

Aerostats

An aerial photograph of a hot air balloon launch in a snowy mountain town. The scene is set in a valley with snow-covered mountains in the background. A large, colorful hot air balloon is being inflated on the ground, while another is already floating in the air. The town below is covered in snow, with buildings and trees visible. The overall atmosphere is bright and festive.

April 2019

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 21, Number 4**

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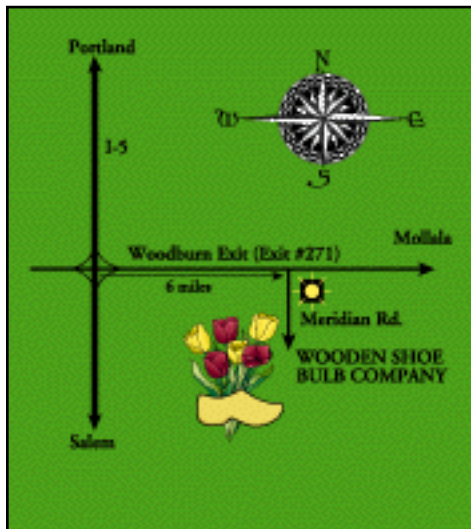
The first quarter of the year has slipped away.

Have you renewed your WAS membership? If not, now is the time to do it!

There's a handy application in this newsletter on page 14.

Are You Going To The 2019 Tulip Festival?

If you have never been to the Wooden Shoe Bulb Company before, below is a handy map to the farm. The owners generously allow balloon vehicles plus their crew to come in the gates early and do not charge us admission.



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<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.

March 23-April 29, 2019
Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival
Wooden Shoe Bulb Company
Woodburn, Oregon

Saturday, April 13, 2019
WAS General Meeting
1:00 PM
Lynx FBO, *in the new building!!*
14356 Keil Rd NE,
Aurora, Oregon
See page 13 for location details

April 27, 2019
BFA Video Seminar
On line registration:
<https://www.bfa.net/2019-online-seminar>

Saturday, May 11, 2019
WAS General Meeting
1:00 PM
Lynx FBO, in the new building
14356 Keil Rd NE,
Aurora, Oregon

May 17-19, 2019
Winnemucca Balloon Festival
Winnemucca, NV
<https://winnemuccaballoonswixsite.com/winnemucca-balloons>

May 31-June 2, 2019
Grants Pass Balloon and Kite Festival
Grants Pass, OR
<http://gpballoonfest.com>

June 21-23, 2019
Tigard Festival of Balloons
Tigard, Oregon
<http://www.tigardballoon.org>

August 23-25, 2019
Northwest Art & Air Festival
Albany, OR
<http://nwartandair.org>

August 28-Sept 1, 2019
Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic
Boise, Idaho
<https://spiritofboise.com>

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>

October 5-13, 2019
Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta
Albuquerque, New Mexico
<https://www.balloonfiesta.com>



Eliav Cohen, of Seattle Ballooning, took this photo as he floated above Knight-N-Gale on Friday morning during the Winthrop Balloon Round-Up.

It's Tulip Festival Time

March 23 – April 29, 2019

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

<https://www.woodenshoe.com/events/tulip-fest/>

Spring is coming and the tulips will soon be blooming. That means the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival in Woodburn, Oregon will be starting up. Flying over 40 acres of tulips is one of the highlights of our season in Western Oregon. Balloonists are welcome to fly from the festival site if we follow the rules.

Just like last year, the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival organizers require every passenger, crew member, pilot and balloon owner sign their waiver of liability. There are no exceptions.

Shari Gale has emailed out forms to as many pilots as possible. She doesn't have email addresses for everyone, so if you see someone out on the field, please ask them if they have release forms with them. If not, please share yours. Let's make this a team effort.

Once the forms are filled out, please put them in the big mail box on the west side of the main building.

The other important item is the red zone map. The Rose family owns a huge chunk of land east of the tulip fields. They are not at all balloon friendly. They do not want anyone landing on their property. There again, Shari Gale sent out maps to everyone. Please make some extra copies to take to the field with you in the event someone has forgotten theirs or did not receive one in the first place. As always, carry one map in the basket and one in the chase vehicle.

Other suggestions:

- Do not drive into the fields if they are wet or damp. Your chase rig will leave ruts, crush new grass, and you might just get stuck. There's plenty of room in the parking lot.
- Drive carefully. Pedestrians are everywhere. Drive slow and give way to foot traffic and other vehicles.
- Serving alcohol is discouraged.
- Carry out what you bring in. Trash barrels provided by the farm are for their customers, not our trash.
- If you see a festival or farm worker, please say thank you.

The Iverson family has always been generous in allowing balloons to launch from their fields every year. It's critical for all of us to follow their requests if we want to still be able to use their property.

