

AeroStats



**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 20, Number 11**

November 2018

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The November WAS meeting has been CANCELLED.

The next get together will be the fun filled WAS Christmas Party, Dec. 15.

Details on the party to be printed in the next newsletter.

See you there!

Don't find yourself stuck in the middle of the road in 2019!

Renew your WAS membership!



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>



Willamette Aerostat Society Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Willamette Aerostat Society General Meeting Saturday, October 26, 2018

Present:

y Shari Gale, President
n Matt Webster, Vice President
y Dale Justice, Secretary-Treasurer
y Shari Gale, Newsletter Editor
n Pasha Luber, Activities Director
Also, 12 additional members and 3 guests.

1. Call to order at 1:02 p.m. by Shari at Aurora Airport, Lynx FBO, Building C in Aurora, OR.

Introductions of attendees were held. Some snacks were available for the attendees.

2. Minutes of the April 14, 2018 meeting were moved by Shari and seconded by Marilyn Barnhart to be approved as printed in the June, 2018 Aerostats newsletter. Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's report -- from Dale, as of May 11, 2018.

2018 Members	85
Checking	\$ 1017.53
Savings	105.00
Cash	7.00
Total	\$ 1129.53

Expenses during the summer: Annual fee paid to Oregon State DOJ for non-profit organization: \$50.00.

4. Correspondence -- None.

5. Announcements --

1. The August and September 2019 newsletters may be combined, due to the editor's travel plans.
2. There is a Portland Winter Light Festival planned for February 7, 8, 9, 2019. One of the founders, Jeff Schnabel, would like to have a balloon glow one of the nights, if possible. Jeff attended the meeting and presented his proposal to the members. Dale will coordinate with local pilots who are interested in participating and interface with Jeff. This would not be a WAS event, as is the club's policy.

6. News -- none.

Regulatory -- The FAA budget bill has passed congress, with the instruction for the FCC to make changes to the medical requirements for some balloon certificate holders. There will be a Proposed Ruling Notification, which will allow comments, before any rule changes.

Event reports -- Albany and Boise all had excellent weather and turnout this year Tim/Shari Gale reported. Prosser had poor weather, with some pilots flying only on Saturday. Tim/Shari reported.

Albuquerque had mostly good weather, with no known serious incidents. Tim/Alan Sanderson reported.

Walla Walla had perfect weather, with flights in the mornings and some afternoons, Wednesday through Sunday. The FAA was present observing several drone operations. Tim reported.

Coming Events -- December, Gallup Red Rock Balloon Rally. January, Arizona Balloon Classic in Goodyear, AZ. Some club members are planning to attend both of these events.

7. Old business --

2019 Safety Seminar -- Tim Gale is coordinating. Tim and Shari toured the Jefferson, OR, Community Center building. The facilities appear to fit the requirements. The seminar will be on March 9, 2019, and open at 7 a.m. It will run for the full day. The local fire department volunteered to contribute for one segment.

8. New business --

1. Summer Youth Camp at Pearson Field Education Center would like to have a hot air balloon presentation and/or tether. The camp is for 9-11 year olds, on July 19, 2019 and August 2, 2019.

2. One nomination for Aeronaut of the Year was made by Shari. Dale seconded. Motion passed.

3. Nominations for 2019 officers were held. All current holders were nominated for their respective office. Motion by Shari to nominate the current holders. Dale seconded. Motion passed. The November newsletter will publish the list of candidates. The balloting will be held at the annual Christmas Party. Write-in candidates are allowed, per the by-laws.

9. The next meeting will be November 17, 2018 1:00 p.m. at the Aurora Airport, Lynx FBO, Building C in Aurora, OR. The annual Christmas Party will be at Edie Stoaks' house. December 15, 2018. Details will be in the newsletter.

11. Bob LeDoux moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned by Shari at 2:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dale Justice, Secretary
/signed/dtj/10-29-2018*

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.

