As to flying, I added a note on a sticky below my computer monitor to remind me of a topic for this article: "Fly to be your best." My intent is to encourage us to push ourselves to the best we can be, even when no one is looking. It's not only for people flying, it can include those chasing or nearly any endeavor. When flying, test yourself to land near that spot in the field you can identify, even when it's only recognized internally. Flying to the best location for your crew to recover is another goal. I like to get to a stop without ground help, although at times I do appreciate a guiding hand when things get tight. One time in Boise, I cast my drop line near the edge of the park while requesting a helping hand to a nice spot of grass from treetop altitude. Unfortunately, I'd not checked the carabineer on the basket end and it followed the rest of the line to the crew's hands on the ground. Now, that's embarrassing. Shifting thinking, goals and a bit of altitude, I found a better site without assistance nearby. My point: keep your skills sharp, even when you don't need them. When the need arises, you'll be

ready for the challenge. For crewing, the same applies. Keeping up on the signs of winds, balloon track, hazards, critters and access can all help if need arises. Whether on the ground or in the air, it's all about situational awareness and being mindful of the reality of the moment. Flying and chasing is great fun, immerse your mind into it. The outcome will be the best you can achieve.

Another topic: 2016 officers for WAS. We need someone to step into the soon to be vacant President position. The past three years have been gratifying yet the club needs a different person in the office. *If*

no one steps up, the club will need to fold. We've gone through a few issues and I believe they've been set right. Maintaining the club as a social unit, and keeping an active newsletter seems to have kept some life in the group. In person and through the newsletter, we can pass information on happenings organized by others and report on activities associated with balloons in the area. Perhaps it's your opportunity to immerse your mind into it and lead us forward.

Tim Gale
WAS President

It's Time To Step Up!

We need someone to volunteer to be the next WAS president. Without a volunteer the club will have to disband. (It's not that hard a job. Just say, "Yes!")

Contact Tim Gale at the e-mail address below, or call him at 503-366-0608 to ask questions &/or to volunteer.

Come on. Just say, "Yes!"

2015 WAS Officers

President

Tim Gale

waspres@icloud.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Dale Justice

outerlimits41@aol.com

Vice President

Carmen Blakely

carmenblakely@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Shari Gale

sharigaleor@gmail.com

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.

October 14-18

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Walla Walla, WA

For more information: <http://www.wallawallaballoonstampede.com>

This is a "By Invitation Only" rally

December 13

WAS Christmas Party

3:00 P.M.

Eddie Stoaks' house

2407 NE Regents Drive

Portland, Oregon



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kris Trujillo 10/15

Marilyn Barnhart 10/27

Greg Miller 10/27

*Please nominate
someone for
Aeronaut of the Year.*

*See page 14 for nomination
details.*

**Join us for the next WAS meeting
at 11:00 AM on
Sunday, Nov. 8th,
at the Aurora Jet Center**

**It's also a potluck, so please
bring a dish or
two to share with the group.**

Directions to Aurora Jet Center

- **I-5 going South** take exit 282A and follow Hubbard Hwy down to Keil Rd on the left. Turn there and follow around curves to the very first parking lot, Red Gate, you will see the Jet Center right there.
- **I-5 going North** take Donald/Aurora exit and turn right at stop sign. Follow Ehlen Road all the way to Hubbard Hwy and turn left at signal. Go down to Keil Rd on right and turn. Follow around curves to first parking lot, Red Gate.
- **From Newberg** take Hwy 219 toward St. Paul and turn left at McKay Rd. It will become Ehlen Rd. Follow all the way to Hubbard Hwy and turn left at signal. Go to Keil Rd and turn right, first parking lot on right, Red Gate, and turn in.
- **From Canby** take Hwy 99 south. Turn right on 1st Street. Turn right on Airport Road. Turn left on Keil Road. Go all the way down to the Red Gate and turn in.
- **From Salem** take Hwy 99 north. Turn left on Main Street, then turn left on 1st Street. Turn right on Airport Road. Turn left on Keil Road. Go to Red Gate and turn in.