A happy landowner is a generous landowner.

If you have questions please contact Shari Gale at sharigaleOR@gmail.com

Come out and participate in this year's non-sponsored event. Fly when you want each day of the event. Be responsible for all your costs. Obey all flight regulations; there is no waiver for these flights.

W.A.S. is posting this notice as a courtesy to its members and is not acting as a sponsor of these flights in any way directly or implied.

You Can Always Have Fun In Winthrop

by Shari Gale



The first gathering of our extended ballooning family is always highly anticipated. The first rally of the year in our area happens in Winthrop, Washington the first weekend in March. With luck we will have lots of snowy mountains and blue skies as a backdrop for the flights. This year we had it – on Friday. Mother Nature was not so kind to us on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday we were greeted by snow and low clouds. Curt Oakley, the rally organizer, was hoping the snow squall would dissipate if we just waited a while. Nope. The snow did not go away, in fact, it got heavier as the morning progressed. It was afternoon before we had clear skies again.

On Sunday morning we didn't have to deal with falling snow, but we had winds out of the south. That

is the opposite of what was needed for flight operations. Landing sites south of Winthrop can be found here and there all over the valley floor. However, if the winds take you north you suddenly find yourself in no-man's land.

Oh, well. The Oregon ballooning community knows how to have fun even when we can't fly. We traditionally get together for communal meals in a rather large house rented for the weekend. Everyone pitches in to feed the gang on Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday breakfast and Friday dinner. Even though the house has a large dining table, there are still a lot of people balancing their plates on their lap. It doesn't matter. It is a whole lot of fun.

Laura Hancock organized a sleigh ride this year at Sun Mountain

Lodge. Each sleigh holds 15 people. We had enough people to fill two sleighs. The sleigh ride only cost us \$20/person. It was \$20 well spent.

After the flight on Sunday was canceled we all checked out of the motel early, and headed home. The camaraderie didn't stop, however. We all regrouped at a restaurant in Wenatchee for brunch and one last shared meal.

We took a different route home from the majority. We crossed two mountain passes on our way home, but the roads were clear and the sun was shining. We talked about our shared experiences with big smiles on our faces.

Even though we only got to fly once, I know we will be back in Winthrop next year. It's just too much fun to miss. (The dates next year are March 6-8, 2020.)



Photos by Shari Gale

2019 Winthrop Balloon Round-Up

Photos by Shari Gale



Dale Justice and Tim Gale on Saturday morning.



Friday morning launch.



The temperature at pilot briefing on Friday was 9° F. It warmed up to 10° by the time we launched.



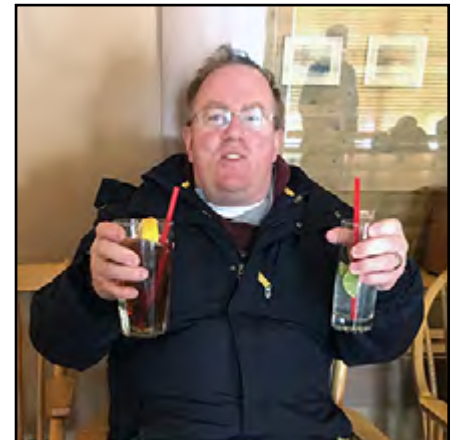
Curt Oakley (right) brings out his chicken when he calls off a flight. Eliav Cohen seemed a bit hungry, but eventually made the right choice to go to a local restaurant instead.



Edie Stoaks and Steve Justice played a little pool while waiting to go on the sleigh ride.



Laura Hancock organized the sleigh ride. When the the Lodge's shop was busy with cross country skiers she, also, collected our payments for the ride. She is a woman of many talents!



Pat Bowen knows how to hold his liquor.

2019 Winthrop Balloon Round-Up

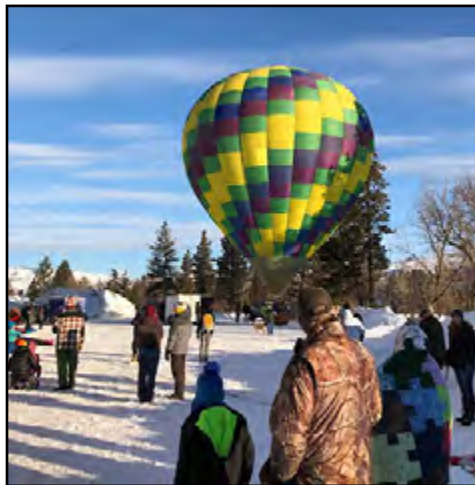
Photos by Jim Churchill



The second sleigh full of Oregon balloonists seemed to be having as much fun as the lead sleigh.



