

A close-up, low-angle shot of a hot air balloon basket and the top of its envelope. The basket is made of dark, weathered wood and is partially visible at the top. The envelope is made of many colorful panels in shades of orange, yellow, green, blue, red, and purple. The balloon is floating against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The title 'AeroStats' is written in a yellow, cursive font across the top of the image.

AeroStats

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 21, Number 11**

November 2019

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It's Time To Renew Your WAS Membership

2020 Is Creeping Up On You



Your dues go to support your local ballooning community and more. In fact, our biggest expense of the year is a scholarship to the BFA Jr. Balloonist Camp.

Not only will you be able to keep in touch with what is going on with Pacific Northwest events, but also what your friends are doing throughout the year.

You will find a handy application form on page 13.

Join us!



for the November Meeting!

Sat., Nov. 14
at 1:00 PM at the
Lynx FBO,
14357 Keil Rd NE
Aurora, OR

Pease bring a snack to share.

2019 WAS Officers

President:
Shari Gale

Vice President:
Matt Webster

Secretary/Treasurer:
Dale Justice

Others:

Newsletter Editor:
Shari Gale

Activities Director:
Pasha Luber

WAS website:
<http://www.wasballoon.info>

Email: ExecComm@wasballoon.info



Willamette Aerostat Society Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Willamette Aerostat Society General Meeting

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Present:

Shari Gale, President & Newsletter Editor
Dale Justice, Secretary-Treasurer
and 12 additional members.

Absent:

Matt Webster, Vice President
Pasha Luber, Activities Director

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Shari at Aurora State Airport, Lynx FBO building, Aurora, OR.

Introductions were held. Snacks were enjoyed by the attendees.

2. Minutes of the May 11, 2019 meeting were approved as printed in the June, 2019 Aerostats newsletter. Motion passed.

3. **Treasurer's report** — from Dale, as of October 11, 2019.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 2019 Members | 68 (43 dues paid) |
| Checking | \$ 957.61 |
| Savings | 105.00 |
| Cash | 7.00 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1069.61</u> |

Special note: Jack and Carol Whitney paid their dues for 5 years. The treasury thanks them.

4. **Correspondence** – Shari – A nice letter was received from balloon school student Sarah Rain. Other items of memorabilia were received from Jeff Haliczzer, also.

5. **News** – Shari had updates on the health problems of Mandy Johnson, Scott Spencer and Edie Stoaks. A card for Edie was signed by those present.

6. **Regulatory** – There has been some movement by the FAA on the balloon pilot medical requirements proposal. The full NPRM is still not ready.

7. **Events** – Reports were given on the Boise, Alturas,

Prosser, and Reno rallies. Jack and Sallie Loflin are at the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival this year.

The 2020 Safety Seminar will be held on March 14. Brann Smith and Barb Iverson will be among the speakers. It will be held in Jefferson, OR, again. Details will be in the newsletter.

8. Old business —

1. Pay Pal process for membership sign ups using the internet/web site – Matt was not available for a report.
2. Officers/Elections for 2020 – Shari and Dale are willing to continue in their present positions. Marianne Le Doux is willing to serve as Vice President for next year. Per the Bylaws, the election will be held in December.
3. Club insurance – Dale – Re: the club and its officers' liability. A report will be made to the Executive Committee as soon as it is ready.

9. **New business** — Shari has found a replacement for the Web Master.

10. The next meeting will be Saturday, November 16, at 1:00 p.m. at the Aurora Airport Lynx FBO Building in Aurora, OR. The December meeting and Christmas Party will be held at Edie Stoaks' home on Saturday, December 14, at 1 p.m.

11. Shari adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

12. Shari and Tim Gale made an excellent presentation on their trip to the Grand Est Mondial Air Ballon rally in France.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dale Justice, Secretary
/signed/dtj/10-14-2019*

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.

