

AeroStats



The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 20, Number 12

December 2018

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The year is drawing to a close
Before you can jump for joy
You need to:



Run right out and...

- 1) Vote for the 2019 WAS officers
- 2) Renew your WAS membership
- 3) Sign up for the Safety Seminar
- 4) Go to the Christmas Party!

Remember!

2019 is right around
the corner. It's
time to renew your
WAS membership.

An application
form can be found
on page 9.



2018 WAS Officers

President:

Shari Gale

sharigaleOR@gmail.com

Vice President:

Matt Webster

chevy1320racing@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dale Justice

Outerlimits41@aol.com

Others:

Newsletter Editor:

Shari Gale

sharigaleOR@gmail.com

Activities Director:

Pasha Luber

pjluber@gmail.com

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.

December 15, 2018, 1:00 PM

WAS Christmas Party

Edie's home

2407 NE Regents Drive, Portland, OR

January 25-27, 2019

Arizona Balloon Classic

Goodyear, Arizona

For more information:

<http://abcfest.com>

March 1-3, 2019

Winthrop Balloon Festival

Winthrop, WA

For more information:

<http://winthropwashington.com/event/winthrop-balloon-festival>

March 9, 2019

Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar

Greater Jefferson Community Center

Jefferson, Oregon

Contact: Tim Gale

HABSafety@comcast.net

August 23-25, 2019

Northwest Art & Air Festival

Albany, OR

<http://nwartandair.org>

September 6-8, 2019

The Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, NV

For more information:

<http://www.renoballoon.com>

September 27-29, 2019

The Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Prosser, WA

For more information:

<http://www.prosserballoonrally.org>

This is only a partial and preliminary list of 2019 events. Many rally organizations do not have their information updated at this time. Stay tuned. More information will be posted as it becomes available.



**You are invited to the annual
WAS Christmas Party!**

Saturday, December 15th at 1:00 PM
at Edie Stoaks' Home: 2407 NE Regents Drive,
Portland, Oregon

There's something new this year. Go to page 4
to find out what.

See you at this super fun annual event!



Annual Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15 at 1:00 PM

Planning to attend the WAS Christmas Party? Here's a few things you might need to know:

Food!

WAS will supply a turkey and a ham. The club will also supply non-alcoholic drinks. Please bring a dish to share with everyone else.

A-K: salad or vegetable dish

L-N: main dish

O-Z: dessert

The Gift Exchange

You have the option to participate in the gift exchange or not. It's strictly up to you. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped present, one per person or one per family. The value should be around \$15.00. After dinner, numbers will be given to every participant. One gift = one number. The person holding #1 will pick a wrapped gift. The person holding #2 has the choice of taking person #1's gift or opening a new one. If a gift is taken from someone that person may take a new gift or take a gift from someone else. A gift is only allowed to be taken three times. After that it is "frozen." Confused? Don't worry, you will have lots of people willing to point out a gift is "frozen." That's part of the fun.

Something New!

Sock contest? It's been done for several years running. *This year we are going to do a Christmas HAT contest.* Yes, a hat contest. Wear a holiday themed chapeau in order to compete against the WAS gang for a fun prize. It can be a santa hat, a snowman bowler, a Stetson decorated with holly and lights, a Scottish elf tam o'shanter, or anything you can dream up. Your head is the limit!

See you on Saturday, December 15 at 1:00 PM. The party will be held at Edie Stoaks' home, 2407 NE Regents Drive, Portland, Oregon. See you there!

Not Now, But It Will Happen Soon

The weather was flyable off and on during November, but it seems we are now doomed to endure the Pacific Northwest rainy season. The chances of finding good flying weather is pretty small. You can pack your balloon and your suitcases in order to travel down to the Southwest to fly as some of our members are doing right this moment. However, if you are cursed to sit up here in the Northwest only to dream of ballooning and hanging out with your friends here are two events scheduled for March 2019 that you can think about as you stare out your window at the big, sloppy raindrops.

Winthrop

First up will be the Winthrop Balloon Festival in Winthrop, Washington. It is scheduled for March 1 through March 3, 2019. It's a very loosely organized event. How many balloons will show up to fly in the snow in the breath taking Methow Valley? We never know until we get there and start counting envelopes.

Winthrop is located in the North Cascades. The photo opportunities are fantastic. The camaraderie of the WAS balloonists is the main draw for many of us. After a long spell of no flying it feels great to get together with our friends for a full weekend.

If you want more information go to: <http://www.winthropwashington.com/event/winthrop-balloon-festival>

If you want to talk to the organizer, Kurt Oakley or his wife, Melinda Oakley, of Morning Glory Balloon Tours here is their contact information: <http://www.balloonwinthrop.com/contact.html>

Safety Seminar

This year Tim Gale is organizing the seminar. The date is set for Saturday, March 9, 2019. It will be held at the Greater Jefferson Community Center, in Jefferson, Oregon. That puts the seminar in more or less the center of the Willamette Valley. It should make getting to and from the event easy for the majority of the WAS members.

