

# AeroStats

A photograph of two hot air balloons floating over a calm lake. The balloon in the foreground is larger and features a vibrant rainbow pattern of red, orange, yellow, and green. The second balloon, positioned higher and slightly behind, has a multi-colored checkered pattern. The scene is set against a backdrop of dense green trees and a clear sky, with the balloons and the lake's surface reflecting the scene.

**August 2024**

**The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Willamette Aerostat Society**

**Volume 26, Number 8**



# It's Officially Summer!

Stay in touch with your local  
ballooning community!

Join WAS right away  
so you don't miss a thing!

It's easy to join, just go to:

<https://wasballoon.org/membership/>

Or send a check to the club treasurer  
An application can be found on page 10.

## Table of Contents

- Happenings Page 3
- Monica's Experience Page 4
- Rigging Photos Page 5
- Sonoma Rally Page 6-7
- Tank Connections Page 8
- BFA Awards Page 8
- Valley Flying Photos Page 9
- WAS Application Page 10

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# 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.

**August 10, 2024**

**Valley View Fun Fly,**  
McMinnville, Oregon  
Contact: Chris Whitfield  
[cdwhitfield73@gmail.com](mailto:cdwhitfield73@gmail.com)

**August 17, 2024, 2:00 PM**

**WAS Summer BBQ**  
Loflin's Home, Albany, Oregon  
**Please RSVP by August 9**  
[prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org)

**August 23-25, 2024**

**Northwest Art & Air Festival**  
Albany, Oregon  
<https://www.albanyoregon.gov/nwaaf>

**August 28-September 1, 2024**

**Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic**  
Boise, Idaho  
by invitation only  
Contact: Laurie Spencer  
[laurie@scottspencer.net](mailto:laurie@scottspencer.net)

**August 31, 2024**

**2024 BFA Youth Camp**  
Boise, Idaho

**September 6-8, 2024**

**Great Reno Balloon Race**  
Reno, Nevada  
Information: <https://renoballoon.com>

**September 19-22, 2024**

**Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival**  
Elko, Nevada

**September 27-29, 2024**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Prosser Balloon Rally**  
Prosser, Washington  
<http://www.prosserballoonrally.org>

**October 5-13, 2024**

**Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta**  
Albuquerque, NM  
<https://balloonfiesta.com>

## WAS Summer Barbecue! Join Us!

**R.S.V.P. by Friday, August 9th**

[prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org)

**Saturday, August 17**

**2:00 PM**

**Loflin's Home outside  
of Albany**

Sallie will be sending out an email to all members before the event to give you details, and suggesting what you can bring.



# The Olympics Offered Once In A Lifetime Experience for Monica

by Shari Gale



sky over Paris. For the first time in the history of the Games, the Olympic Flame will glow without fuel. Instead the glow is being produced by 40 LED spotlights and a fog generating machine. It gives the impression of a flame.

The next morning Monica went over to the park to see the balloon close up. The tickets were free, but went quickly online. She was able to get right up to the edge of the platform. Being a balloonist she took photos of the rigging.

Monica took the time to talk to me while she was eating dinner with a friend at the New Zealand Olympic House. It was packed with Australian fans, also. When one of their swimmers won a gold medal, our conversation had to be suspended due to the deafening cheering. (There was no way I would ever complain about that.) I greatly appreciate the fact that Monica took time out from her once-in-a-lifetime vacation to talk to me and to share her photos.

WAS Member Monica Cretu, Redland, WA, was recently in Paris for opening ceremonies for the 2024 Olympics. Ultimately, she is heading to Romania to visit her father, but took full advantage of a layover in Paris.

The organizers of the games wanted to highlight things which are uniquely French. As we all know, France is the birthplace of manned flight in hot air and gas balloons.

The details of how the Olympic flame was to be handled was a tightly kept secret, so of course the fact that balloons took center stage during the Opening Ceremonies came as a total surprise to Monica. It made a special event even better watching the Olympic flame being carried aloft in a balloon.