Saturday, November 16, 2019

1:00 PM

General WAS meeting

Topic: See article on page 5

Location: Lynx FBO, Aurora Airport,
14357 Keil Rd NE, Aurora, Oregon

Saturday, December 14, 2019

WAS Christmas Party

Edie's home in Portland

See below, more details in the
next WAS newsletter

January 9 - 12, 2020

Havasu Balloon Festival

Lake Havasu City, AZ

<https://havasuballoonfest.com>

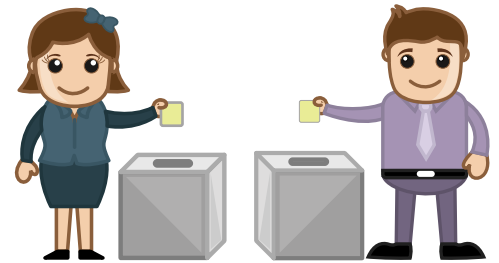


You are invited
to the annual
**WAS Christmas
Party!**

**Saturday, Dec. 14th
at 1:00 PM**

**at Edie Stoaks' Home:
2407 NE Regents Drive,
Portland, Oregon**

**There will be more details in the next newsletter.
For now make sure you have this fun event on your
calendar!**



**What do
you think?**

**Who should be the
2019 Aeronaut
of the year?**

**Who should be Crew
Member of the Year?**

It's time to make a nomination
for the 2019 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 **December 1st** via e-mail to:
Dale Justice at
ExecComm@wasballoon.info

Fascinating Meeting In Store For Us! We Will Hear From Bijeta Choudhury



Our presentation at the November meeting is being given by Bijeta Choudhury. Bijeta is from India, and she has been attending Portland State University studying for her Master's degree in Architecture. This year, she received the degree, and is now working as an assistant architect for a Portland company. Her presentation is about her ideas for structures for a launch field

for hot air balloon rallies, which she designed as part of her Master's thesis.

Bijeta approached Dale Justice at the Tigard Festival in 2018, and asked to be able to meet and talk about hot air balloons. She had some ideas about structures for launching them. She met Dale several times, and he helped her develop her concepts and ideas. In May this year, as part of her thesis presentation, Dale offered to bring his balloon to Portland State and do a cold inflation. She accepted, and they agreed on a date and chose the PSU practice field as a good place to set up the balloon. She invited her professor and the rest of her classmates to see the balloon as she did her presentation.

Dale and his crew showed up at the field, and checked the weather. It was a beautiful day, with light winds, in May. They got the basket, envelope, and the fan out of the trailer, but they had to move them all to the opposite side of the field due to the direction of the wind (they couldn't drive on the synthetic turf). Thankfully, four big, strong students were walking by, so Dale commandeered them, and they carried the equipment to the upwind side of the field for him. He tied off the basket and rigged the envelope as about 30 professors and students arrived.

Bijeta did her presentation as the crew cold inflated the envelope. The attendees were suitably impressed, as most of them had not seen a hot air balloon that closely, and did not know what was involved in the assembly. Note: Dale did not even have the burner with him, so there was no possibility of damage to the field surface. That's why they didn't stand up the balloon.

As a result, because of Bijeta's drawings, her written thesis (now a book), and the demonstration, she received her Master's degree and an award for her amazing ideas and hard work.

Flying HABits by Marianne LeDoux



2020 Safety Seminar

Plans are moving forward!

There will be a local safety seminar again this coming year. Most of the big details are set, but there will be some fine tuning going on in the next few months. For now here are the basic details:

Date: **March 14, 2020**

Place: **Greater Jefferson Community Center**, 107 N. Main Street, Jefferson, Oregon (that's the same place as last year)

Some of the speakers will be:

Brann Smith, "Tethering — Expect the Unexpected"
Barb Iverson, first vice president of Oregon Farm Bureau, on the challenges faced by local farmers today
Ron Cassidy, will discuss home-building balloons

Food!

Carrie Thacker has graciously offered to be our "personal chef" for the day. You all know what a great cook Carrie is, so no further explanation is needed.

Be sure to set the date, March 14 on your calendar.

Alturas Balloon Fest

September 13-15, 2019

Several WAS members ventured to North Central California for a small, intimate balloon rally in Alturas. Jeff Haliczzer and Karalyn Mumm drove over from the Reno area. Carmen Blakely, Cheryl and Michael Isaacs, Mary Heath, Dale Justice and Roger and Tracy Rollman drove down from the Willamette Valley.

They had two wonderful flying days. They opted not to fly on Sunday due to fast winds at low altitudes, coupled with an undesirable wind direction.

All reports indicated they had a great time!



No Free Flights during the Great Prosser Balloon Rally

But there was still plenty of action

By Shari Gale

Sometimes you have to just make the best with what Mother Nature hands to you. That's what happened during the weekend of the The Great Prosser Balloon Rally. The winds were just not favorable to free fly all weekend long.

On Friday morning just about every pilot inflated his/her balloon on the field to give the spectators a show. A few offered tethered rides. We watched as the fog literally crept along the ground as it moved over the hills to our south. It looked like something out of a sci-fi movie special effects department. All we needed was eerie music to make it more authentic.