The aim is to have an interactive and informative experience for

everyone, both pilots and crew. Once Tim solidifies the speakers and content, he will provide you with an agenda. He is close, so very close, to having the agenda set. It is just a little too soon to publish it now.

Invitations have been sent out. A form can be found in this newsletter if you need it.

The cost has been set for \$50 for the first 50 people. If you are interested in attending this seminar, send Tim an email to HABSafety@comcast.net Get your name on his list to insure your spot.

Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar

Date: March 9, 2019

Location: Greater Jefferson Community Center, Jefferson, Oregon

Cost: \$50 for the first 50 applicants

The seminar meets BFA and FAA Wings program standards.

All interested parties should reach out to Tim Gale to reserve a spot. HABSafety@comcast.net

The following article is being reprinted from Balloon Life Magazine with publisher Tom Hamilton's permission, as well as the permission of the author, Alan Sanderson. Alan as you probably know is a WAS member and runs an active repair station in Albany, Oregon. A huge thank you goes to both Tom and Alan.

Non-Destructive Ground Operations

By Alan Sanderson

Reprinted with permission from Balloon Life, April 1999

Several phases of ground operation must be carried out properly to prevent damage to the balloon system. In order to fly, the balloon must be loaded into the chase vehicle, transported to the launch site, unloaded, laid out, and inflated. After the landing, the balloon must be deflated, packed up, loaded, transported home, and stored. Improper operations during any phase can cause minor damage to total equipment loss.

Loading/Unloading

Chase vehicles range from open trailers and pickups, to closed trailers, vans, and Chase Commanders. The system must be loaded properly to prevent equipment damage during handling and transportation. Some vehicles have sharp edges that can cut through envelope bags or wear holes in wicker or scuff leather. Place padding around the wicker to prevent scraping during the loading or unloading process. Scrap carpeting is useful as padding around the basket and envelope bag. Protect the fan cage from rubbing or flexing. Tie everything securely so nothing will shift in the event of a sudden stop.

Transporting

While the system is being transported, it is subjected to road vibration and bumps. An enclosed vehicle protects the system from wind and weather, but vibration can still do damage. Check the fuel system and move any hoses that are routed where they will rub against anything that could wear or abrade

them. If they show significant abrasion they must be replaced.

If the trailer subjects the balloon to a rough ride, store the instrument pack in a padded case. Store the burner in a padded case or in a burner bag that will keep it from bouncing around. Some large frame burners can be wrapped in padding and strapped to the inside of the basket.

Loose items, such as uprights, accessories, folding chairs, tables, and picnic baskets can easily blow out of the back of a vehicle. A basket cover can contain lightweight objects that may fly out of an open vehicle. Picnic coolers, tarps, ceremonial carpets, and chase flags are some examples. An improperly secured basket cover can blow off without much warning. If your basket is equipped with suede trim, place an old sheet between the suede and the basket cover. The wind will cause a cover to flap and polish all the nap off the suede. The sheet allows the cover to rub without damaging the suede.

Stow the envelope bag carefully. If it is not tightly closed, and the wind catches a small corner of the envelope, it can easily gift-wrap several vehicles on the highway. A 70-MPH freeway bag inflation is a real disaster, both for the equipment and any other drivers in the immediate area. Store the envelope bag so its opening is not exposed to the wind.

Transport empty fuel cylinders with the valve and fuel level gauge up. While a cylinder is full, propane surrounds the dip tube and gauge float assembly

and absorbs vibrations. When it is empty, vibrations from the road make their way to the dip tube and float assembly. In most cylinders, the dip tube and float assembly are supported only from the top of the cylinder, hanging straight down. If the cylinder is laid down, they are held in a horizontal position. Vibration can eventually cause the float assembly or the dip tube to break off inside the cylinder.

Assembly and Layout

Most damage during layout is caused by debris on the launch site, such as barbed wire, broken glass, and other trash, or people stepping on the fabric. Check out the launch field for junk before laying out the envelope. While pulling the envelope out of the bag, be very careful of suspension cable hardware.

Place a square of scrap carpet under the side of the basket before you tip it over. If it is big enough, it also provides a kneeling area for the pilot.

Other layout damage is a 3-corner fabric tear caused by a crewmember pulling on the parachute valve. When the envelope is milked, fabric may become caught in the "V" formed by the bridle lines. When the crewmember pulls on the valve the caught fabric will tear. Walk under the envelope to spread the fabric before pulling the valve to prevent this problem. Another crewmember can hold the top opening closed until the valve is free. Then the valve will blow into place with very little assistance.

