

# AeroStats

An aerial photograph of a hot air balloon festival. In the foreground, a large black balloon is partially inflated. Below it, several other colorful balloons are on the ground, including one with a green and purple owl design, one with a yellow and blue checkered pattern, and one with a blue and yellow geometric pattern. In the background, a large crowd of people is gathered on a grassy field, and a cityscape is visible in the distance under a hazy sky.

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

**October 2017**

**Volume 19, Number 10**

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**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>

## Nominations for the 2018 WAS Executive Board are open.

Contact any officer below to add your name to the ballot.

## 2017 WAS Officers

### President:

Michelle Gouldsmith  
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Pasha Lubber

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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 7-15, 2017**

## **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

For more information:

<http://www.balloonfiesta.com/event-info/event-schedule>

**October 18-22, 2017**

## **Walla Walla Balloon Stampede**

Walla Walla, WA

For more information:

<http://www.wallawallaballoonstampede.com>

This is a "By Invitation Only" rally

**November 2017**

## **WAS Meeting**

Date/Time/Location to be announced

Stay tuned!



## Whoop is going to the October WAS meeting?

**Sunday,  
October 1, 2017  
at 2:00 PM**

**(No need to bring food, this is not a  
potluck meeting.)**

**Aurora Jet Center,  
14357 Keil Rd NE,  
Aurora, OR 97002**

The Jet Center buildings are  
scheduled to go through  
construction soon.

We aren't sure exactly which  
building will be available.

Just come to the center  
and explore.

You will find us!

# Awesome, 2017 Spirit Of Boise Balloon Classic Was



Laurie Spencer of Lighter Than Air America says, "Hi!"



The balloon on the right above is *Dragon Moon*, flown by WAS member Jeanne Anson from Brandon, South Dakota. She is over one of the water features of Ann Morrison Park. So is *Koh Murai* (photo on the right). The balloon flying in this photo has somehow managed to magically reflect Koh's Firenze.

All photos on this page by Gary Moore, Lake Havasu, Arizona.



# Finding Closure For A Real Friend

by Shari Gale

This year the Boise event was personal for me. It was much more personal than usual.

Back in 1999 during the Millennium Celebration we participated in the 60-balloon tether going down Capitol Street in Boise to count down the last 60 seconds of the year. We needed crew. The organizers hooked us up with Kelly and Louise Moore. They crewed for us at every Boise event after that.

Kelly unexpectedly passed away from heart complications last spring. I was heart broken. Kelly was such a warm and welcoming team member!

Being the kind of person I am, I immediately put fingers to keyboard and dumped my feelings all over Scott and Laurie Spencer, the Boise rally organizers. I did not expect anything from them. I just needed to vent. Scott immediately answered my email. He offered to do a memorial flight for Kelly. What a wonderful gesture.

I'd witnessed memorial flights before. They always put a catch in my throat, but I did not expect Kelly's memorial flight to be so emotional. After all we had driven

over to Boise for his "regular" memorial service. Yet the tribute flight was very special. It defied any description that I can conjure.

Scott gave me a choice. He said he would have one of his balloons fly it, or we could do it. We chose to fly it. I assumed we'd just launch first carrying the black banners. No it was more than that. We inflated right up front by the stage surrounded by Kelly's family and friends from all parts of the Pacific Northwest. The voice of the Spirit of Boise, Jim Bock, read a eulogy, which mentioned how much this rally meant to Kelly. He looked forward to it like a little kid looks forward to Christmas morning.

Kelly's widow, Louise, rode in the basket with Tim. We had placed Kelly's Checkmate jacket on the uprights, so he was there in spirit. We lifted off right after the pilot briefing broke up. Three of our crew members rolled out the black banners as Knight-N-Gale lifted off. The banners are 30, 60 and 90 feet long. Music was playing. It was very moving.

I was in tears, but Kiera



Favicchio (Val and Eric's 13-year old daughter) came to my rescue. She walked up beside me and put an arm around me. It was such a sweet gesture, from a very sweet young lady.

I thought Louise would be sobbing, and she did shed a few tears but mostly she was all smiles. She told us later that the memorial flight really helped her say good-bye to Kelly. She found it profoundly peaceful.