Walk in the main gate and go toward the back of the building to a set of stairs and go up to the conference room.

Lost: Call Cheryl Isaacs at 971-226-7239.



2015 Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic

September 2 -6, 2015

by Shari Gale

Scott and Laurie Spencer work hard to make their signature balloon rally family friendly. They start off with a Kid's Day "Share the Dream of Flight" event. 23 balloons came out to Anne Morrison Park on Wednesday, September 2nd. They gave tethered rides to approximately 4,000 kids and their parents/guardians. It was hard to get a solid head count since the kids flitted from one balloon to the next. One thing is for sure; the park was filled with happy kids. The event guests were even allowed to walk inside Tom Gough's old Cameron balloon, as it was lying on the ground, cold packed, and that turned out to be a very popular activity. The Kid's Day event was an impressive way to start the rally.

Friday was VIP day. A beautiful tribute flight was made for Chris Stonehocker, Scott and Laurie's son-in-law, who passed away very

unexpectedly last November. The ceremony was handled with class. It was a wonderful, and hopefully healing, moment for everyone in the ballooning family.

Once that first balloon lifted off it was our turn. We only had one rider. Her name was Jannica. She was so excited to go up and was eager to help us launch Knight-N-Gale. While we were setting up another man walked up to our crew and introduced himself as our rider for Saturday's flight. He's an amateur photographer. He wanted to make sure he got photos of "his" balloon from the ground. I invited him to go on the chase with us. He declined. I think he knew something we didn't know.

We didn't actually chase. We just drove over to the other side of the park, and ultimately, we walked to the balloon.

Tim had landed beside the duck pond. He missed doing a true splash 'n' dash by less than a foot. We turned the truck around and were driving back to the entrance of the peninsula in order to retrieve the balloon.

Half way back to our starting point Tim called on the radio stating the winds had



Tim's original landing site on Friday was certainly pretty. Photo by Shari Gale

shifted. He now planned to hop over some trees and land right beside the area where we had been parked just moments before.

O.K. Back around we go. If I had had a crystal ball I would have bumped the curb, driven into the launch area and turned around. I decided instead to stick to the park roads. Bad idea! The crew for another balloonist got their chase truck and trailer wedged in between a high curb and a parked car. They could not pull forward. They could not back up. They were blocking the only road that leads around the park. It was so frustrating. We had just been where we needed to be, and now we could not move at all. We couldn't back up because there was a long line of chase vehicles and spectator cars behind us, and the curb in that spot was

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Scott McDaniel took this photo on "Kid's Day" in Boise. Everyone was allowed to walk around inside Tom Gough's old Cameron envelope. It was a huge hit. This photo was taken from the official Facebook page of The Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic with their permission. <https://www.facebook.com/spiritboiseballoonclassic>

Spirit of Boise

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too high for us to jump it.

We decided to abandon our truck and walk over to Knight-N-Gale. One loyal crewmember volunteered to stay with our truck. We had KNG almost packed away before Kelly was able to drive over to us.

Needless to say, there were a lot of frustrated chase crews on Friday. But that was the only glitch. It was a beautiful day for a flight. I think just about everyone landed within the park grounds.

Saturday David, our amateur photographer, came out. He was hanging out with us long before the pilot briefing was over. He was very enthusiastic. That, of course, makes him the perfect passenger. Oh, and did he ever get a great ride. The winds, for the first time in my memory, took us across town. He took some great photos of balloons flying near the Idaho State Capitol building. As the flight continued the winds picked up. Um. That's tricky. When flying over a town like Boise it's best to have very light and variable winds. Knight-N-Gale just seemed to continue to pick up speed. We kept up with Tim fairly well, until the last moment. He was obviously coming in for a landing. I wanted to be there in case he needed assistance. Instead, I had two people on bikes blocking