Continued on page 7

Non-Destructive Ground Operations

continued from page 6

Pack Up

After a stand-up landing, check the area downwind of the balloon for trash. If the area is unsuitable, walk the balloon to a cleaner area before laying it down.

There are two methods commonly used to pack up an envelope—Crew abuse, or “Drag the Bag,” and the caterpillar, or the “Piccard Method.”

Drag the Bag

To start this procedure, two strong crew members carry the envelope bag to the top (crown) of the envelope. The remaining crew members hold up the envelope and stuff it into the bag as it is dragged toward the basket. Dragging the bag across the ground eventually wears a hole in the bottom. An envelope can be damaged by a hole in the envelope bag that exposes balloon fabric. Handling the bag can tear or abrade any fabric that is sticking

through the hole.

The Piccard Method

I learned this method while crewing for a Piccard balloon with the envelope bag inside the basket.

Place the bag on one side of the envelope, about 5 feet above the throat, with the flap toward the basket. Line the crew up along the other side of the envelope starting at the crown, spaced fingertip to fingertip facing the envelope. Each person picks up the envelope with both arms. The person at the crown walks along the opposite side of the envelope to the bag, and the rest of the crew follows, dragging the envelope over itself. Each person drops a length of envelope into the bag, then returns to pick up another armload. As the envelope goes into the bag, the amount of fabric being handled gets lighter.

If the crown line is damp,



This version of the Piccard Method leaves the envelope bag independent of the basket. It takes two crew members to hold open the bag while other crewmembers stuff the envelope into it.

remove it and store it outside the bag. Secure the bag so the envelope will stay inside it.

Storage

When you return home with your system, store everything in a cool, dry place. Place the envelope on stacked pallets so air can circulate around it. Loosen the envelope bag and fluff up the envelope so it is not tightly packed, until the next time you load it into your chase vehicle.

Vote



If you have not already voted for the 2019 WAS Executive Committee. Now is the time to do it. The current slate of officers are all running for re-election. No one is opposing them, but you can write in someone else if you choose. The candidates are:

- ◇ Shari Gale for President
- ◇ Matt Webster for Vice President
- ◇ Dale Justice for Secretary/Treasurer.
- ◇ Write-in candidate (just be sure to list the office).

Send Dale Justice an email at outerlimits41@aol.com or you can use snail mail (Dale Justice, 2902 E. 2nd St., Unit 76, Newberg, OR 97132) to indicate your preferences.

Results will be announced at the WAS Christmas Party.



The WAS Christmas Party Hat Contest will be fun and festive!

Think: Santa hat or a snowman bowler. Decorate a fedora, Panama, Stetson, bonnet, sailor hat, skimmer, sombrero, or stove pipe hat.

Be creative!



REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
First *Last*

E-mail address: _____
(If you want Wings credit, please be sure to use the same email address on file with the Wings Program.)

BFA #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Phone #: _____
cell phone *land line*

Crew Private Pilot Commercial Pilot Student Pilot

Do you wish to have a BFA filing for your attendance at this seminar? Yes No
If yes, please be sure to include your BFA number above.

Cost: \$50 for first the 50 people to sign-up.
Lunch included.

Please print out this form and send it along with your check to:

Please make your checks payable to Tim Gale

Contact information: 503-369-6123 • HABSafety@comcast.net

Tim Gale

P.O. Box 723

St. Helens, OR 97051-0723

WAS Membership Application



Name: _____

Pilot Crew Interested in hot air ballooning

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Home Phone #: (____) _____

Cell Phone #: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

BFA Membership #: _____

Pilot/Crew Achievement Awards

BFA Crew Level: _____ BFA Pilot Level: _____

FAA Wings Level: _____ Other: _____

Family Member Information

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Name: _____ Pilot Crew

Membership Type

Charter (\$20) Single or Family (\$20) Newsletter Only (\$10 outside Oregon & SW Washington)

Membership

The Willamette Aerostat Society communicates via e-mail, the WAS Facebook page and the website. We recognize and respect our member's privacy. If you do not wish personal information about you shared with other members, please indicate below. Your personal information will *never* be published on our website. It might be shared with other club members if a request is made unless you prefer to opt out.

- Do Not share name
- Do Not share address
- Do Not share phone number
- Do Not share cell phone number
- Do Not share e-mail

Please use a 2nd page if there are two pilots in the family, or if you have family members with additional information such as cell phone # and/or BFA #'s.

Mail completed form with fees to:
Willamette Aerostat Society
c/o 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:

Cheryl Isaacs flying over the Methow Valley during the Winthrop Balloon Festival. It is the next scheduled rally in the Pacific Northwest. It is set for March 1-3, 2019.

Photo by Shari Gale.

Waiver

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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.