

Flying Season Will Soon Be Here!

Celebrate the coming of spring by attending the March WAS meeting.

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016

Time: 11:00 AM

Place: Aurora Jet Center

It's a potluck lunch, so please bring a dish to share with everyone else. The meeting will be organized by Greg Miller. For a little tease on what he has planned, check out the article he wrote on page 9.



Michael Shrum 3/4 **Gerald Bales** 3/5 **Justin Luber** 3/6 **Garry Hastie** 3/10 Tim Gale 3/12 3/12 Mary Heath **Jeannine O'Brien** 3/13 Kelley Haverkate 3/15 Jack Whitney 3/31

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Willamette Aerostat Society General Meeting Sunday, January 17, 2016

Present: Michelle Gouldsmith, President Shari Gale, Newsletter Editor

Absent: Justin Luber, Vice President, Dale Justice, Secretary-

Treasurer and Pasha Luber, Activities Director

Attendance: 16 other members, and 2 new members

- 1. Call to order at 1:05 p.m. by Michelle Gouldsmith at Aurora Jet Center meeting room at the Aurora State Airport.
- 2. Minutes of the January 17, 2016 meeting were moved by Robert LeDoux and seconded by Tim Gale to be approved as printed in the February, 2016 newsletter. Motion passed.
- 3. Treasurer's report -- Dale, as of February 19, 2016

 2016 Members
 56

 Checking
 \$1241.72

 Savings
 105.00

 Cash
 7.00

 Total
 \$1353.72

4. Events — Michelle briefly reported on the Lovelock, NV rally. They were winded out on Sunday, while all other flights were successful. WAS member Kearney Davis received his commercial certificate that weekend.

Tim Gale mentioned a Wings Training will be held in Aurora on April 9th starting at 7:30 a.m. At the end of the program a hyperbaric chamber will be used so individuals can test their own responses during low oxygen conditions.

Shari Gale reported the Iverson family has once again invited us to fly from their farm during the Tulip Festival. Also, she and Tim met with the Antique Powerland Museum Association in Brooks, Oregon regarding a possible balloon rally this season. Their contact, Pam Vorachek, will get back to them once she finds out if sponsors will step forward. The timeline was set for invitations to go out in March.

5. New Business — Shari Gale presented a proposal to hire Chris Whitfield to help improve the WAS website. Chris had said it would be way too expensive to rebuild the site from the ground up, but he could make some minor improvements to the existing site. He proposed a cost of \$100 for his time. He would then donate more time. Laura Hancock moved the club hire Chris for this job; Edie Stoaks seconded it. The motion

passed unanimously. \$100 will be paid upon completion of the improvements.

6. Future Meetings – The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 11:00 a.m. at the Aurora Jet Center. Greg Miller is in charge of this meeting. It will be a potluck. Cheryl Isaacs mentioned she would not be available that day. She asked that we stack the chairs in the kitchen area, against the east wall, and do general clean up.

The April meeting is set for Sunday, April 17, at Noon at the Aurora Jet Center. The May meeting is set for Sunday, May 22, at 11:00 at the Jet Center.

- 7. A presentation by John Saltenberger, a meteorologist for the Forest Service, was well received. John is a fixed wing pilot and has sailplane experience. He did on-field forecasting for 17 years, but now primarily spends his time training firefighters on how to look for subtle changes in the weather, and accident investigations. He also teaches a class on weather at Clackamas Community College. The bulk of his talk revolved around atmospheric stability and ways to spot unsafe conditions. Temperature lapse rate is a key to predicting stability. John highly recommended the MM5 weather forecasting website. He said it was the best tool for local meteorology. There was a lot of give and take between John and the audience. John offered to send Shari information on weather textbooks so they can be included in the newsletter.
- 8. Three door prizes were awarded. Jerry Gobet, Edie Stoaks, and Koh Murai were the winners.
- 9. Moved by Tammy Moore and seconded by Koh Murai to adjourn. Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Shari Gale for Dale Justice, Secretary-Treasurer

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 4-6, 2016 Winthrop Balloon Roundup

Winthrop, WA

http://www.winthropwashington.com/event/winthrop-balloon-festival/

March 12, 2016, 11:00 AM General WAS Meeting

Aurora Jet Center

March 19, 2016 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar

Talent, OR

There's a waiting list. Sign up right away to get your name on it. Contact: Terri Schofield 530-598-5667