the entire street. The man was in the middle of the left lane and the woman was in the middle of the right lane. Both were just standing, straddling their bikes watching Tim land. I had to roll down my window and ask them to move. They were totally oblivious to the fact that a truck was

right behind them. (I thought blasting them with the truck's horn was a little rude, so I used a please and thank you approach instead.) Tim, naturally, did not need our help. He found the corner of a big empty lot the owner uses as her own wildlife sanctuary. She encourages deer and other animals to call the field home. She was out to greet us. So were the neighbors. Some of them came out into the field barefoot and still wearing their pajamas. The landowner apologized for the weeds in the field being a little too high. I wouldn't be surprised if she doesn't have the field mowed next year before the balloon event. She earned an A+ landowner rating that morning. She could not have been nicer.



David Ewing took this photo as they floated over the city.

got a motorcycle police escort to the park. It never gets old being allowed to blow through red lights!

In the lead up to the glow Scott and Laurie inflated several balloons for the crowd. At one point they invited kids from two to twelve to come on to the launch area to dance up near the Coke balloon. The kids and their parents loved it. Smiles and giggles were seen and heard all around the balloon. Oh, and lots (LOTS!) of photos were taken. Coke got their advertising value from that event all in that one moment.

Due to the change in the launch site within Ann Morrison Park, the night glow balloons were lined up in two rows. Frankly, I liked that configuration a lot better than one long straight line. Two rows of balloons created a great photo op. We had great crew, and two crown lines set up. The second crown line wasn't needed. The winds were very calm.

As always, the field was packed with spectators for the night glow. I don't know the head count, but it was in the thousands. The organizers, and those wonderful cops on the motorcycles, handled the traffic jam after the glow extremely well. Yes, traffic was slow in places, but we didn't experience gridlock. Overall, we got back to the motel quickly, and waiting for us was the propane truck. What more could we ask for?



Another great photo by David Ewing taken Saturday just as they lifted off.

Saturday afternoon we were concerned about the weather for the night glow. Would Mother Nature cooperate? Last year the weather was absolutely perfect for the glow. Could it be that good two years in a row? Happily, the answer was yes. As usual, we

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Spirit of Boise

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Sunday, Scott asked us to take up one of the event's official photographers. His name was Joe, and he's got to be one of the nicest people on the planet. For good measure we asked Scott's hardworking sister, Tracy, to go up in Knight-N-Gale. It was another gorgeous day. The balloons slowly drifted up and over the bench. From the park we were able to see a few of them reverse course and just scream by as they came along the edge of the bench/cliff overlooking the park. The sight was so unusual that I grabbed my video camera.

We'd completely lost sight of Tim. No one on the crew knew where he'd gone. I was just about to call him on the radio when I saw him come whizzing by the trees growing on the bench above the park. Then I saw him start to descend. I knew what he was going to do. He was going to come in right in front of the apartments that overlook the tennis courts and the baseball diamond. The cliff would be a natural wind shelter.

Yep, that's what happened. The only unexpected thing was the condition of the lawn in that section of the park. It had just been watered. It had been heavily watered. As we stepped on the grass you could hear squishing sounds and water was oozing up. We drug out every tarp we owned in order to keep Knight-N-Gale dry. It worked. (Monday, afternoon the tarps were all drying out in our yard.) Val Favicchio was much smarter. She had her crew walk her over to the paved area in front of the refueling area. Not only did she keep the envelope dry, but she was also the first in line for propane. Smart woman!

We had a wonderful time in Boise, as we always do. We enjoyed nearly perfect weather – the afternoons were a little windy, but I count three flights in three mornings and a successful night glow as perfect.



The balloon Tic Toc was inflated Saturday evening to entertain the crowds before the night glow got started.



Friday morning there was a "Bowling For Port-a-Potties" contest. The spectators loved it.



Our passengers on Sunday morning were Joe and Tracy. Joe was one of the official photographers. He continually had a camera in front of his face. Tracy is Scott Spencer's sister. She works overtime all weekend long making sure all the visiting pilots are happy and have what they need.



