

# Aerostats



The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Willamette Aerostat Society

October 2016

Volume 18, Number 10

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## Nominations are now open for the WAS Executive Committee for 2017



Call one of the current club officers to put your name on the ballot.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

<i>Koh Murai</i>	<i>10/2</i>
<i>Kris Trujillo</i>	<i>10/15</i>
<i>Marilyn Barnhart</i>	<i>10/27</i>
<i>Greg Miller</i>	<i>10/27</i>

## 2016 WAS Officers

### President:

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### WAS website:

<http://www.wasballoon.info>

# 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 1-9, 2016**  
**Albuquerque International  
Balloon Fiesta**  
Albuquerque, NM  
For more information:  
<http://www.balloonfiesta.com>

**October 2, 2016**  
**1:00 PM**  
**WAS Meeting**  
Aurora Jet Center  
upstairs meeting room  
14357 Keil Rd NE, Aurora, OR

**October 12-16, 2016**  
**Walla Walla Balloon Stampede**  
Walla Walla, WA  
For more information:  
[http://www.  
wallawallaballoonstampede.com](http://www.wallawallaballoonstampede.com)

## Join Us For The First 2016 Fall WAS Meeting

**Sunday, October 2**

**1:00 PM**



**Aurora Jet Center, 14357 Keil Rd NE, Aurora, OR**  
The meeting topic will be tethering & unexpected winds moderated by Justin Luber.  
Please bring a snack to share with the group.



# Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic 2016

August 31 - September 4  
By Shari Gale

While the Boise event starts off on a Wednesday with Kid's Day where tether rides are given to thousands of local children, and then on to Media Day on Thursday, Tim and I do not arrive in town until Thursday afternoon. Our first flight day was on Friday morning. Unfortunately, Mother Nature was throwing curve balls at us. The winds on the ground were calm, but the winds aloft were a little too sporty, plus the wind would have taken the balloons right into the flight path for the Boise airport. Event organizer, Scott Spencer, closed the field for free flights, but asked all 45 balloons to inflate on the field and give the spectators a show. We happily complied.

We actually enjoy just standing the balloon up. We invited lots of spectators over to climb into the basket for a photo op. We used their

cameras so everyone in their group could get into the photo, we talked and answered their questions, and I got to roam around the park taking photos of other balloon teams doing the exact same thing. My guess is that the spectators actually got a better experience than if we had all launched and just drifted away.

Friday night was the nightglow. As tradition dictates, we had a motorcycle police escort for all the balloonists to Ann Morrison Park. It never gets old running red lights.

We weren't sure how the weather would be Friday evening. Would the high winds drop down and stay all night? Luckily, that did not happen. Once again we had great weather for the nightglow. Twenty-two balloons fired up a crowd estimated by the organizers to be about 45,000 strong. The cops finally closed down the park, because there just wasn't room for one more vehicle, so lots of people parked on the streets in order to walk in. The place was packed.

I really like the fact that the glow area is roped off, and that the spectators respect that boundary. It makes glowing so much easier on the crew when we are not dealing with people milling around the balloon. Don't get me wrong. We still had challenges. Somehow we managed to pack our fabric tarp up with the carry bag turned inside out. We did not realize it until we started hunting for the handles to carry it back to the trailer. Oops! Oh, well. At least we did not do that to the envelope.

Happily, our exit from the park was easy as could be. Those wonder-



# Spirit of Boise

Continued from page 4

ful motorcycle cops were still there on the job, directing traffic. With so many spectators it could have been a major traffic jam. With a sigh of relief, we just breezed right out of the park, and back to the hotel to refuel. At that time of night every extra 15 minutes of sleep counts double.

How did Saturday work out? It was a 9.5 out of a possible 10!

We had only been assigned one rider for Friday's flight. She came back on Saturday morning. That meant we could take up another passenger of our choice. Sometimes it is hard to decide which dedicated crewmember gets to go up. This year the choice was easy. We had some friends from our area join us in Boise. David is battling cancer right now. He's been going through chemo, and was on a two-week break from having poison pumped into his body. One of the items on his bucket list was to visit a first class rally. He's crewed for us before, but never at a rally. He would have been happy to stay on the ground and take photos. Instead we asked him to go up. He was delighted.

David got some great photos. You can see them on page 6. His experience did not just begin and end with wonderful photographic opportunities. He also got to watch Tim successfully bowl for port-a-potties, and he got to dip into various bodies of water three different times.