More Winthrop Photos



The four photos to the left and the photo above are by Gail Simburger. The balloon with the black diamonds is Roy Foote's new envelope. The design is an exact copy of the one he flew for years, but the new one is a 90. This was the first time Roy had inflated it. It is beautiful!



The photo above and the one to the immediate left are by Megan Smith. She was on Dale Justice and Andrea McEvoy's crew on Friday. They landed in a private driveway up near the top of a hill. The view was so amazing the crew almost forgot to pack up the envelope!

And Still More Winthrop Photos!

by Dale Justice



Laura Hancock



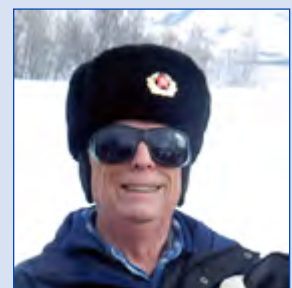
Megan Smith



Shari Gale with Kim Boyle hiding behind her



Here's Dale and Andrea's track for Friday's flight in Winthrop. It was created using the app Hot Air. The image is quite accurate except the program left out all the snow on the ground. Instead of browns and greens the primary color should be white with touches of even more white.



If you want to keep this smile on Dale's face, renew your WAS membership today. (See on page 14.)

2019 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar

It was even better than expected

by Shari Gale

The seminar was in the planning stages for months, but the topics did not really come together until after our flying season was over. A couple of balloonists had issues at rallies. Those issues were the catalyst for topics presented at the seminar.

Koh Murai had another balloon contact his envelope shortly after takeoff. A wind shear was the primary factor. There was a metal edge on the bottom of that balloon's basket. It scraped across three panels of Koh's balloon. No damage showed up when the envelope was inspected upon landing. However, the next morning his granddaughter, Grace, noticed a thin cut had opened up during cold pack. That incident led to Koh discussing wind shears, and Matt Webster talking about crew awareness. Matt's primary message was to not be afraid to say something to the pilot.

Koh, also, closely analyzed the envelope distortions Tim Gale experienced in Prosser last summer due to a wind shear.

Tim asked meteorologist, John Saltenberger, to discuss thermal troughs. It's a phenomenon which often effects Pacific Northwest weather, yet it is not discussed often. In fact, John said when he was on his first job he tried to educate himself on the topic and found information hard to find. He did a great job of explaining things in terms everyone could easily understand.

Vic Johnson talked about his flight over the top of Mt. Rainier, and all the preparations he made long before the launch. His takeaway was plan, plan, and plan some more. The fact that his oxygen mask malfunctioned during the flight, but caused no problems because Vic recognized the signs



Captain Crystal Stout created this composite photo of some of the seminar speakers. Clockwise from top left: Assistant Chief Scott Sheppard of the Jefferson Fire Department, Mark Trujillo, Mandy Johnson, Matt Webster, John Saltenberger, and Vic Johnson.

of hypoxia early. He had a backup mask onboard. His topic received rave reviews.

The other highly praised presentation was the powerline panel discussion. One participant said the topic should be mandatory at every seminar across the country. The fact that local balloonists who have had power line contact in years past had the courage to get up in front of their peers to discuss what created the situation and how it has affected their pilot decision making from that point forward was very valuable. Having a crew person, Edie Stoaks, on the panel gave a different perspective than what you usually hear. One of her main goals was to insulate the pilot's children from seeing their injured father. She also stated all crew members need to know how shut the fuel system down. Her honest portrayal of the situation was very valuable.

Mark Trujillo tackled the topic of working well and playing well

with other aircraft, and how they should react to balloons in their airspace. Drones, of course, were a topic of conversation. We topped off that topic when Mark brought out his drone to take a photo of all participants out in the parking lot.

We brought in the Jefferson Fire Department's assistant fire chief, Scott Sheppard, for a frank talk about what emergency response teams can do for us, and what balloon crews can do to help them.

Mandy Johnson closed the session by discussing what pilots/balloon owners can do to help speed up the annual inspection process. Her presentation was informative and down right funny. It was the perfect closing topic.

It should, also, be mentioned that Vic and Mandy Johnson endured a particularly harrowing week leading up to the seminar weekend. They had every reason to cancel, but having put on a safety seminar in the

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Safety Seminar

Continued on page 10

past, they knew what a cancellation of that type would do to the organizer's heart rate. They took pity on us and drove all the way down from Kent, Washington in spite of it all. **Huge kudos to the Johnsons!**

Finally, there was universal approval of the Greater Jefferson Community Center as a meeting location. A big thank you goes to **Marianne and Bob LeDoux** for finding this gem for us. More importantly, when a cancellation by the person supplying the food came in two weeks before the event occurred, Marianne and her friend/crew member, **Marge Harshberger**, stepped in to take on lunch preparations. Marge disappeared into the center's kitchen before the seminar even started and stayed there all morning long. **Their help was a godsend!**

Everyone pitched in to help clean up the meeting room putting away tables and chairs and generally putting the center back into proper working order. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by those of us who faced a long drive home.