~~November 17, 2018, 1:00 PM
November WAS General Meeting
Cancelled!~~

November 30-December 2, 2018
Red Rock Balloon Rally
Gallup, New Mexico
For more information: <https://www.redrockballoonrally.com>

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
Put it on your calendar today!

2019 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar

Terri Schofield did a wonderful job of organizing the safety seminar for years. This last spring she announced it was her final year. Tim Gale has taken on the tough task of following in her footsteps. He is organizing the 2019 seminar. It will comply with both BFA and FAA wings program standards.

The seminar will be held on **Saturday, March 9, 2019**. Tim has booked the Greater Jefferson Community Center in Jefferson, Oregon.

Jefferson is close to both Salem and Albany. There are good accommodation choices in both of those cities. The Community Center is affordable and friendly. In fact, the residents of Jefferson have worked hard to renovate and improve the building while still maintaining its quaint atmosphere.

The cost of the seminar will remain at \$50 per person for the first 50 people to register. Invitations will be sent out in November.

Questions? Contact Tim Gale at knightngale@comcast.net.

Please plan to drop in
on the annual
**WAS Christmas
Party!**

**Saturday,
December 15,
2018**
**starting at
1:00 PM**
at Edie's home
2407 NE Regents Drive
Portland, OR

More details will be in
the next newsletter.

**The important thing is
to get this fun event
on your calendar. You
won't want to miss it.**

*You are invited to the
WAS Christmas
Party!*

The 2018 Great Prosser Balloon Rally

By Shari Gale

We always look forward to the rally in Prosser, Washington. The town is flooded by tourists coming in for the event. It's usually a photographer's dream. The launch field is near a bridge over the Yakima River. As the balloons drop in for a splash 'n' dash literally hundreds of photographers are lined up on the bridge taking photos as fast as they can.



The Great Prosser Balloon Rally attracts a lot of photographers, but this guy took it to a whole new level.

This year all those photographers were disappointed. On Friday the winds aloft were a little too sporty, so the pilots just inflated and gave the on-field spectators a chance to get close to the balloons and pose for photos. The crowd seemed to really enjoy the encounter. Sadly, the people waiting on the bridge got nothing.

On Saturday it was flyable, but the winds were forecast to drop down after about an hour or so. About half of the pilots chose to fly. The other half stayed on the field

and did another "showboat" for the spectators. Of the pilots who took off, only one, Jesse Rafn, managed to do a splash 'n' dash. Several more tried, but if they had taken off early there was just no chance of finding the right wind. It would be interesting to know how many photos were taken of Jesse that morning.

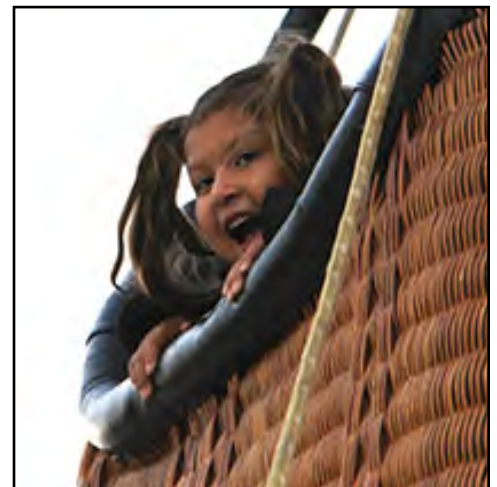
Sunday was another windy day. Knowing most pilots and their crew members had long drives to get home, balloonmeister Tim Gale, said he did not expect pilots to stick around for another showboat. He instead volunteered to give tethered rides on the field. Sallie Loflin volunteered her balloon to tether, also. The lines for rides were very long, and there were a lot of smiling faces. The Loflins kept going until they had burned through all 40 gallons of propane.