Tmschofield814@outlook.com

April 17, 2016, Noon General WAS Meeting

Aurora Jet Center

May 22, 2016, 11:00 AM General WAS Meeting

Aurora Jet Center

June 24-26, 2016 Tigard Festival of Balloons

Tigard, OR Cindy Padilla, 503-612-8213 http://www.tigardballoon. org/#about

July 1-3, 2016 3rd Annual Freedom Aloft Balloon Rally

Prineville, OR Contact: Greg Miller 503-510-7835

July 1-3, 2016 Teton Valley Balloon Rally

Driggs, ID Margaret Rose Breffeilh margaret@tetonvalleyballoonrally.com

July 22-24, 2016 Balloons Over Bend

Bend, OR

http://balloonsoverbend.com

August 20-21, 2016 Loose Goose Balloon Rally

McMinnville, OR Contact: Laura Hancock dayshancock@aol.com

August 26-28, 2016 Northwest Art & Air Festival

Albany, OR http://nwartandair.org

August 30 - September 4, 2016 Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic

Boise, ID For more information http://spiritofboise.com This is a "By Invitation Only" rally

September 2-5, 2016 The Alvod Playa Rally & Campout

Contact: Cheryl Isaacs 971-226-7239 mc.isaacs@frontier.com

September 9-11, 2016 The Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, NV For more information: http://www.renoballoon.com

September 9-11, 2016 Quincy Valley Balloon Festival

Quincy, WA

Contact: Kent/Kim Bacon http://www.partiesonthegreen.

com

September 16-18, 2016 Alturas Balloon Fest

Alturas, CA Contact: Alturas Chamber of Comm. 530-233-4434

September 23-25, 2016 The Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Prosser, WA For more information:

http://www.prosserballoonrally.org

Montague Balloon Fair September 23-25, 2016

Montague, CA Check out their Facebook page for more information

October 1-9, 2016 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Albuquerque, NM For more information: http://www.balloonfiesta.com

October 12-16, 2016 Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Walla Walla, WA
For more information:
http://www.
wallawallaballoonstampede.com



Tulip Flights Are In Our Future! Hopefully

By Shari Gale

Are you ready for spring? I know I am!
Are you ready for a flight over Oregon's tulip fields?
I certain am!

All we need is for Mother Nature to cooperate, because the Iverson family, who own and operate the Wooden Shoe Bulb Company, have once again invited us to launch from their fields during the tulip festival. The dates of the festival are **March 18**th **through May 1**st. Please note: The festival has been moved up by one week due to the warm weather.

There are two large grass seed fields planted near the tulip fields this year. We are welcome to use either one. Just do not drive on to the field unless absolutely necessary. Remember, if the ground is wet you might get your vehicle stuck. I vividly remember when years ago one balloonist drove out on the grass only to bury his truck up to the axles. The Iverson's brought out a tractor to pull him out. The tractor got stuck! Eventually, they had to bring out one of the biggest, "baddest" tractors I had ever seen to get the first tractor out, and then get the balloon chase vehicle out. Just please, stay off the grass. After all the grass is a crop. It will be producing grass seed by the end of the summer. We do not want to damage it.

Be a welcome guest:

- Drive slowly on the farm roads. There's foot traffic everywhere especially when we are returning to the launch field. Be courteous.
- If the ground is damp do not drive on the launch field. Leaving ruts or crushing the young grass is not appreciated. (Yes, I said it before, because this is important.)
- Serving alcohol is discouraged. If you include alcohol in your post flight ceremony, please be discrete. Avoid calling attention to your tailgate party.
- Carry out all your trash. The trash barrels provided by the farm are for their customers, not for us.

Remember, this is a non-sponsored event. Fly when you want each day of the festival.

The Iverson's are always very generous to the ballooning community. If you see a family member or one of their employees, take a moment to say thank you. Be a gracious guest.

WAS is not a sponsor of these flights in any way, directly or implied. We are simply posting this information as a courtesy to our members.



There's been a lot of press given to Burns, Oregon lately. Every time I saw video of the area on the news programs I thought of the warmth and camaraderie of the people we met who call Harney County home. I, also, thought of the balloon rallies Burns hosted between 1985 and 1988 (or maybe longer). I decided to go on a search to see if I could find an article I had written in the 45th Flyer – the newsletter for the now defunct 45th Parallel Aerostat Squadron. I actually found three covering the years 1986, 1987 and 1988. I also tracked down some old photos. Reading the articles was so much fun I decided to share a compilation of the articles with all of you. Here's a glimpse of ballooning in the '80's.

High Times in the High Desert

By Shari Gale

1986

What has wings and prefers to fly much too close to hot air balloons in Burns, Oregon? Mosquitoes! *Big* mosquitos!

