

# AeroStats

An aerial photograph of a hot air balloon festival. The sky is filled with numerous colorful balloons of various shapes and sizes, some with text like 'GERMAN LASHING' and 'UNSERE HEIMAT'. The ground is a large green field with a paved road and many cars parked along the edge. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the balloons and the festival grounds.

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Willamette Aerostat Society

Volume 21, Number 9

September 2019

## Table of Contents

- Happenings Page 3
- AeroMusée Page 3
- Teton Valley Rally Page 4-5
- Mondial Rally Pages 6-7
- Mondial Photos Pages 8-11
- WAS application Page 12

# What?!



**You aren't  
a WAS  
member yet?**

Now is your chance.  
There's an  
application on  
page 12.  
Just fill it out and  
send it in.  
It's as easy as that.



See you at  
the next  
WAS meeting on

**October 12**

at 1:00 pm at the

Lynx FBO (new building)

14356 Keil Rd NE, Aurora, OR

There will be a presentation on the  
balloon rally in France. There will be  
lots of photos, videos and stories!

## 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>

# 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.

**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 16-20, 2019**  
**Walla Walla Balloon Stampede**  
Walla Walla, WA  
For more information:  
<https://wallawallaballoonstampede.com>

**September 13-15, 2019**  
**Alturas Balloon Fest**  
Alturas, CA  
Contact: Jeff Haliczzer

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

## A Lot To See At The AeroMusée

On our trip to Chambley, France we discovered the AeroMusée, a museum dedicated to ballooning. With a pilot badge or crew bracelet from the Mondial event you could go in for free (after you passed through the area where all the official souvenirs were for sale). They had a little bit of everything from items dating back to the early years of ballooning to examples of modern innovations. There was even a film on the history of ballooning which was entirely in French. We still understood most of what they were saying because we were familiar with the story. The museum was another nice perk the Mondial rally offered.



*This is an instrument used to gage flow characteristics of a hot air balloon burner.*



*There were many magazine covers, drawings, and lots of other memorabilia in the museum. It was a nice addition to the rally to have this on site.*



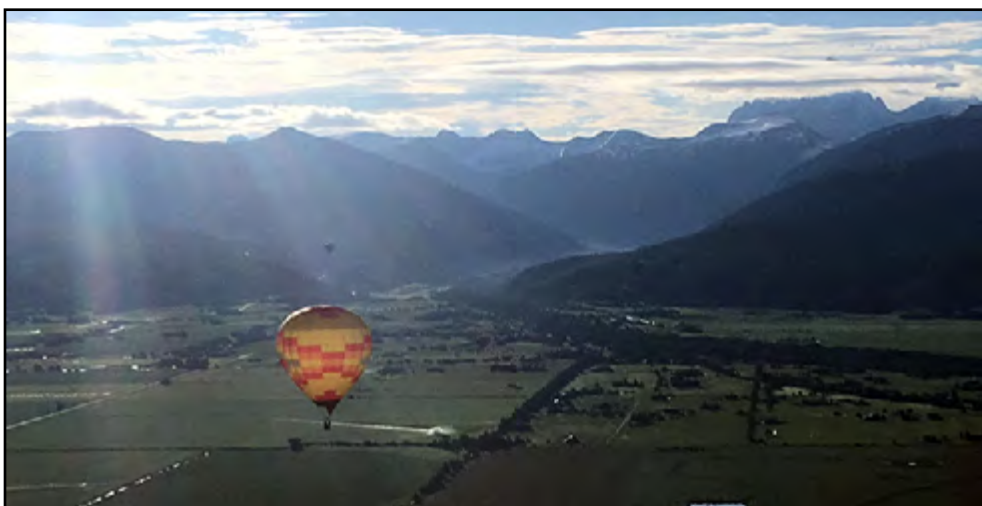
# Teton Valley Balloon Rally

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend always includes a drive to Driggs, Idaho for several WAS members. Cheryl Isaacs, Carmen Blakely, Dale Justice, Mary Heath, and Edie Stokes were there again this year. They did not let last year's total weather out discourage them.

They were rewarded with three out of four good days. There had been rain overnight and initially the winds were going in the wrong direction on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Then things turned around. Seven balloons were able to fly, one tethered and two put on a candlestick demonstration.

July 5 was strictly a day for tether rides, which always seems to make the public happy. The next two days everyone was able to get back in the air for free flights.

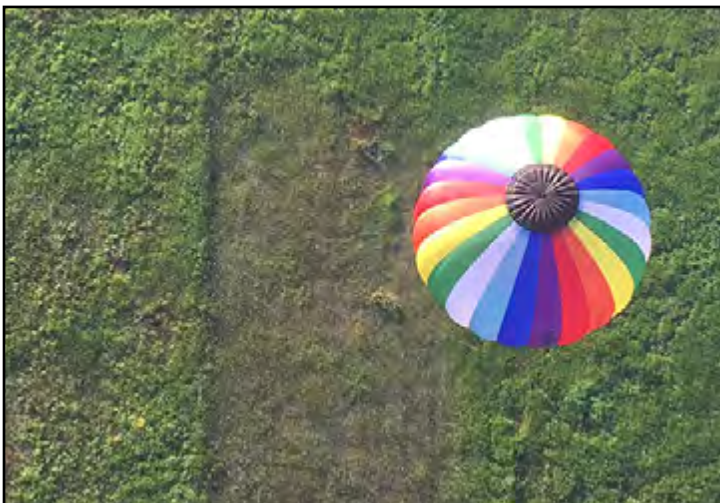
Once again, as always, good memories were created.