Our friendly landing site on Saturday was one of the few large open fields within the city limits. Tim got bonus points for finding it.

The night glow was moved to the south side of the park this year. It worked out quite well.

All photos on this page by Shari Gale.



The Great Reno Balloon Race

September 11-13, 2015



Photos by Linda Walton

Prosser: A Delight for Spectators as well as Balloonists

by Shari Gale

We were right in the middle of rally season when Tim got a last minute call from Morgan Everett who chairs The Great Prosser Balloon Rally committee. He asked Tim to become a last minute substitute balloonmeister for the event, and oh, yeah, they'd had two balloonists drop out of the rally at the last minute. Can you find replacements? Tim tried mightily to fill the empty spots, but it didn't happen. People make commitments weeks in advance. Balloon pilots seem to make commitments months in advance, after all there are other rallies in the area the same weekend.

Oh, well. The show went on. It was marvelous! Those who missed it, missed out on a great time punctuated by spectacular memories.

We arrived in town on Thursday evening. The first launch was scheduled for Friday, though the rally does not officially start until Saturday. Almost all the pilots showed up for

the early flight. Traditionally, Tim and I offer a ride to members of the Miss Prosser Court. They are local high school seniors who have competed to be chosen to represent their town. They always come out before dawn wearing their crowns and huge smiles.

This year their chaperone, Kipp Campbell, gave us a very special gift. She had created a photo book titled *Checkmate's Royal Legacy*.

It was filled with photos taken over the years as we flew the queen and princesses in Checkmate, which we retired last year. The inscription said, "Thanks so much for the many years of welcoming my 'ducks' and giving them a wonderful experience. Even years later, every court fondly remembers their flight and wonderful hosts. Thank you for helping to make their year as royalty truly a year to remember." It was fun going through

the book with the current court members and the chaperones bringing us up to date on what each past court member is now doing in their lives. Most of them have graduated from college, some have moved back to Prosser, but many have scattered across the United States. Some are now mothers. Some are career women. They are truly a dynamic group of young women. Tim and I look forward to sharing Knight-N-Gale with the future Miss Prosser Court in the years to come.

The weather Friday morning was perfect. The winds were light and variable. More than one balloonist was able to do a splash 'n' dash in the Yakima River. Tim took up the first two members of the court, Lauren and Laura, and immediately made it into the river. He then popped up and over



Since 2007 we have happily given the Miss Prosser Court members a ride in our balloon. When their chaperone asked if they were "imposing" on us we answered, "No way!" We love interacting with the girls. It is our pleasure to expand their experiences with a ride in our balloon.
Photos by Shari Gale



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Prosser Rally

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the trees landing in an open lot near the river. We did a passenger swap at that point. One of the court members had to go to school, so we loaded up the remaining princess, Stephanie, and one of their chaperones, Kathy. Tim tried his best to get back into the river, but Mother Nature had become bored with that wind direction. Instead, Tim decided to grab the wind that was heading back to the launch field. He ended up landing within a few feet of our original launch site.

The next thing we knew the propane truck had arrived. They stopped close enough to our disassembled system that we could have refueled without moving the basket at all. For safety reasons we did carry the basket a little closer. Tim did not want the hose strung across the field. Even so, I think this was the first time in over 35 years of flying at rallies that we did not drive up to the truck to be refueled. We didn't even drive over to pick up the now heavier basket. The crew walked it back to the trailer. (Have I mentioned what great crewmembers we have in Prosser?)

Saturday, as usual, the field was

packed with spectators. People come to Prosser from all over the Pacific Northwest to view this event. If there wasn't a tarp out on the ground, there were people standing or sitting in that space.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. The winds aloft were screaming. You could see roll clouds coming our way. That's never a good sign. Tim made the call to close the field to any free flights. He did encourage the pilots to inflate their balloons and do a bit of showboating. Many of the pilots were gracious enough to put in the effort for the crowd. The click of camera shutters could be heard all over the field.