In actuality, the flame is being kept in an elaborate lantern nearby. Each night from 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM the balloon will rise up in the



Doug Gant shared these fun facts about the Olympic balloon on Facebook:

- The gas balloon is 30-meters high(100') with a 7-meters in diameter(23') ring of fire.
- Every day during the Games, 10,000 people will be able to get up close to the Cauldron on the ground, from 11am to 7pm.
- Tethered, it will fly more than 60 meters (197') above the ground, from sunset until 2AM every night.
- With a combination of mist and beams of light, the Olympic Flame will flicker with electricity as its sole source of energy.
- The ring of fire, almost 7 meters (23') in diameter, incorporates 40 LED spotlights to illuminate the cloud created by 200 high-pressure misting nozzles.



# Olympic Balloon Rigging Photos

by Monica Cretu



*The mooring lines you can see above lead down to winches. There are eight in total.*



# Sonoma County Hot Air Balloon Classic

By Shari Gale

Thirty years or more have passed since Tim and I flew in California's Sonoma Valley. Back then the rally was organized by the Sierra Sunrise group out of Nevada. (They organized rallies in California and Nevada for a number of years.) We flew out of Windsor, which has a fair number of vineyards, but still a lot of open land.

Now the rally is held in Santa Rosa, California. The launch area is located at the fairgrounds in a nice, large lawn. There were about 20 balloons participating this year.

Tim grew up in the Bay Area and we still have a lot of cousins living in that area. Several of them agreed to crew for us. Spending time with them was the highlight of our weekend. However, they did not want to stay in Santa Rosa. They decided to drive 1.5 hours each morning, arriving at about 5:45 AM. I thought they were crazy, but no one asked me!

We needed one extra person that first morning. Luckily, a guy walked up to us and asked if we needed crew. I jumped at the opportunity to fill out the ranks. His name is Art Carson, and it turned out that he had owned a Piccard balloon back in the early days of ballooning. It was fun talking to him about his experiences vs the technology that is available today. I was talking about our parachute top to one of the cousins, when Art interrupted me. He asked, "What is it called?" I repeated the name. He simply said, "Wish we'd had one of those in my day." What really blew him away was our Digitool instrument pack. First there was the display panel, and all the things the Digitool can do, including flight tracking. Then I showed him the sensor package up at the top of the envelope. He could not believe it was wireless. He just walked away,



*Each morning started out with a Glow Show starting at 5:00. Breakfast was served at 4:00.*

shaking his head. I could practically see a thought bubble over his head that said, "What will they think of next?"

Friday, the pilot briefing was set for 6:00 AM. The weather was a little uncertain. A few pilots decided to launch, but Tim decided just to tether on the field. We took up our passenger, and all our crew. No spectators approached us. We would have given them rides if we'd been asked.

The Pilot Check-in Dinner Saturday evening was the very best we've ever had in 44 years of ballooning. They actually served us lobster tails. The rest of the dinner was remarkable as well.

Saturday, the same chef offered breakfast — at 4:00 AM. There was a Glow Show scheduled for 5:00. Quite a few pilots voluntarily participated, but we did not. There was no way I was going to ask the cousins to get up early enough to be there by 4:30 after an hour and a half drive. I can be somewhat compassionate.

The pilot briefing was at 6:00. The weather was not conducive to free flight. The winds were going the wrong direction. Instead,

the organizers asked us to do a static display. There were a lot of spectators who had paid to get into the fairgrounds, so this was a good choice.

Our launch site was on the far east side of the launch area. We were next to trees and a fence with razor wire on the top. All went well for about 20 minutes, then a sudden, strong gust of wind hit our balloon. There were four adults in the basket and I was hanging on the outside of the basket. The wind kicked the basket off 90° and tipped it over. Tim's cousin, Rebecca, who has only crewed for us a few times, was on the crown line. She's not very big, but she is strong. She was not strong enough. She was smart enough to instantly know it. She started yelling, "I need help!"



*The fence that tried to "eat" Knight-N-Gale Saturday morning.*

Several spectators, along with pilot, Jim Campbell and some of his crew jumped in to help her, and of course, we had the basket tied off. Those two things saved our envelope from touching that razor wire topped fence! When the crisis was over, I looked back at our crown line. There were at least six spectators still holding on for all they were worth even though the envelope was fully deflated by then. We made sure to profusely thank them.

Sunday, the schedule was the same. Breakfast at 4:00 AM, followed by a Glow Show. The weather was the same, too — only this time the ceiling was so low we occasionally could not see the top of the hills

*Continued on page 7*

# Sonoma Classic

continued from page 6



*In 44 years of attending balloon rallies this is the first time we've ever received a tick removal kit. Of course, we don't usually fly in areas battling ticks. It was a very thoughtful gift.*

to the east. Once again, we set up for a static display. We moved further into the middle of the launch field. We crowded right up next to Dana Thorton. He had done the Glow Show and was

packing up his envelope for the trip home. I, of course, did double check with him before we commandeered his launch spot. This time we were well away from that dreaded fence. So naturally, the winds remained light all morning.