On Saturday ten or more pilots inflated their envelopes. They gave rides to anyone who stood in line. Our first passenger was our sponsor representative and his fiancé. John is the airport manager for the Port of Benton. He is a great guy. Tim kept him up long enough to answer all his questions about hot air balloons while emphasizing the ballooning community's desire to work well with the airport personnel and other aircraft. I think both of them walked away satisfied with the encounter.

The Night Glow was blown



A lot of people come to Prosser for this event. The hotels and RV parks are booked months in advance. We could not fly, but we could give all the photographers something to focus on.

out, as well. The pilots set up their baskets on the football field and gave a burner show. It's not much, but at least it was something. The Prosser ballooning fans were savvy enough to know the weather was bad, so the turn out for the glow was small.

Even though we could not fly, that did not mean we did not have fun.

Prosser is another wine growing region. The pilots and crew members did their best to cover the entire tasting room circuit. It wasn't possible to go to each one, but a lot of good wine was consumed. Chukar Cherries produces chocolate covered cherries. Their tasting room was often full, as well.

Our new discovery in Prosser is a new restaurant in a small, old house near the fire station. It's called Jade's British Girl Treats. They specialize in truffles, but they also offer bakery goods and desserts. Best of all they opened for breakfast during the rally weekend. They offered things like potato and meat



Every year the Miss Prosser Court joins the Knight-N-Gale team on Friday morning. It's always a joy to take them up for their first flight. Sadly, this year they were only able to go for a tethered ride. All three photos by Shari Gale.

pasties and other handheld food with a British flare. We tried this restaurant our first morning in town and went back every morning after that.

A lot of pilots and crew members camp on the airport grounds during the weekend. They camped in everything from tents to travel trailers that seemed to be a block long. The fun part was the communal meals. It was pretty cold to be sitting outside eating at picnic tables, but a nearby campfire helped warm everyone up. The fresh grilled hamburgers and homemade chili added to the warmth. Best of all was the large gathering of good friends. Nothing warms you up faster than that environment.

This was not our most successful rally in Prosser, but it will not deter us. We plan to be back in 2020.

2019 Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Photos by Mital Zalavadia



Mital and his friends kindly offered to crew for Knight-N-Gale. We had plenty of crew, so we offered him one of our first tether rides. In exchange he shared the wonderful photos he took from inside our basket.

Over All Contest Winning Photo by Dianne LaBissoniere



2019 Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Photos by Cory Miller



This year we had matching balloons. Kemp Lindsey and Eric Quinn, both from Boise, brought their twin Aerostars to Prosser.



If you look closely you will see seven WAS members in this photo: Jack Loftin, Tim Gale, Kearney Davis, Alan Sanderson, Laura Hancock, Cheryl Isaacs and Koh Murai.



Cory Miller spotted a circling helicopter during the static display on Friday morning. For only \$35 Cory grabbed a ride. The pilot offered to take him all around the town, but Cory only wanted to circle the launch site and campgrounds which were both located on the airport grounds. The three photos above are the results of his adventure.



The photo to the left was taken by Yibing Wu. It was entered into the Great Prosser Balloon Rally photo contest. It was taken as new WAS member Ron Cassidy inflated his beautiful balloon, "Break Time."

Last Rally of the Season: Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

By Shari Gale

It happened again! The weather cleared up between The Great Prosser Balloon Rally and the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede only to turn “icky” again. (Icky is a meteorological term. Just ask me.) Tim and I decided to arrive in Walla Walla early enough for Wednesday’s Kid’s Day. I’m sure glad we did. We were able to get the balloon up, and we gave about 30 kids tethered rides. The kids smiled and giggled a lot. One or two had to conquer their fears to go up, but were very proud of themselves when they did. It was a very rewarding experience. We want to repeat this experience again next year if it is at all possible.

We had met a nice woman named Mary and her daughter, Abby, in Prosser. They drove from the Tri-Cities to Walla Walla for Kid’s Day. Mary took Abby out of school in order to be there. She has her priorities straight. When one of our crew members had to leave in order to go to work, Mary stepped in to help us pack up. Mary had a lot of questions and we enjoyed answering



Laurie Spencer, center, surrounded herself with kids on Kid’s Day Wednesday morning. It was hard to tell who had the most fun.



Mary and Abby Sanchez took a long tether ride with Tim Gale. Photo by Shari Gale.

them. I’m pretty sure we may have recruited a new crew member. At least I hope we did.

Thursday morning it was raining. Friday morning looked better, until you checked the winds aloft. Rain showers occurred on and off all day long. Luckily, there was a small break in the weather just in time for Night Glow. In order to make use of that break, Scott moved the glow up by 30 minutes. That created some confusion with a small (yet vocal) group of fans who arrived late. There were still a lot of people there.