Before too long the balloons started to rock and roll. The winds aloft were descending. It would have been much better to be able to launch, but calling off the flight was definitely the right thing to do.

All day long we checked the winds. After all there was a night glow scheduled. When we got to the high school football stadium the winds were questionable. Sometimes a gust would come through, other times it would be dead calm. The people started filling up the stadium, the hillside around the stadium, and the flat field to the south of the field.

The place was packed by the time we started to assemble the balloons. Luckily, the winds were cooperating with us.

If you want to see a cool YouTube video produced by the Prosser Chamber of Commerce go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88Ujt8LPK1w&feature=player_embedded

The traffic jam after the night glow was the only negative of the night. There was gridlock in both directions on the street everyone had to use to exit the stadium parking lots. Even though the city had both firefighters and cops directing traffic, we just sat in one spot. Tim finally got out of the truck to go socialize. Why waste time just sitting there? Once we got moving we were able to make steady progress. We had to drive across town to refuel at the airport, and then drive back to the high school neighborhood since that's where we were staying. Luckily, it gets dark so early that we still got to bed at a reasonable time.

We went to bed wondering what the weather would be like the next morning. We were greeted by another good day. In fact, as far as photo opportunities go, it was the best day. As soon as Tim launched, I abandoned

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The night glow in Prosser is held at the high school football stadium. The bonus for the balloonists is the lighted field. Once the show is over, the organizers flip the switch and the whole place lights up like it is the middle of the day. We don't have to fumble around trying to pack up the balloon in total darkness. This year the glow pilots were Dawne RushkarSKI, Susan Gilmore, Larry Simburger, Tim Gale and Jesse Satterlee. The small number of balloons is countered by the huge number of spectators packed into the stadium and the surrounding fields.

Photo by Shari Gale

Prosser Rally

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our wonderful crew who dutifully packed up the tarps. Instead of working, I walked as fast as my little legs could carry me to the bridge, which spans the Yakima River. The walkway was already packed with spectators and serious photographers with their tripods.

I managed to squeeze into a tiny hole I found in the crowd. When I got a good look at Knight-N-Gale it was at the far end of the river, just before it takes a turn to the east. The envelope was there, but there was no basket. What? Wait! No basket? How can that be possible? I zoomed my camera lens out as far as it would go. Yes, I was right. There was a fully inflated envelope without a basket at the other end of the river. I started taking photos, and wishing like crazy that I had a longer telephoto lens. About that time, Tim called me on the radio. He said he was in the weeds and rocks below the dam. OK, now I understand why I can't see the basket. All was well. Whew!

When Tim added a little heat he found a nice, gentle wind going upstream. Both Tim and Larry Simburger got to the river level at about the same moment. Before long Jesse Satterlee, Vic Johnson, Laura Hancock and Mark Yonker joined them. Other pilots made a run for the river but none of them "motored" their way up to the bridge.

We had a 14-year old girl who was a rally volunteer plus a newfound crewmember, Mike, on board Sunday morning. I could hear Mike's laughter all the way across the river. He was having the time of his life. When they got closer, Allie's smile was radiant leaving no doubt that she was also having a marvelous time.

As the bridge came closer and closer Tim dipped down into the river a little more than necessary. His plan was to "leave his mark" as he hopped up and over the bridge. He did manage to dribble a lot of water,



After landing back in the launch field on Friday the propane truck drove almost up to the balloon. Now that's service!

up landing in a big field across the road from where Checkmate's very last flight was terminated last season. Somehow it seemed appropriate for Knight-N-Gale to land so close by that spot.

We didn't end up putting the balloon down in that field though. We discovered it was thick with goat heads — the weed seeds are solid balls with two long and extremely sharp thorns which can puncture just about anything — so we decided to walk Knight-N-Gale across the highway to the nice green lawn on the other side. Even though it is a very busy road, the traffic stopped for us. In fact, we had several families stop and join us. They were taking photos and asking questions. One of the women who stopped had been on the very first Prosser rally committee 26 years ago. She was delighted with everything.