Admittedly, I'm biased, but I think my husband, Tim, did a wonderful job of organizing this seminar. Thank you, Tim!

FYI: Meteorologist John Saltenberger has an informational website. The URL is: wxlinks.weebly.com

Upcoming WAS meetings:

Saturday, April 13 at 1:00 PM

Speaker will be Bob LeDoux

Saturday, May 11 at 1:00 PM

Speaker will be John Saltenberger

Location for both is Lynx FBO, in the new building, at Aurora State Airport.



Mark Trujillo took this photo using his drone during a break in the safety seminar. Luckily, the sun was out at that moment.



Marge kept busy in the kitchen all morning.



Laura Hancock and Jim Churchill

What Participants Had To Say

"John Saltenberger is a really good presenter. Vic's Cascade flight presentation was great! Matt's crew presentation was very good."

"This method of talking about power lines should be mandatory."

"Very informative! Good content. I would like to see us use this same building next year."

"Great location, good speakers with relevant information, camaraderie — love these people and their passion for this sport."

"Food, food, food." Under things they liked the least: "Nothing, nothing, nothing."

"I felt it was important for the pilots to share their personal stories and experiences (panel)."

Things we will work on next year: 1) Getting a sound system in place. 2) Limiting the interruptions. We can do the second one by requesting audience members to hold questions until *after* each presentation, and allowing more time for Q and A. Those two items received the most negative feedback.

Summer Is Here — In Australia

Phtos by Mel Henry, Canberra, Australia

Flying in the snow is fun, but putting on multiple layers of clothes, using hand-warmers and toe-warmers while still suffering from single digit temperatures isn't something most of us want to do daily. It's tempting to daydream about summer flights.

Well, here you go. It is summertime down under. Mel Henry graciously allowed me to use the photos she took during the 2019 Canberra Balloon Spectacular. The warmth just radiates from these photos. Gaze upon them and remember, summer is coming. It really is — promise!



Photo above: Suze McKenzie in her balloon Hiawatha.

Photo to the right: This is a sight you will never see while flying in the USA!



A Glympse at Glympse By Tim Gale

Several of us have been using an iPhone application called Hot Air to build a tracking log in three dimensions during a flight. It gives a collection of useful features such as a graphical track log, flight log, and more. It also has a connection to a location link application called Glympse, which is a most useful feature for your crew.

The pilot, once he/she activates the Hot Air application, needs to send a Glympse link to a cell phone as a text message. The application prepares the link and message text, only waiting for the pilot to hit send. Presuming the recipient crew has the app Glympse loaded, the crew receives the message. There's a dialog asking if it's to be started. Once initiated, the crew's screen can then see the balloon's position on a two dimensional map with speed information. Shari has found it very useful.

My only caution is that it uses cell data and a few places where we fly may have coverage issues. As has so often been said, your results may vary (certainly in the boonies).



AoY and CoY Recipients



Chris Whitfield was given the 2018 WAS Aeronaut of the Year Award for his tireless work on the Northwest Art and Air Festival.



Bob LeDoux received the 2018 WAS Crew of the Year Award for his dedication and positive attitude. He's always ready and willing to crew.

Send Your Teen To Balloon Camp It Will Be A Summer To Remember

Have you ever been to a balloon event and wondered how those kids got involved? Do you have a teen that is curious about the science of balloons?

High Sierra Balloon Camp, June 23 - 28, is the camp you've been looking for. Twenty teens ages 13 to 17 spend 6 days/5 nights learning all about balloons. Campers get hands on experience with balloon systems, safety, weather and participate in actual balloon operations (weather permitting) all while making friends with like-minded teens. No prior balloon experience is necessary, just a desire to learn.

For more information on registration go to:

www.bfa.net/bfa-summer-camps

Message us through Facebook for more details at <https://www.facebook.com/High-Sierra-Balloon-Camp-422346591172656/>

Don't miss the next WAS meeting!

This is your chance to check out the new building Lynx FBO has been working on for months. It's now open and waiting for us.

Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 1:00 PM

Aurora State Airport, Lynx FBO (in the new building) 14356 Keil Rd NE, Aurora, Oregon

Bob LeDoux will be talking about hot air balloon building. He and Marianne have built multiple balloons over the years. The balloon to the left is their first one, Sew Happy I. Please bring a snack to share.

Oh! Was it mentioned that the meeting is going to be held in the brand new building? It is! It's the building due west of the parking lot — in the exact spot where our meetings were once held. See you there!

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:

Floating over the Methow Valley in Winthrop, Washington offers some spectacular views.
Photo by Jim Churchill

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.