As for the Gale crew, we did not organize the rider line. We experimented by letting the spectators work it out themselves. We were amazed at how well it worked. The first rather large family group had an adult male who was a born organizer. He herded all the kids together to go in groups and he lifted them in and out of the basket. Once his extended family was taken care of he left, but the next family followed his lead. That first guy set the stage for everyone else. It sure made our task easier.

A side note was getting an early surprise this year from the local Best Western motel which stepped up to offer discounts to both pilots and crew. In years past, the motels in town raised their rates during the weekend of the rally because so many tourists come into town. They know they can fill their motel no matter what they charge. The same is true of the RV parks. Some



On Friday pilots put up their balloons to do a showboat for the spectators.



Sunday two balloons gave tethered rides to a lot of excited people — young and old.

balloonists have actually stopped attending this event for that reason alone. The Best Western manager heard the plea of the rally organizers and gave us a decent price break. When I thanked him he said, "Without you there is no rally. We need to support you." He's got that right. To encourage him to continue this practice I sent him a thank you note. Several of the other Oregon balloonists did the same.

Next year we will hopefully get another good deal, and I hope Mother Nature will be a little kinder as well.

The 2018 Great Prosser Balloon Rally In Photos



One of the members of the Miss Prosser court helped us inflate.



Carmen Blakely and Terri Schofield were among the first to inflate on Friday morning.



Cheryl Isaacs and Edie Stokes laughed at the flight track Kearney Davis shared with them.



There may have been lots of spectators, but they stayed off the tarp.



When these two balloons fly together they honor Florence Nightgale. Firenze (on the right) is the Italian spelling of Florence and of course, the Knight-N-Gale connection is obvious.



The spectators spill out behind the fence and fill the sidewalk.



The Sympatico crew posed for photos before everyone split for home on Sunday.

Photos by Shari Gale

WWBS Finally Gets A Break

By Shari Gale



Photo by Jenise Connerly

The Walla Walla Balloon Stampede moved from May to October a few years ago. Since that time, we have had nothing but bad luck when it comes to weather. One year we dealt with the aftermath of a typhoon. The rain came down in sheets for days. Last year wasn't a lot better. This year everything turned around.

In fact, we enjoyed some of the best ballooning weather we've ever seen in Walla Walla in 44 years. Every day the winds were calm. Plus, we flew in a variety of directions. The 20-minute express flight to the airport didn't happen. The one day we went to the airport the flight lasted for one hour and 20 minutes. Not only did we have successful morning flights, we had good conditions in afternoon as well. Even the night glow was easy. It had been a little windy right before sunset, but once the sun went down the winds died completely. Rally organizer, Scott Spencer, got to town ahead of the rest of us. He had nine flights over Walla Walla.

Thank you, Mother Nature!

Needless to say, we have some long-time, loyal crew in Walla Walla. Often, we don't get to take

them up because we only manage to squeeze in our sponsor ride. This year our sponsor was a no-show. We were able to take up every single one of our crew members.

By Sunday we only had one crew member who had not flown. His name is Jay. His first time out was right before he was born. He's grown up with ballooning as part of his world. We used to toss him in when we needed a "little person" to fill up the basket. This time I needed to find a stranger to fill in the space, because Jay is no longer little.

I spotted a slight woman carrying a fancy camera. I'd noticed her all weekend long. She would literally run from balloon to balloon to capture the image she wanted. I tried to intercept her twice on Sunday. Both times she zoomed away from me. Finally, she came back as Tim was inflating Knight-N-Gale. I corralled her. I wasn't going to let her run away until I had a chance to ask if she wanted to go up. Her name is Fion Wong.

What did Fion say as soon as I asked my question? She asked, "What kind of a lens do I need up there?" Now, that's someone

dedicated to her photography. We gave her 10 minutes to run over to her car to pick up a telephoto lens. Fion's second camera was almost as big as she was.