Seventeen balloons flew on both Saturday and Sunday from the Burns High School track infield. Much of the area surrounding the town is nice, dry and "friendly." There is only one direction out of town that has a moisture problem. So of course, the wind carried us over the swamplands both days. Everyone, with the exception of Doc Thorne, managed to find a dry landing site. But Doc was in hot pursuit of the "Worst Recovery" trophy. He won it hands down, after landing in a swampy area (near a road), disassembling his basket, walking it out through the swamp, over a tall barbed wire fence, and finally over a ditch filled with "living" water.

Needless to say, he did not repeat that performance on Sunday. He landed in the fairgrounds, far, far away from the swamps.

1987

The High Desert Balloon Rally held in Burns, Oregon the last weekend of June was as much fun as ever — and that is saying a lot! The people of Burns really go all out to make our stay a memorable one; from the excellent dinners down to the homemade cinnamon rolls each morning in the hospitality room at the motel. (One of the balloon rally committee members got up every morning at 3:00 AM to make coffee and bring out the goodies for all of us!)...

By Saturday every one of the 23 participants was in town for the first official day of the rally. The winds took us back over the swamps on the outskirts of town again this year. The back country two lane roads were subjected to their very first traffic jam. Every resident in Burns, plus most of their out of town relatives, were there watching the balloons drift on by...

The name of the High Desert Balloon Rally should be changed to

the Burns Mosquito Fry. They breed mosquitos in that area as big as the cattle. Several pilots got their kicks when "a big herd" of the mosquitos flew up into their envelopes. The pilots would zap them with the burners.

Continued on page 7



The date this photo was taken could not easily be determined. My best guess is 1986 or 1987. Sadly, I could only name six or seven of the balloon owners. I could name even fewer of the balloons themselves.

A Look Back

Continued from page 6

1988

It has been determined that it is possible to drive hundreds of miles to get to a balloon rally, be weathered out three out of three flights, and still have the best weekend in recent memory...

Friday night the balloonists were treated to a barbecue put on by the local Cattlewomen's Association. (Now those were good steaks!)

Saturday after the flight was cancelled, the balloonists all went back to the motel to change into their costumes for the Bed Races... The challenge of the bed races was for the pilot to rush up, grab a toy balloon, pop it and then jump into a bed on rollers. Their crew would then push them down the street as fast as they could go... John Cressaty, Minden, Nevada, took the second place costume prize. Actually, John was out-classed by his crew of local teenage boys who dressed in their mother's teddies while wearing baseball caps. Any teenage boy who gets up in front of all his friends and relatives in a small town like Burns dressed like that deserves to take home a trophy.

[Just think, if those boys were 16 in 1988, they are now 44. Did they ever live this event down? Have their children seen those photos?]

Back to 1986:

As in the past the social climate of Burns was perfect. Everyone in the town greeted the balloonists with enthusiasm and warmth. Everything from the hand painted signs on the store windows, to the great food at the brunch and barbeque, to the parade, to the congenial atmosphere in town cannot be topped.

Our thanks also go to rally organizers, Marty and Charlie Sundquist. You did it again!















Top left photo: That's Spencer Etzel flying "Morning Sickness." I'm not sure if that lumber mill is even in business now. It's doubtful. Top right photo: Kemp Lindsey in "Aisia" is on the left with Harry Wilcox in "Lord's Magic" in the background. The top Bed Race photo on the left is John Cressaty along with his crew of local teenagers. Below that photo is Kemp Lindsey diving into his "bed." Please note, it is Georgia in the bathrobe pushing from the back right side of the bed. The bottom left photo is of Doug Carter and his crew. The late Charlie Sundquist, rally organizer, (middle photo on the right) gave commentary during the parade. Last, but far from least, is Gary Williams dressed as a baby. He had a champagne bottle fitted with a calf nipple as his "baby bottle." Gary reported later that he consumed much more champagne than he had expected, since the calf nipple was an extremely effective liquid delivery device. He said he'd never do that again.

Winthrop Balloon Festival, March 4th - 6th Snow + Balloons + Mountain Flying + Good Friends = Fun!

Are you tired of just reminiscing about past balloon flights? Do you want to spend a weekend hanging out with your ballooning family? Then the place to be is the 19th Annual Winthrop Balloon Festival in Winthrop, Washington on Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 6.

Winthrop is located in the beautiful Methow Valley in the Northern Cascade Mountain Range. The valley is about 60 miles long with the Methow River running right through the middle. The town of Winthrop looks like an old western town complete with wooden sidewalks. The town itself is a photographer's dream. Then you add hot air balloons flying with the snow-covered mountains in the background and you have near perfection.