For the first time the spectators were allowed right up next to the balloons before we inflated and during the glow. I had a little bit of trouble keeping one overly helpful lady from jumping into the middle of our inflation. If we had not had the stress of inflating in almost total darkness I might have encouraged her to get involved – if she had asked me first.

We actually had an abundance of crew. Most of those people have been with us for at least 20 if not 30 years. We had one 21-year-old and one 18-year-old who grew up crewing for us, so they are granted

seniority automatically.

We did have one newbie on our crew. Phil Archey brought him over and asked if he could crew for us. His name is Sunny and he’s 8 years old. He got his first balloon flight with Scott Spencer last year. His dad told me that Sunny has been talking non-stop about ballooning ever since. He was truly jazzed to be working with the balloon. I made sure he was fully engaged. He even got to wear a head lamp while we were taking the balloon down. He thought that was really cool.

By the time we took the envelope down, the rains had returned. It started as a light mist, but all too soon it turned into a downpour. Our wonderful, experienced crew did a record-breaking pack up. We were just putting the flap of the bag over the envelope when big, fat drops of rain started to come down. Before we could say good-bye to everyone we were standing in a drenching rain storm. I was so thankful we had such an amazing group of people on our crew.

We still had to wait for dry weather to dry out the envelope. Finding a spell of dry weather in Western Oregon in October can be tricky. Luckily, we found a few dry days the next week. One of our crew members, Jim Churchill, was able to come over to help. Packing away a balloon with only two people is hard. Well, actually, it is pretty hard with only three people, too. I’m just thankful the envelope is now dry and happily stored away until it is time for her annual.

Next year Mother Nature owes us good weather for both Prosser and Walla Walla. I’m going to find a way to remind her of that next fall. We will be there ready for fun and adventure.

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

October 16-20, 2019

Photos by Shari Gale



Eight-year-old Sunny enthusiastically helped crew during the Friday night glow.



Walla Walla's mayor, Jerry Cummins, sold his balloon a few years ago, but just could not stay away. He now owns the balloon in the center (photo on the left). It's good to have him back in the basket.



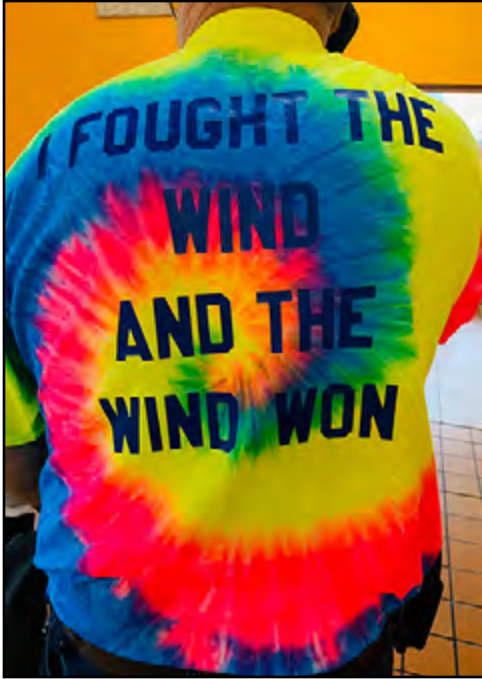
Laurie and Scott Spencer kept the rally from dying when the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce decided to no longer organize the event five years ago. Kudos to both Scott and Laurie.

The two photos on the lower right were taken by members of Laurie and Scott's team. They took the tents down Saturday as soon as they confirmed the forecast for the remainder of the weekend. It was a very cold and wet task.



Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Photos by Cory Miller



Cheri White came to Walla Walla directly from the Albuquerque Fiesta in order to fly the Touchstone Energy balloon.

Kearney Davis, top left photo, had a special T-shirt made to commemorate the 2019 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. "I fought the wind, and the wind won" said it all.

Stephanie Hughes and her mother Mary Shinn came to the Stampede to celebrate the life of Steve Shinn, Mary's husband and Stephanie's father. Kid's Day just happened to fall on the anniversary of his passing. Steve was one of the earliest balloonist in the Pacific Northwest. Stephanie set up her balloon "Spuds" (seen in the background of the center top photo). Originally, the balloon had belonged to her parents. Steve would have highly approved of their way of celebrating his life.

The night glow was a success until Mother Nature decided to spoil the fun. The important part was getting the balloons up in order to give the spectators a show.



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:

Four WAS members Greg Miller, Carmen Blakely, Cheryl Isaacs and Koh Murai were inflating at the same time during the Great Prosser Balloon Rally. 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.

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