She got a great ride right over town. This time the winds took us southeast. After the flight I asked Fion if the ride was what she expected. She said, "I didn't realize how beautiful the trees would be from the air. All the colors are amazing." Again, she spoke like a true photographer. If you want to see her work she graciously allowed some to be printed here (page 9) or check out her web site for more images: <https://naapausa-smugmug.com/NAAPA-Activity-Archives/2018-Oct-Hot-Air-Balloon/>

She took some stunning photos! I'm glad I tracked Fion down. It is so much fun to share our sport with the public, and even more fun when they are toting a good camera.

Next year the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede will be 45 years old. I'm looking forward to being in town. It's a great event.



As we checked into our hotel on Wednesday afternoon we were told several people were heading to the launch field for a flight. We were invited to join them, so we ditched our suitcases in our room and drove out to the field. We soon found ourselves crewing for Kearney Davis. He offered Tim a ride. What a way to start the event!

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede Photos by Shari Gale



Jerry Cummins, the former mayor of Walla Walla, missed ballooning so much that he bought another balloon. (Pictured above.) Everyone was excited to see him return to our sport.



Forey Walter (right) brought along a hopper he built. Phil Archey (seated) gave it a try along with a lot of other pilots and crew members. The whole exercise was done just prior to the night glow. It was good entertainment for the crowd as they waited for the sun to set.



On Thursday morning the winds took us to the northeast. Kemp Lindsey (left) and Tim Gale landed in the same vacant lot in an industrial area of town. When Tim dropped into the lot he barely cleared Kemp and Georgia's new Ford truck. Every time Georgia retold the story Tim seemed to get closer to the roof of the truck. It was the ballooning version of the "fish that got away" story.



The night glow was a huge success. There were lots of spectators at the park. Best of all the winds died down to nothing right before the balloons inflated.



On Saturday Mandy Johnson landed at the airport and had her crew walk her over to her husband's balloon so she could use his tarp. Tim Gale ran over to loan her the use of his riding crop. Mandy decided she really liked it. As she approached Vic she yelled, "Look what I learned today, honey." Vic replied, "I don't want to know!"



The decommissioned runway at the Walla Walla Airport comes in handy during the Stampede. This year the winds only took balloons in that direction twice. (We only landed there once.)

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede Photos by Fion Wong

North America Art Photography Association



Walla Walla Balloon Stampede Photos by Lisa McDonald



Forey Walter, owner of Avian Balloons, built himself a new racer balloon.



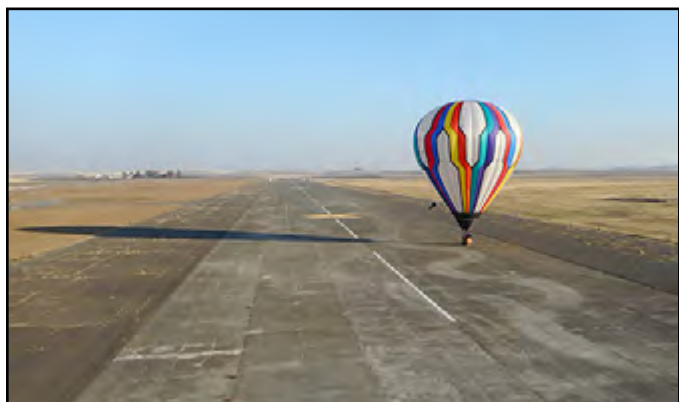
At the far western corner of the launch field were balloons piloted by (left to right) Tom Goettsche, Vic Johnson, Mandy Johnson, and Greg Ashton.



Dawn Treader flown by Scott Spencer.