The balloons launch from a large lot behind the Winthrop Inn, which is at the south end of town. There will be a small nightglow in the downtown area on Saturday night.

Quite a few balloonists from Oregon are planning on attending this year. Yes, it's a long drive, but they keep going back year after year. There's just something about this event that generates loyalty. Once you go, you will want to repeat the experience over and over.

For more information go to: http://winthropwashington.com/ event/winthrop-balloon-festival

P.S. That's Cheryl and Michael Isaac's balloon, *La Brisa Del Mar*, on the cover of the website.

The photos to the right were all taken by Dale Justice back in 2011. It was a great year for weather, plus there was lots of snow on the ground. That is the expectaion for the Winthrop event this year.









New Event Coming Soon

By Greg Miller

This is a story about networking. Over a period of four consecutive days this month, I was able to network with others, and was a participant in four different modes of aviation transportation. They all came together because of one network: my network of ballooning friends and contacts.

In our day-to-day lives we network with people each and every day. We have the networks via the Internet, our jobs, traffic cams, associations, marketing, email, balloon pilots, events, church, family, and the list goes on and on as far as one can think.

On Monday morning two weeks ago, thanks to my network of ballooning friends, Jeanne Anson texted me and asked what I was doing? She has another ballooning friend, Jeff Brenhaug, who is a pilot and has a repair station owner/operator in Minnesota. He also is a DE for not only balloons, but also for helicopters. He was in Prineville at the airport, with his giant Sky Crane helicopter, doing training and giving pilots bi-annual flight reviews. A quick phone call, and I found myself at the airport with Jeff, next to probably the largest helicopter (check out the photo) I have seen. Jeff gave me



the 20-minute tour of the Sky Crane, used for setting power transmission lines and wind towers. The next time he is in town he offered to take me for a flight, and I can hardly wait.

The next morning activity was a result of my network of Chamber of

Commerce friends. I found myself back up at the Prineville Airport as part of a private tour at Samson Motors. They are making a flying car in the hangar at the airport. The car is called Switchblade, because the wings swing out like a switchblade knife, the tail pops up, and you can go from driving down the road, to within minutes convert the car to an airplane (see photo concept below).



This flying car is a two passenger, and has a flying speed of 185 miles an hour, with a range of about 400 miles. Watching the 15-minute video about this concept car/plane was fascinating, and I think I really need one. Apparently it is a big hit as they have presold 45 Switchblades already, with the first one projected to come out of production July 2017.

The next day I found myself at the Redmond airport ready to board an Alaskan Airlines plane, bound for Seattle, for a business dinner meeting. This was set up again through my network of ballooning friends. This was day three, and the third type of aviation I had been part of in three days.

The next morning (a continuation of day three) I was back out at Sea-Tac airport for my return flight, and I was quite happy to see our plane was the Oregon State University Plane (see photo), for a



short one-hour flight back to Redmond. We flew directly over the top of Mount St Helens. The mountain was totally covered with snow, the sky was blue as can be and not a cloud in the sky. I had never seen Mt St. Helens from this vantage point before. I only wish that I were able to get a picture. It was absolutely beautiful.

On the morning of day four, I received a phone call from one of my network of balloon event promoter friends. We talked about ballooning events in the Northwest, and what weekends looked good for a new event. It's a "new to them" event they want to turn into an annual community event. So at our next monthly meeting of the network of WAS members and guests, we are bringing a presentation about an exciting local event that we are putting together for this fall. I am pretty sure all the local pilots in the Willamette Valley will want to participate in the fall event. Be sure to come to the meeting Saturday, March 12th at 11 am for more details.

It is very interesting how through networking, so many things take place, which lead to other networking opportunities, which lead to things that you hadn't imagined before but come together for the better of those involved.

See you on the 12th of March, at the Aurora Jet Center at 11 am.

Congratulations to WAS member Kearney Davis. He earned his commercial certificate in February at the Lovelock, Nevada event.

Way to go, Kearney!

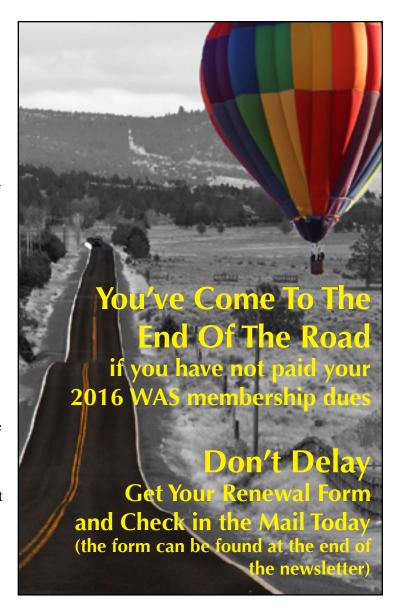
Student Pilot License Changes

The FAA recently made a rule change regarding student pilot licenses. The rule requires student pilots to apply for their license in person at a Flight Standards District Office, or with a designated pilot examiner, airman certification representative associated with a pilot school, or a certified flight instructor. An Aviation Medical Examiner will no longer be able to issue a combination medical certificate and student pilot certificate.