Tim landed in the back parking lot of the Boise Train Depot. Somehow, that was the most appropriate landing site I can think of for a flight honoring our friend.

I will always miss Kelly, but I am so happy that we were able to do this flight for him and for Louise. It was a personal privilege. A huge thank you goes to Scott and Laurie Spencer for making it happen.



Tim and Louise right after lift off. Louise was waving to her family and friends.



All photos on this page by J. Bryan Chierici Photography.

# Random Thoughts On 2017 Spirit of Boise Rally

by Shari Gale

We've been flying in Boise for years. It's one of our favorite rallies. This year had a different flavor than any of the rest. Why? Well, the reasons vary all over the place. Here are some of my disjointed musings:

- Tim and I drove to Boise a day early this year. Tim's lighter work schedule made it possible. What a luxury. There was no stressing over making it to the mandatory pilot meeting on Thursday night. We were already in town. I hope we can do that again next year.
- Tim and I knew our riders/sponsors before we stepped on the field. In fact, we met Lorne and Cheryl at the Winthrop event last March. We weren't able to take them up then due to a snowstorm, so we gave them a list of rallies we were attending this year that sold rides. They chose the Boise event. For the first time ever I walked up to rider check-in with our riders and introduced them to Tracy Housh. That is the exact opposite of what usually happens. Lorne and Cheryl hung out with us all weekend. They were great crew. It made the entire weekend that much more fun. They fit right in with our gang.
- Almost every year Tim manages to land back at the park at least once, and sometimes he found box winds on every flight. That didn't happen this year! Kudos to Terri Schofield. She made it back into the park twice. The first time Terri boxed back in Tim had launched much earlier than she did. None of the pilots that launched with Tim found a box wind. That's the day Tim landed in a park near the FBI building. If he hadn't found that park he would have been up in the foothills. The next morning Tim chose to launch later. The first balloons that launched made it back into the park, but not Tim. Was Mother Nature mad at us?
- Boise has the longest red lights of any town I've ever driven in. EVER! Each day we had to chase through downtown traffic. All three mornings I was not in place when Tim landed. I blame the red lights, although twice I chose the wrong exit from the park. Once I went south and got stuck in traffic exiting the park. The next day I went north, found lighter traffic in the park, but I hit a red light at every intersection I came to. Our crew who went the opposite way was there when Tim landed in a city street across from the Boise Art Museum. Thank heaven for awesome crew!
- When we did the tribute flight to our crew member Kelly Moore, I was very concerned about getting the truck out of the way of the balloon that needed to launch in that spot. I knew there would be scads of spectators. I should not have wasted my time worrying.

We put one of our crew members out front of the truck to move people out of our way, but one of Scott Spencer's staff members jumped right in to help. Cheryl in her bright neon yellow rally staff shirt was able to easily move everyone who was "camped" in our path. It was like a hot knife slicing through butter.

- Tim bought a "nerd light" soon after we did the Salem Airport access training. It has only been used once in Quincy. I tested him to see if he would even notice it. He didn't. The light got put in storage under the front seat of the truck and I thought it had been forgotten. I wasn't



Lorne, Tim and Cheryl just before launch on Friday.



Lorne with the pathetic "nerd light."

so lucky. Somehow the topic of that obnoxious blinking yellow light came up during the Boise event. It was put on top the truck during the nightglow. We kept it up during our exit from the park. A proper light bar is OK, but this tiny little light plugged into our cigarette lighter is pathetic. I hung my head in shame.

*Continued on page 7*

# Random Thoughts

Continued from page 6



Scott saw me trying to sneak this photo, so he posed for me. Actually, he had a smile more often than not all weekend long.

- I was a little concerned about driving back to the hotel after the glow with a crew person sitting in the bed of the truck. Was it legal in Idaho? We'd looked it up on Google, but the language was not real clear. We decided to just do it. My fears were calmed when a motorcycle cop pulled up beside us and he had a friendly conversation with Jim Churchill as he sat in our truck bed. Jim thanked the cop for escorting us out to the field earlier that evening and for helping with traffic afterwards. Good diplomacy, Jim.
- At the pilot check in party a couple came up to talk to us. They obviously knew us. It took me a little while before I recognized them. It was Craig and Jan Plumber. They bought a balloon at almost the exact same time we did in 1980. We have not seen

them in over 30 years. It was great catching up with them after all this time.