Wait! Bowling for port-a-potties? Yes, you read that correctly. A few years ago Scott Spencer came up with an idea of setting up several port-a-potties in a V formation, just like bowling pins. The outhouses are clean and empty. They are also locked so no one accidentally decides to use one at the last moment. The idea is for the pilot to actually hit one of the port-a-potties and knock it over. If you get more than one that's

a bonus.

Greg Miller launched before Tim did. Greg had his crew grab a drop line and pull him over towards the outhouses so he could knock one over. He actually knocked down three. Tim was watching other pilots drop down and then suddenly veer off to the left. They all missed the target. Tim adjusted his flight path so he hit one of the potties straight on. He said it went "thunk," and then he rolled off to the side a little bit. As it rolled, the potty fell over. The fact that Tim managed to hit the potty unaided by anyone on the ground earned him a \$100 reward. We used that money to take our whole crew out for breakfast Sunday morning to celebrate this auspicious competitive accomplishment.

After bowling Tim headed north away from the park. He dropped down for several splash 'n' dashes the first one was in Bernardine Quinn Riverside Park; the other was in Boise Cascade Lake. Lots of other balloons were also going for a dip. Eventually, he landed at Veteran's Memorial Park. It's a beautiful park. Lots of green, lush lawns. Several pilots landed on the lawns. Tim? He landed in the section of the park designated for dogs. You can imagine what we found on the dry, brown



Look carefully — you can see a crewmember and the drop line aiding Greg Miller as he knocks over some of the port-a-potties.

grass in that part of the park. It seemed there was a doggie "present" every few feet. Thank goodness for tarps!

Both of our passengers were all smiles upon landing. They got one of the best rides of the entire ballooning season. I'm so happy we could give our friend David a ray of sunshine in a life that is currently surrounded by dark, menacing shadows. It's times like this that I am especially thankful we got involved in ballooning all those years ago.

That evening we decided to forego the rally's taco feed since David has some dietary restrictions. Instead

Continued on page 6

## A side note from Shari Gale:

Sunday morning during the pilot briefing Scott Spencer awarded \$100 bill to me for winning bowling for port-a-potties. I said, "I don't deserve this. Not only was I not flying the balloon, I did not even witness the contest."

So I walked up to Tim and handed him the cash. At that moment Randy Ashton called out, "Tim will you teach us how to do that?"

Tim replied, "Teach you what?"

Randy shot back with, "Teach us all how you get your wife to give YOU money."



There must be photos of Tim Gale hitting the port-a-potties, but they have stayed hidden. There is still proof. This photo and the one to the left were taken by David Roddy from our basket.

# Spirit of Boise

Continued from page 5

we sought recommendations for a good restaurant from local pilots and crew. Several people mentioned Boise Fry Company. They all said the food was great. They didn't tell us that the restaurant had received awards for one of the best diners in the country.

When you walk into the restaurant you notice a big blackboard advertising all the various types of French fries you can purchase. They make fries from several varieties of potatoes: russet, golden, Laura, purple, sweet, yam and Okinawa to name the ones I can remember. I ordered Laura fries since I'd never even heard of this type of potato

before. They come unsalted, because there is a wide variety of salt to choose from. I picked smoked salt, but there was horseradish salt, sea salt, chipotle salt, and a lot more. Ketchup was not just simply the kind from Heinz. They had raspberry ketchup, spicy ketchup, fry sauce, chipotle aioli, and several others. The hamburger was also anything but ordinary. It comes on a homemade bun, baked fresh daily. You could order regular beef, or if you were feeling adventuresome you could order bison, turkey, or vegan. We all said we want to go to Boise Fry Company again. It is almost worth a trip to Boise just for the food.

Sunday things did not go as we had hoped. You know things aren't looking good when you drive onto

the launch field and all (ALL!) the balloon vehicles are parked close to each other in a row right in front of the pilot briefing tent. Everyone had done their homework and knew the weather was not going to give us another 9.5 day. Rain was coming. In fact, we had a few small raindrops on our windshield as we drove in. From what I've heard the pilots driving home to the south and/or east all had a lot of rain. We headed west, and other than some nasty winds in the gorge, we had a pleasant trip.

Even though we only got to fly just one day, we had a great time in Boise. Our crew is the best around. Some of them have been with us for 16 years. We will be back next year, and if Tim retires we might be there for the whole event!

Photos by David Roddy



The "twins" belong to Kemp and Georgia Lindsey and Eric and Tara Quinn. They like to fly together. When they do, it makes for some fun photos!

# Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic



Photos by Shari Gale

# Ever Want To Fly In The Middle Of Nowhere? This is what it would look like.

Several WAS members drove to the Alvord Desert in southeastern Oregon over Labor Day weekend. It is a dry lake bed in Harney County that is about 12 by 7 miles in size. The elevation is 4,000 MSL. There's nothing there but flat, dry ground. Oh, and lots of dust. It is almost impossible for the chase crew to lose their balloon.

Everyone reported they had a marvelous weekend. They've flown there before and plan to do it again. These photos were all taken by Carol Whitney.



*That light colored patch of ground towards the top of the photo is the Alvord. This photo was taken from up on the Steen Mountain Range at about 9,500 feet.*



*The group included Cheryl & Michael Isaacs, Carmen Blakely, Dale Justice, Mary Heath, Jerry Bales & his son Andy, Laura Hancock, Rod & Hollie Purdum, Roger & Tracy Rollman, Roger & Catherine Anderson, Jack & Carol Whitney, Bob & Sue Rice, and John & Debi Peterson.*



# The Great Prosser Balloon Rally, 2016

September 23-25

By Shari Gale

It's the first morning of the Prosser Balloon Rally. We were on the field before just about anyone else. The organizers were still setting up the memorabilia tent. It was pitch dark, but I knew before long royalty would surround us. It's tradition that we take up members of the Miss Prosser Court on Friday morning. We always look forward to meeting the new court members, and reconnecting with their advisor, Kipp Campbell.

Unfortunately, this year we were not able to fly due to nasty weather that was working its way towards us much faster than we had hoped. Instead the decision was made to just stand the balloons up and spend time with the crowd of spectators. The only people we put in the basket were the three young members of the Miss Prosser Court, but other balloonists either tethered or let people climb into the basket for photos. Everyone spent a lot of time answering questions. Even though the crowd did not get to watch the

balloons take off, they did actually get to spend a lot more time with us. I did not hear any complaints.

Saturday morning we arrived early again. Before long people started to arrive, and the field was soon packed with spectators and the bridge was groaning under the added weight of so many people waiting for the perfect photo opportunity. Thankfully, Mother Nature allowed us to give them all a great show. The winds were light and variable. Many balloons were able to work their way over to the Yakima River. The people camped out on the bridge before dawn were rewarded for their patience. Many spectacular photos were soon popping up on Facebook.

There were so many people walking over to the bridge right after the launch that I chose to try to find a less populated spot for photography. I ended up way too far to the south for any good splash 'n' dash photos, but we met an absolutely delightful homeowner. His house is on a gently rising hill above the banks

of the river. He gave us permission to drive down his private road to the edge of the river, but I knew the balloons were all too far to the north, so we just stayed behind and talked to him.

Koh Murai made it to the house next door. That homeowner was busy fixing a huge breakfast for his

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*Koh Murai dropped in on a house party. That's a special brand of early morning entertainment.  
Photo by Jim Churchill.*



*Tim Gale worked his way to the spot where his crew had been waiting for most of the flight. He made chasing very easy.*



*Meet Queen Emma, and Princesses Jasmine and Alli — the 2016 Miss Prosser Court.*



# Prosser Balloon Rally

Continued from page 9

houseguests. He'd turned his backyard into an RV park for his friends for the weekend. Koh was too early for breakfast, but they did hand him a cup of freshly brewed coffee.

While Koh decided to fly on, I decided this was a great landing site. I radioed up to Tim to tell him where we were waiting. He actually flew to us! He gently dropped the basket right in the middle of the neighborhood street within 50 feet of our truck. The splash 'n' dashes were good, but I think I might like this bit of piloting skill even more.

Saturday night was the Night Glow event. We always participate. We always bring out our balloon and drag our crew out. This year we opted to stay "home" for the evening. We took photos of an amazing sunset from the porch of the bed and breakfast where we were staying after having stuffed ourselves at a communal dinner. The main course was roast turkey. It was wonderful, and there was lots of food. No one went hungry.

We enjoyed taking the evening off, but one of our crewmembers, Jim Churchill, volunteered to crew for Laura Hancock during the glow. He kept sending me text messages, so we had almost instant intel on the happenings on the field. He sent some unreal photos. It was obviously too windy and crazy to inflate the balloons for the glow. We heard that



Just take a look at that flame!

Photo by Jim Churchill

the wind would die down and then a sudden gust of about 8 mph would swoop down into the high school stadium grounds. Terri Schofield, who had volunteered to be in charge of the glow event, made a good call to just do the candlestick burn instead.