As we were loading the basket into the trailer another woman drove by, slowed down, rolled down her window and shouted, "You guys are AWESOME!"

It's no wonder we like coming to Prosser every year. It's also impossible to leave that town without grinning from ear to ear. We will definitely be back next year!



Look closely. There's no basket. What happened to the pilot and the passengers? Before a missing persons report could be filed, the pilot, Tim Gale, rose up above the dam and floated across the river. It wasn't a dunk 'n' sunk after all.

but he didn't get across the bridge. Just about half way across he hit a wall. The wind just would not go that direction. The only way he could have made it to the other side was to drop down to the level of the bridge deck. Since that was a very bad idea, he chose to take the wind track leading him to the northeast side of town.

He ended

Photos by Shari Gale

2015 Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Prosser, Washington — September 25-27, 2015

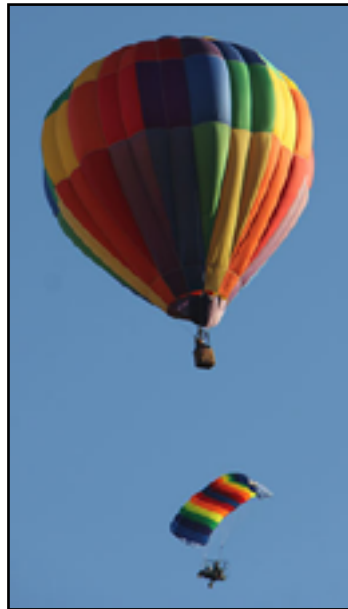


Knight-N-Gale created a wake as she moved through the water on Sunday, which in turn generated some fascinating reflections. Compare Sunday's photo (above) to the reflections created during Friday's flight (left).

Photo above by Mike Mozzone.



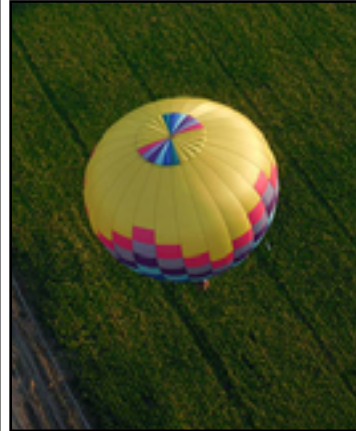
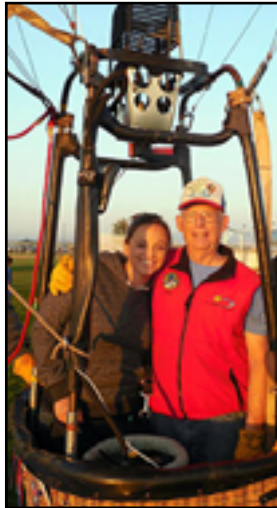
Larry Simburger was stoked about the night glow. This photo plus the ones above and to the right are by Shari Gale.



The two photos above and to the left by Mike Mozzone.