- It pays to know the right people. One evening I was talking to Laurie Spencer when the hotel manager walked up to greet Laurie. We were introduced and then I left. A little later we met up with Lorne and Cheryl. They had just arrived in town, and wanted a glass of wine and some appetizers. The outside bar at the hotel was bursting with people. We could not find a table big enough for us all. I went up to a waitress to ask if we could sit by the pool and get service. The waitress was busy, but I spotted the manager. I asked her my simple question. She said, "Yes." As we entered the pool area an employee told us they were short staffed, and we would need to order at the bar and bring our own food/drinks to our table. We said, "Sure, no problem." The next thing I know the manager is standing at our table with a waitress and menus. The waitress took the order, and we were quite happy. End of story, right? Nope. The manager kept coming back to check to see if we were happy or not. She even refilled our water glasses. Like I said, it is all in whom you know!

We had a great time in Boise. We always do. Scott has promised changes next year. He wants to move the rally out of Ann Morrison Park because the city flying is getting more and more challenging. He announced that there are three possible locations for the rally next year. It will be interesting to see where we end up. All I know is that the same wonderful people will be there, and a good time is guaranteed just like always.



This was our first landing in a park across from the FBI building. The poor security guard came out to talk to the first balloon to land there, Kemp Lindsey, and while he was talking to Kemp people started driving past the security gate. He wanted to be in two places at once. He ultimately decided the balloons were a very low threat risk.



Now what time was it when we launched? Oh, yeah, Ann Morrison Park has a great way to help you keep track of the time.

Photos by Shari Gale

# Random Photos of the 2017 Spirit of Boise Rally

by Shari Gale



Along with the Darth Vader and Yoda balloons came Star Wars characters ready and willing to pose with you for photos. They were a huge hit with the spectators. Their costumes were the real deal. They did not pick them up at a discount store.



Last June this newsletter featured a story on the Dior Launch party to celebrate their new clothing line. These two balloons were created for that event. That clothing line is now "old school" so the balloons are no longer needed. They were inflated for the very last time during the Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic. After this they were being sent to France to languish in a warehouse for ever more. At least they got one last airing.



We are so lucky to have great crew in Boise. Tim took up Karina Phillips (above) on Sunday morning. She rode with us in Walla Walla a few years ago, and has come out to crew whenever she can ever since. Middle photo on the far right is Tic Toc looking over Terri Schofield's balloon, Simpatico. The photo to the right show a little guy who had picked out "our" balloon as his favorite at the vendor tent. The kid's got good taste! The lower photo on the far right illustrates the support this event gets from the people of Boise, even on a Sunday morning. Jeanne Anson inflated at the back of the field but still had a crowd around her balloon, Dragon Moon.





# More Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic Photos



*The photos above were all taken by Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic lead photographer Joe Cherici. We took Joe up during the Boise event about three years ago. He has always been extremely generous with the photos he takes at ballooning events in the Pacific Northwest. Thank you, Joe! (You can find him on Facebook under J. Brian Cherici Photography.)*

*The photo to the right was taken by another excellent and generous photographer, David Ewing. We took David up in Walla Walla about three years ago, too. This year he bought himself a new fisheye lens. He had a great time testing it out during the rally. For some reason, I especially liked this photo.*



# Balloon Injury Judgment

By Shari Gale

According to a September 6, 2017 article in The National Law Review a California Appeals Court ruled against a person injured during a hot air balloon landing. The article is an analysis of the *Grotheer v. Escape Adventures, Cal. Ct. Appl. 4#*, Case no. #0634449 court findings. This case revolved around a female passenger who was injured after signing an express waiver of liability. The Law Review's opening sentence is "When people in California decide to participate in inherently risky activities, they assume the risk that they will be injured unless the operators of the activities engage in conduct that was grossly negligent."

Grotheer, is a 78-year-old German tourist who could not speak English. Her son bought her the ride with Escape Adventures as a gift. Her son told the balloon operators that his mother could not speak or understand English. The operators acknowledged this fact. Moments later she signed the waiver of liability.