*All of these photos were taken by Ernie Hartt during the Teton Vally rally. As you can see, Driggs, Idaho is a dramatic place to fly.*

# Teton Valley Balloon Rally

More photos by Ernie Hartt





# 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Est Mondial Air Ballons

By Shari Gale (and yes, “ballons” is spelled correctly. That’s the way the French spell it)

The Mondial event happens only every other year. In 2017 Anders Akvist, a Swedish pilot we met when he was working in the Seattle area, went to the rally. He posted lots of photos. The more I looked at his photos, the more I wanted to go to the rally in 2019. Tim agreed, so we started to plan.

Then fate intervened. We met Fred Dinkler at the 2018 safety seminar. Later on, he attended the Tigard Festival of Balloons along with his wife Christel. They were wearing jackets from the 2017 Mondial rally. I mentioned that we wanted to go in 2019. They said they were planning to go and were taking their balloon, Carried Away. I immediately volunteered to crew.

As it worked out in the months to come, Fred and Christel added Tim on as a co-pilot. We agreed to help pay some of the costs of getting the balloon to France. Two other Texas pilots, Phil Bryant and Brian Duncan, also signed up as co-pilots. Our crew member, Jim Churchill, also volunteered to crew. Things were falling into place.

Being part of the crew was so much better than being a spectator behind the fence. We didn’t know what a bonus it was to be out on the launch field until we were

actually there in the middle of all the action.

Through Fred and Christel we ended up in a Bed and Breakfast in a tiny hamlet called Hageville. We could have walked to the launch site, except we needed our rental car for the chase.

The launch site is an old decommissioned NATO airbase. The base is still used by private aircraft, plus there’s a museum on site which is dedicated to hot air ballooning.

To describe this rally is not an easy task. There are similarities to the Albuquerque event, but the fact that the launch site is large enough so all the balloons can launch at the same time makes this event very unique. Of course, flying in Europe meant we were surrounded by hundreds of balloons we had never seen before. There were several pilots from the United States, but



*The briefings, held twice a day, were always jam packed.*



*These clouds greeted us on the first evening of the event. The weather was challenging for most of our time in Chambley. When we left the area the weather got a lot better. We seem to have that effect at every event lately.*

only Tim from our area.

The pilot briefings were held in a hangar near the entrance point to the airfield. You had to either have a pilot badge or a crew bracelet to even get into the area near the pilot briefing. The organizers had set up a restaurant just for crew and pilots. It came with table service and live music in the evenings. I thought that was rather classy!

Our first pilot briefing was memorable. It was over 104°F outside the hangar. With hundreds of bodies crammed inside, the hangar was a lot hotter. There was one crew person dressed up in a furry mascot costume. I did not envy him at all.

All briefings were held in

*Continued on page 7*

# 30th Annual Mondial

continued from page 6



*By the time this photo was taken the temperatures had cooled, but that costume still had to be horribly hot as this guy waded through all the bodies in the pilot briefing.*

French followed by an English translation. At one point, one of the organizers was up talking about landowner relations. He'd say about one paragraph and then a woman would say it in English. At the end he said, "Thank you very much." That obviously threw the interpreter. She hesitated a moment then said, "Merci, beaucoup." Everyone in the hangar burst into laughter and applause.

I had been getting weather briefings from John Saltenberger back here in the US. He has access to the European weather models. From his forecast and our observations we went into the briefing fully expecting the flight would be canceled.

Wrong! They opened the field. The weather socks on the airfield were standing out straight. The flags on nearby buildings were whipping around. You could feel a strong, hot breeze in your face. We lined up along with hundreds of other vehicles to get on the airbase. At 6:00 PM the gates to the field were opened. A major traffic jam

happened as all those chase vehicles tried to merge into only two lanes. This scenario was repeated morning and afternoon for the full 10-day festival. We had a pass to get our rental car on the airfield, so we were one of the throng. Our challenge was to find Carried Away's truck. We knew approximately what area we had been assigned, but it is a huge airfield. Luckily, we found them fairly quickly.

We stood around and just talked for over an hour or more. That's what everyone on the field was doing. Finally, one balloon started to cold inflate. Brian made the observation, "Here goes the first one. There will be a lot more popping up once he launches." Brian was right. Even though it was still windy, more and more pilots were giving it a go. We witnessed more than one "interesting" inflation. It was obvious that some pilots understand exactly what they need to do to have a successful launch in the wind. Others did not. It was the others that caught my attention.