While this change only has no real impact on the ballooning community since a medical certificate is not required for LTA operations, the fact that the student license now has *no expiration date* is significant. In the past the student license was only good for two years.

According to Stephen Blucher who lives in Colorado, the Denver FSDO interprets the change to mean, student pilots with paper certificates may use them only until the expiration date on the certificate. After that, the student must have one of the new permanent plastic certificates. The FAA representative suggests students with paper certificates keep them as they may have endorsements on the back. Further, he suggested taping the paper certificate in a log book. He also strongly suggested students holding paper certificates do not wait until the last moment to apply for the new ones, since it takes awhile to get them out of Oklahoma City. Students must have an up-to-date certificate to solo.

To read the ruling via the FAA website, go to: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/01/12/2016-00199/student-pilot-application-requirements



Interested in Weather? Here Are Some Great Resource Publications

Forest Service Meteorologist, John Saltenberger, spoke at the February WAS meeting. He promised to pass on some good resource textbook suggestions. The first one is a government publication called *Fire Weather Handbook*. It can be downloaded for free at site listed below. The opposite end of the spectrum, cost wise is the book *Mountain Meteorology: Fundamentals and Applications* by C. David Whiteman. The cost from Amazon was \$137.83, but if you have Amazon Prime the shipping is free! (They have some less expensive options, too.) The last suggestion is *Weather Extremes of the West* by Tye W. Parzybok. Amazon has it listed as only 40¢ for a used copy, although the standard used price was \$8.95. A new version costs about \$45.68. The book received a 5-star rating from six different customers.

Fire Weather Handbook

http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/intelligence/Fire Weather Agriculture Handbook 360.pdf

Mountain Meteorology: Fundamentals and Applications

 $\underline{http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0195132718?ref\%5F=sr\%5F1\%5F1\&qid=1456165125\&sr=8-1\&keywords=c\%20david\%20whiteman\&pldnSite=1}$

Weather Extremes of the West

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0878424733?ref%5F=sr%5F1%5F1&qid=1456165080&sr=8-1&keywords=parzybok%20tye&pld

Name: _____ 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: ______ Birthday: Month _____ Day ___ JB \(\sigma\) Yes \(\sigma\) No Name:______Birthday: Month _____ Day ___ JB 🗖 Yes 🗖 No Name: ______ Birthday: Month _____ Day ___ JB \(\sigma\) Yes \(\sigma\) No Name:______Birthday: Month ______ Day ____ JB 🖵 Yes 🖵 No Name: ______ Birthday: Month _____ Day ___ JB \(\sigma\) Yes \(\sigma\) No Membership Type ☐ Charter (includes family) (\$15) ☐ Individual (\$15) ☐ Family (\$20) ☐ Junior Balloonist (\$15 per JB) We will forward new Junior Balloonists to the BFA Office. Be sure to include JB's name above. Membership The Willamette Aerostat Society publishes an annual membership directory, acknowledges member's birthdays in the club newsletter, and communicates via e-mail and the website. We recognize and respect our member's privacy. If you do not wish personal information about you published, please indicate below. Information published on our website is public domain and subject to retrieval via Internet connection. Unless otherwise idicated below, it is assumed it is OK to publish this data in our annual directory: ☐ *Do Not* publish name ☐ *Do Not* publish address ☐ *Do Not* publish phone number Please use a 2nd page if you have family members with additional information such as cell ☐ *Do Not* publish cell phone number phone # and/or BFA #'s. ☐ *Do Not* publish e-mail

2016 WAS Membership Application

Mail completed form with fees to:

Willamette Aerostat Society c/o Dale Justice 2902 E. 2nd St. Unit 76 Newberg, OR 97132

☐ *Do Not* publish birthday

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

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:

There hasn't been much of a chance to fly in Western Oregon lately, so I created what I wanted to see. This is a Photoshop job! *Your cheating editor, Shari Gale.*

Waiver

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 without the express
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 from the
Willamette Aerostat Society.

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
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of an event.
Nor does it imply agreement with
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