The ride ended with a hard landing. Grotheer ended up in the bottom of the basket with a broken leg. She filed a lawsuit against the balloon's operator, the balloon company, and the vineyard from where the balloon launched. She alleged negligence. The defendants filed a motion summary judgment saying that Grotheer assumed the risk when she chose to take the flight, plus the company was not grossly negligent to the extent that the assumption of the risk standard would not apply.

In California the State assumes that people who engage in sport activities that are inherently dangerous have assumed a risk of being injured due to their participation. "Because of this

assumption of the risk, recovering damages may be barred... California normally requires a showing that gross negligence occurred in order to overturn the waiver of liability."

In this lawsuit the court found that hot-air balloon operators are not common carriers under the law, stating that common carriers transport passengers from one location to another. Balloons do not fall into that category since they cannot be steered.

Further the court determined the Grotheer assumed the risk of injury by going for the ride. The court did not rule on "whether or not the express waiver of liability was sufficient."

If you want to read the entire article you can find it at: <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/california-appeals-court-rules-against-person-injured-hot-air-balloon-ride>

*It takes a  
community!*

*A big thank you goes to*

*Joe Chierici  
David Ewing  
Dale Justice  
Gary Moore  
and  
McKenna Seacrist*

*for sending in photos and  
sharing their stories.*

*Their help in making this  
newsletter better is truly  
appreciated!*



**It's Time To Renew  
Your WAS  
Membership!**

**There's an application on page 14**

# Photos of the 2017 Great Reno Balloon Race

by McKenna Seacrist



# Adventures in Alturas

by Shari Gale with a lot of help from Dale Justice

Several WAS members recently ventured from Oregon to Northern California. There Carmen Blakeley, Cheryl Isaacs and Dale Justice joined Nevada's WAS member, Jeff Haliczzer. The goal was to fly as much as possible. The end result was several great flights and a lot of fun.

The wildfires throughout the west created some fantastic sunrises, but luckily they did not impact the flying. In all 10 balloons flew at this event.

The launch site is a harvested wheat field. That means there is a lot of "pokey" stubble on the ground. The pilots and their crew dealt with it by laying down tarps and then walking around smashing down all those pointed stems. It worked.

The Alturas area offers an abundance of landing sites. Several people took advantage of streets without overhead power lines, but landing in open agricultural land and even sagebrush were options. The only place they could not land was on school property. The school administrators were concerned

about legal liability. Not all local "institutions" were inhospitable. Cheryl and Jeff landed in the backyard of the local fire station. The firefighters were more than happy to help them pack up the balloons.

Dale flew right over four deer walking on railroad tracks. When he hit the burner they ran down the tracks. Luckily, the tracks are infrequently used.

During off hours the Oregon contingent did some exploring in the local area. One stop was the Pink Lady Mine. With permits and three five-gallon buckets the group was ready to hunt for some obsidian rocks for Carmen who collects rocks. She was in heaven!

Saturday night the group decided to do a little barbecuing. It took the entire group to get the grills fired up. As Dale said, "Three pilots and we couldn't make hot air?"

They managed to fly each morning, plus they had a very successful night glow. That's a night glow with no wind!



*All photos on this page by Dale Justice*

# Photos of the 2017 Alturas Rally

by Dale Justice



## What do you think?

**Who should be the 2017 Aeronaut of the year?  
Who should be Crew Member of the Year?**

It's time to make a nomination for the 2017 awards. Please consider the contributions your fellow aeronauts made this year (both pilots and crew) to the ballooning community. Any WAS member is eligible.

Send your nominations by e-mail to:  
**Dale Justice at [outerlimits41@aol.com](mailto:outerlimits41@aol.com)**

# WAS Membership Application



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

Pilot  Crew  Newsletter Subscription Only

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: \_\_\_\_\_  Pilot  Crew

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  Pilot  Crew

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  Pilot  Crew

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  Pilot  Crew

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  Pilot  Crew

## Membership Type

Charter (includes family) (\$15)  Individual (\$15)  Family (\$20)

## 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:

A morning launch out of Ann Morrison Park in Boise, Idaho was captured on camera by Gary Moore.

## Waiver

**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.**

**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.**