Dale Justice has been keeping himself busy

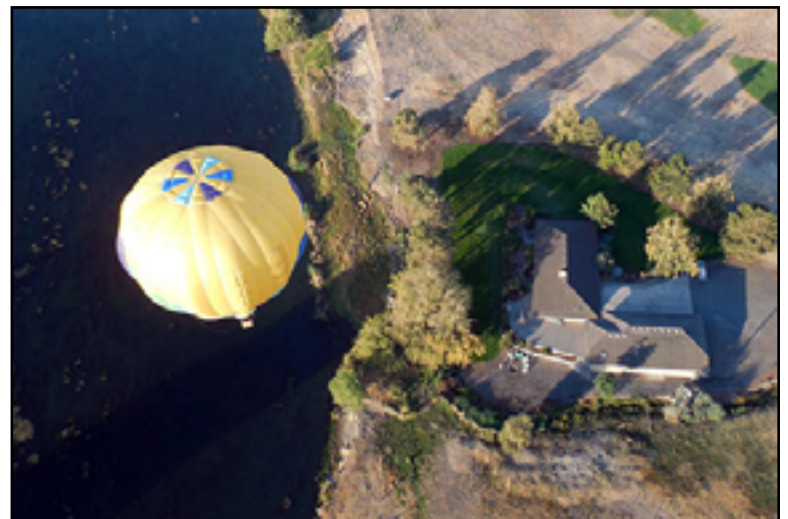
2015 Quincy Balloon Rally



2015 Great Prosser Balloon Rally



Tammy Moore (left) and Cheryl Isaccs actually seem to enjoy squeezing out the envelope. A joyful crew is a good thing.



Laura Hancock flew right over the house several balloonists were renting for the rally weekend. Unfortunately, there wasn't anyone left in the house to enjoy the show. Everyone was out ballooning!

All photos on this page and page 13 by Dale Justice.

Keeping Busy

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2015 Alturas Balloon Rally



WAS is stuck between a rock and a hard place!

Without a volunteer to be president in 2016 the club will have to fold.
YOU can prevent that from happening!

Please call Tim Gale to volunteer to be a true WAS hero!
503-366-0608 or wasprez@icloud.com



Montague Balloon Fair, 2015

Blue Skies and Gentle Breezes

by Alan Brandt

After the unfortunate cancellation of the Montague Balloon Fair in 2014 due to the many wild fires in the area, we were thrilled to get the invitation to attend the event in 2015.

Event coordinators Larry Ratkoviak (Balloonmeister) and Dave Herfandahl (Shasta Valley Rotary) put on an excellent welcome back to Montague event.

We arrived on Thursday afternoon to very warm weather with very little wind. The weekend forecast was for more of the same for all three days of flying. Sadly there were only 11 balloons that were registered for the event. With two other events in somewhat close proximity the balloon community was spread pretty thin. That certainly did not dampen the spirits of the pilots or crew attending nor the great crowds that enjoyed the show over the weekend.

Friday was a cool and virtually windless morning. Of the 10 balloons that launched, all but one landed back on the launch field at least once with seven able to return to the

field on their final landing. We didn't have any assigned passengers for the morning and only one crew member who was hoping for a flight. Dave's wife, Ann, came over and asked if we had room for a rider. Of course we did, so she went over to the stands and asked if anyone over 18 wanted a flight. A local girl and her boyfriend were there and he said that it was her birthday today...so we had a (very happy) passenger. Alan returned to the field on the first hop, so we were able to swap out passengers and get the boyfriend a ride also. The second hop ended about ½ mile from the field and was an easy retrieval and pack up. Of course we had to do a ceremony and have the customary brunch back at our RV compound. As the day got warmer, we all relaxed in the shade or napped or both. The only thing that kept the day from being a total success was the scheduled Melodrama had to be cancelled. Seems that many of the players in the drama were also fire fighters and had been (maybe still were) busy with California's terrible wildfire season. We certainly respect all the work that they have put in this year.

Saturday was pretty much a carbon copy (remember those?) of Friday, although the light wind that did exist was pretty consistent with most of the balloons drifting south into a small, beautiful valley. Alan was able to coax Mothra over a small hill and into the same valley where we were greeted by a very friendly landowner and her kids. We gave the older daughter a quick tethered ride so she could see her house from the

air. She wanted to show us her "bear mount" and I would have loved to see what that was, but we needed to get packed up and off the road. Of course there was another ceremony for our first time passengers from one of our sponsors and more brunch. In the evening after more napping we joined Alan and some of our now retired crew for the steak dinner at the community center. We had a wonderful meal, then got quite a surprise. On Friday the pilot task had been Blind Man's Bluff. Larry had picked an undisclosed point on a map. Pilots were to mark a second map at the location of one of their landings. Since we had two landings on Friday, Alan told me to choose one and mark the map. I decided on the launch field landing, but that part of the map left something to be desired.