The only negative that evening was the horrific traffic jam that happens every year. The Prosser balloon committee really knows how to market their event, so spectators turn out in droves. They all come in cars. Even though the locals try to direct traffic there is only so much they can do to get that many people out of a neighborhood when everyone wants to leave at the same moment.

Still the pilots and crew were able to get to bed at a reasonable hour.

Sunday the weather again cooperated. In fact, it seemed the winds were even more light and variable than they had been on Saturday. Lots of pilots were able to drop back down into the Yakima River. Some did splash 'n' dashes; others just got close to the water but did not actually touch. It was another wonderful moment for photographs. Only this time there weren't as many spectators. We were able to park nearby, and walk to the bridge without fighting elbow to elbow with other camera toting pedestrians.

Tim dropped in on the north side of the bridge. He floated towards the bridge before lifting up. One guy yelled out, "He's going to hit the bridge."

I replied, "No, he's not. He's doing OK."

The guy then yelled, "Yes, he is!!!!"

He didn't. Instead Tim lifted up and over the bridge leaving a trail of water dripping out of the basket right on the heads of those spectators. He just loves to do it.

I could tell he was going to drop into the river on the south side of the bridge, so I started hiking. Concrete barriers prevented me from simply

crossing from one side to the other. I had to walk back to the end of the bridge before I could get to the eastbound lanes. By the time I got there Tim had floated down a little way, but it was still a good photo opportunity.

Eventually, he radioed to me that he was going to be landing back in the same area where he'd landed the day before.

All too soon the weekend was over. We have great local crew in Prosser. The town people are open and friendly. The scenery could not be better. We are already looking forward to flying in Prosser next year.



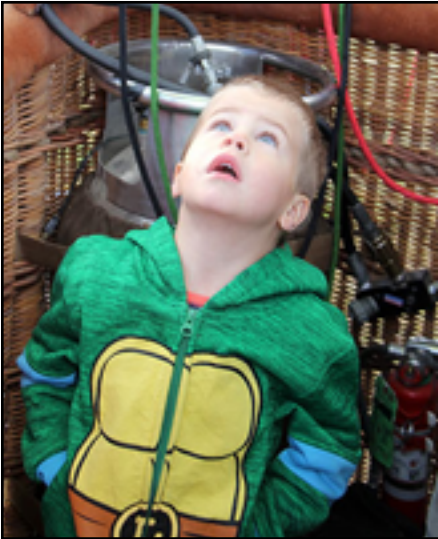
The Prosser Les Schwab store had a huge pot of coffee and cups out on a table in their parking lot. A huge number of people walked by on their way to the bridge for splash 'n' dash photos. Now that's good marketing without spending a lot of cash.



Speaking of marketing: For a small town of only 3,000 residents, a huge number of spectators show up for this event. Every motel and RV park is always booked a year in advance.

Photos by Shari Gale

# A Closer Look at The Great Prosser Balloon Rally



*Top three photos by Shari Gale on Friday and Sunday. The center top photo shows Cheryl Isaacs doing what she loves: Sharing our sport with kids.*

*Bottom three photos by Terri Schofield and Nikki Wilson on Saturday. Nikki took the photos using Terri's phone, so photo credit goes to them both.*

# And More Photos of The Great Prosser Balloon Rally



*Photos on this page by Jim Churchill on Sunday. Please note the difference in the number of people on the bridge between Saturday and Sunday.*

## Not Done Yet! More Photos From Prosser!



*Photos by Dawne Rushkarski*



*Photo by Edie Stoaks*

**Join WAS  
today!**

**Become part of  
your local  
ballooning  
community.**

**It's easy to do.  
Just fill out the application  
located on the next page.**



**SEE YOU AT THE  
OCTOBER WAS  
MEETING!**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2,  
1:00 PM  
AURORA JET CENTER**

**PLEASE BRING A SNACK TO  
SHARE.  
MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 3**

# 2016 WAS Membership Application



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (includes family) (\$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 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 Dale Justice  
2902 E. 2nd St. 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 and Mark Yonker floated the Yakima River during The Great Prosser Balloon Rally.  
Photo by Shari Gale.

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**AeroStats is a monthly publication of the Willamette Aerostat Society.**

**WAS welcomes you to reprint material from this newsletter by individuals or balloon club organizations for their personal or organization use.**

**We ask that you credit WAS, AeroStats and the author in any reuse of newsletter material.**

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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.**