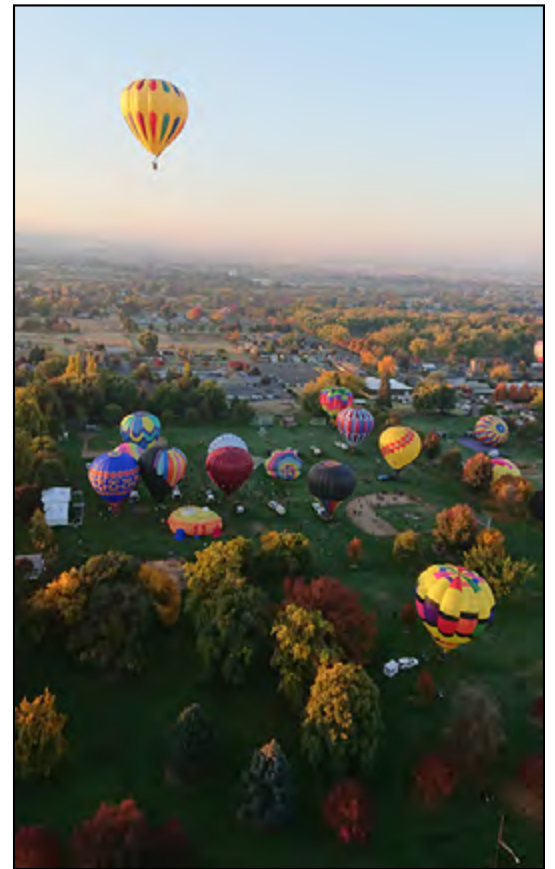
The two sides of Tic Toc, flown by Laurie Spencer, can be seen in these two photos. Koh Muria (photo on the right) got a good view of the happy Tic Toc.



Saturday Vic Johnson, in his beautiful homebuilt balloon, led the way into the decommissioned runway at the airport.



Walla Walla Balloon Stampede Photos by Jenise Connerly



This potential landing site would guarantee you style points.



**November WAS Meeting Scheduled For
Saturday, November 17th at 1:00 PM**
at the Lynx FBO, Aurora State Airport in Hangar Charlie

See the empty spot on the lower left side of the photo? That was our former meeting location. A new building, which does not show in this Google Earth image, is going up now.

Our current meeting location is in **Hangar Charlie**. As you walk in the people gate, go straight, and it will be the first building you come to on the right. Walk past a few airplanes and the meeting room will be on the right.

Note: There will be no potluck, but snacks will be provided.

It Could Have Been Tragic

When I looked behind my trailer my heart sank.

By Shari Gale

On Friday in Walla Walla Tim landed in a city park. It is up on the bluff right above the main highway. Lots of balloons were coming in to land before they crossed the highway, and more were flying over on their way to the airport. It was a spectator's delight.

I had driven up to the boundary of the park only to find I could not enter it from that side. There was a deep gully with only a narrow footbridge crossing it. If you know me, you know I'm not skilled at backing up a trailer. I avoid it if at all possible. This time I could not avoid it.

I started going crooked, so I pulled forward to straighten out. Then I started to back up again. One of the neighbors who was standing near our vehicle warned me that a car had pulled in behind me while I had been pulling forward.

I got out to ask the lady to move her car only to see three preschoolers standing between her car and my trailer. I could not see the car much less the kids with my mirrors. If the neighbor had not said something to me I very well may have hit them. Their mom was busy looking at the incoming balloons and so were the kids. They had no idea I was moving my vehicle.

From now on when I back up the trailer I'm going to ask a crew member to get out and make sure I have a clear path. We always do this on the launch field, but obviously, we need to do it out on the chase as well.

Luckily, I learned this lesson without tragic consequences. Here's my warning to you: *Always remember that the people we encounter on the chase may be distracted. We have to watch out for them at all times.*



Photos by Lisa McDonald

The New Year Is Fast Approaching It's Time To Elect The Executive Committee For 2019

An email asking you to vote will be sent out soon.

All current officers have agreed to run for re-election. They are:

Shari Gale — President
Matt Webster — Vice President
Dale Justice — Secretary/
Treasurer

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. knightngale@comcast.net.

Invitations will be sent out soon.

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 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:

Flying over Walla Walla, Washington in the fall. Photo by Lisa McDonald.

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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.