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Montague

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I put on our X and Alan turned it in. At the dinner Larry announced that Alan had won...Blind Man's Luck I would call it. We certainly were not the only balloon to land somewhere on the launch field. I'm sure Alan will enjoy sharing the bottles of wine with us someday (WHAMOBASS maybe?) As the evening wore on the winds came up quite a bit causing many awnings and easy ups to be put down. Forecast was for light winds again on Sunday and we all hoped that would come to pass.



At the dinner on Saturday it was announced that Dana Thornton was going to provide a Dawn Patrol show on Sunday morning...he was the only one there with the equipment. We had such light winds again that he was able to stay around the field for almost all of the flight much to the delight of a large crowd of spectators. The rest of the assembled balloons were soon launched with a few returning to the field and most landing within a ½ mile or so. As I said, we had light winds all weekend.

We stayed over on Sunday night. It is great to have that option to stay at the field after the event so we don't have a 6 hour drive after a balloon morning. This also gave us the opportunity to watch the full moon lunar eclipse that occurred Sunday evening. I couldn't exactly remember where we had seen the moon rise from our camp location

the evenings before and I couldn't see the moon rising. Then it came to me that the moon was already in full eclipse before rising over the mountains so wasn't a bright white orb that I was looking for...duh! It was fun to watch and really nice that we got a special celestial show without having to stay up too late or do another balloon morning.

We had a great time as we have every year we are here. I hope that the success of this weekend will allow the event to continue long into the future...and maybe it will be a bit greener next time. A big thank you to all the pilots, crew, sponsors, all the various Rotary clubs and all the organizations that made everything so special.



Photos by Linda Brandt

2015 Aeronaut of the Year Award

The Willamette Aeronaut Society's Aeronaut Of The Year Award is an annual award presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Sport of Ballooning during the past year.

Per the by-laws 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 Of The Year Procedures.
- The Award is presented during a General Meeting, or other appropriate occasion.

It is time to consider nominees for the WAS 2015 award.

Please consider accomplishments of your fellow Aeronauts (Pilots or Crew) made during the year 2015 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. Your nomination should be emailed to Carmen Blakely at carmenblakely@gmail.com no later than Tuesday, December 1, 2015 in order to be considered. Thank you.

Your WAS Executive Committee

Montague Balloon Fair

September 25-27, 2015



Photos by Linda Brandt

2016 WAS Membership Application



Name: _____
Birthday: Month _____ Day _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Date Submitted: _____
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: _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ JB Yes No
Name: _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ JB Yes No
Name: _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ JB Yes No
Name: _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ JB Yes No
Name: _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ JB Yes No

Membership Type

Charter (\$15) Individual (\$15) Family (\$20) Junior Balloonist (\$15 per JB)

We will forward new Junior Balloonists to the BFA Office. Be sure to include JB's name above.

Membership

The Willamette Aerostat Society publishes an annual membership directory, acknowledges member's birthdays in the club newsletter, and communicates via e-mail and the website. We recognize and respect our member's privacy. If you do not wish personal information about you published, please indicate below. Information published on our website is public domain and subject to retrieval via Internet connection. Unless otherwise indicated below, it is assumed it is OK to publish this data in our annual directory:

- Do Not publish name
- Do Not publish address
- Do Not publish phone number
- Do Not publish cell phone number
- Do Not publish e-mail
- Do Not publish birthday

Please use a 2nd page 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 Dale Justice
2902 E. 2nd Street, Unit 76
Newberg, OR 97132



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 Photo:

Tim Gale, after splash 'n' dashing for about 1/4 mile up the Yakima River, lifted up to go over the bridge. The excited passengers were waiving at the dozens of spectators taking their photograph. Photo by Shari Gale.

Waiver

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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.