We chose not to chase the balloons who did fly. We decided to grab a late dinner instead. We quickly found that finding time to eat was easier said than done. Luckily, there were many food options on the festival grounds. The airbase is so far from civilization there were hardly any local restaurants in the area.

Tim and I were only able to stay in France for six of the ten days. We had a potential of 10 flights during those six days, but Mother Nature was not being very nice. We experienced very high temperatures, lots of wind, and even one very rainy day. (The rain cooled the place off, so we were happy about that change in the weather!) We didn't mind the canceled flights. We wanted to explore some of the nearby cities. Metz was only 20 minutes away. Nancy was an hour away. We had more than one

memorable excursion.

During our six days, Tim was able to fly twice. Jim and I each got a ride. We feel blessed to have been given this opportunity.

There were 456 balloons launching almost simultaneously on the day I went up during the "Grand Line." It was sensory overload. Phil Bryant was the PIC on the day I flew, so I think for the first time ever Tim ended up chasing me while I played in the sky.

I, of course, will share some of the photos Tim, Jim and I took in this newsletter. The photos just do not do the experience justice. No matter what direction you looked you were surrounded by hundreds of other balloons. We have video that covers the event a little better, but even a video does not convey the "WOW Factor" like being there in person.

What an event! I could go on and on about what we did and what we saw. Come to the October meeting. I will have photos and video to share with you along with lots of stories.

Tim and I are considering going back in 2021. Will we bring our own balloon? Stay tuned. We have not made that decision yet. If we do, we will need crew!



*Tim's first flight occurred on Sunday evening. That's "Carried Away" above the balloon that is cold inflating. They flew for over an hour and had a stand up landing in a harvested field.*

# 2019 Mondial Photos

by Tim Gale



*These locals know how to watch balloons in style.*



*The organizers had spectator parking, handicapped parking, and volunteer parking areas. There was also a huge area set aside for balloonists who wanted to camp.*



*The newer hangars are in the foreground. There are tents all along the walk way. They offered all kinds of balloon related merchandise, food, helicopter rides, and even massages.*



*At just about every landing site you were guaranteed other pilots would be joining you. There were a lot of harvested fields in every direction from the airfield, which was essential since there were so many pilots looking for a place to land.*



*Can you find the ladybug, a screw driver, and a champagne bottle? There were a lot of special shape balloons, which under normal circumstances would stand out. However, with so many other balloons filling up the sky it was sometimes hard to find them.*



# 2019 Mondial Photos

by Jim Churchill

Jim Churchill joined us for our entire stay in France. He was able to fly on Sunday evening along with Tim and Phil Bryant.

Jim had quite the vacation. After the Mondial rally Jim attended a rally in Bristol, England. Unfortunately, it was a total weather out.



*Shari Gale, Phil Bryant and Linda Bryant prepare for lift off on Monday's Grand Line flight.*



# 2019 Mondial Photos

by Jerome Vatonne (our host)



Our French host family were absolutely wonderful. The photo on the left above, shows the back of their home in Hageville. The photo in the middle above, shows balloons in the field behind their home. One of our most memorable moments happened after we left the rally early one evening. We headed back to our place only to find our hosts out on their deck watching the balloons floating (zooming?) by overhead. Our hosts offered us champagne as we watched the show. That was a very nice way to end our day.

Chasing the balloons was challenging. The road featured in the photo above was not unusually narrow. There is room on the shoulder of the road to move over, but when you put more than 400 chase vehicles and spectator cars on the road. It gets challenging!



Look closely. You will see a helicopter flying at about equator level before the launch on the day of the Grand Line. The organizers used the helicopters to count the number of balloons inflated that morning. The balloons stayed in place until a signal told them they could lift off.

# 2019 Mondial Photos

by Shari Gale



*This was taken at the end of Carried Away's first flight in France. Left to right, Brian Duncan, Phil Bryant, Tim Gale, Jim Churchill and Fred Dinkler.*



*Lift off during the Grand Line flight on Monday during the Grand Est Mondial Air Ballons. In the photo on the right please note the line of chase vehicles exiting the airfield. The event had excellent traffic control near the launch field.*



*Fog popped up on Monday morning, but thankfully did not last for long.*



*Several area farmers wrote messages in their crops. One pilot told us he landed in this field. He said it was obvious the farmer was balloon friendly. (The message? It says Happy Anniversary.)*



*There are several lakes east of the launch area. The fog persisted in that area, but it was clear everywhere else. Great shadows were created. So which shadow belongs to which balloon?*



*This photo was taken from a moving chase truck so the quality isn't so good, but it was too funny to ignore. It proves even French cows are balloon friendly.*

*Please note: It was extremely hard to pick which photos to use in the newsletter. Tim, Jim, Jerome and I all took many amazing photos because the subject matter was so amazing!*

# 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:

WAS members Tim and Shari Gale, and Jim Churchill participated in the Grand Est Mondial Air Ballons event in Chambley, France. The cover photo was taken by Shari Gale during the "Grand Line" flight on July 29, 2019.

## Waiver

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**We ask that you credit WAS, AeroStats and the author in any reuse of newsletter material.**

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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.**