The organizers opened the launch field to spectators so they could come right up to the balloon. We handed out a lot of trading cards, took a lot of photos for people, and answered a lot of questions. It was fun for everyone, including me. I love the interaction with spectators.

Instead of powering our way home Sunday afternoon. We decided to drive up Highway 101, and spend the night in Gold Beach, Oregon. Then we took Highway 38 east along the Umpqua River before coming out on I-5 at Cottage Grove. We'd never been on Highway 38 before. It is absolutely beautiful. I'd recommend that drive to everyone — besides, then you can boast that you've been to Drain, Oregon. (I've already been to the Oregon towns Boring, Mist, and Riddle.)



*We proudly flew our WAS banner.*



*From looking at the flag and the flame you can see how windy it was on Sunday.*



*A crew consisting almost exclusively of fun loving relatives can't be beat. Their presence made the weekend great.*



**It is time to RSVP for the WAS BBQ** (see page 3)  
[prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org)



# LPG tank connections, the various flavors

by Tim Gale

Not all stations dispensing LPG (yup, that's propane, mostly) have all the adapters you hope for. I did check and find that most newer dispensing nozzles use QCC-1



(1-1/4" Acme), the style most often seen on forklift tanks. Some stations have a 1-3/4" Acme female connector, often used for larger tanks. Fewer still have dispensing nozzles for POL, (Prest-O-Lite, an old standard).

Our balloon systems use a variety of nozzle standards: POL, CGA 555, 1-1/4" Acme (7141) and TEMA (European). Most of these are adapted in our manifolds and the most common fueling port is POL. When we drive up and go to connect, the vendor will likely be ready with a POL adapter attached to

the dispensing nozzle.

Then sometimes not, as happened recently at a new fill station. All they had available was a 1-1/4" acme and adapter for a 1-3/4" Acme. Many new small cylinders are being fitted with the QCC-1 that fits 1-1/4" Acme. Our POL standard appears to be fading a bit.

As a precaution, consider carrying your own adapters for the two sizes of Acme fittings. They're not very expensive and all of us need a few more small items rattling about our trailers. Having these fittings at hand can make the fueling operation easier and avoid delay for your tailgate party.

Here's a URL for the myriad of LPG connections: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propane,\\_butane,\\_and\\_LPG\\_container\\_valve\\_connections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propane,_butane,_and_LPG_container_valve_connections)

## Notice from your BFA Western Regional Director



Larry Simberger

There are a number of awards available through the BFA. There are two specifically I would like to share: the **BFA Crew Award** and

the **BFA Regional Director's Award**.

Both of these awards are granted yearly and it is my responsibility to identify qualified candidates and select the most deserving candidates. Please review, if you have candidates that you would like to nominate please draft your nomination (please provide examples of meeting the award criteria) and send to me by Aug 5<sup>th</sup> so I can determine a winner by the BFA deadline of Aug 15<sup>th</sup>.

The **BFA Crew**

**Award link:** <https://bfa.net/index.php/national-crew>

National and Regional Crew Persons Awards recognize outstanding crew persons who are **diligent, reliable, organized, responsible, and always put safety first**.

### Criteria

National and Regional Crew Persons Awards are open to all BFA members, pilots, crew, and others. *(Note from Larry, no need for BFA membership for nomination. If your nominee is the winner I will personally gift a one-year digital membership).* Nominations can be up to but no longer than one page long. Nominations must include the candidate's name, address, years of crewing experience, contributions to the sport of hot air ballooning,

and the reason(s) why the candidate should receive the award.

The **BFA Regional Directors Award** link: none, source BFA Board Policy Manual Section 29 Awards and Recognition Program.

May be awarded annually, by each BFA Director to an individual or organization within their respective regions or at-large who have **provided meritorious service to the BFA or to Ballooning in general**.

Of course there are other BFA Awards, they can be found here: <https://bfa.net/index.php/information/awards>. If you believe someone is deserving of one of these awards, please let me know!

Blue Skies and Soft Landings,

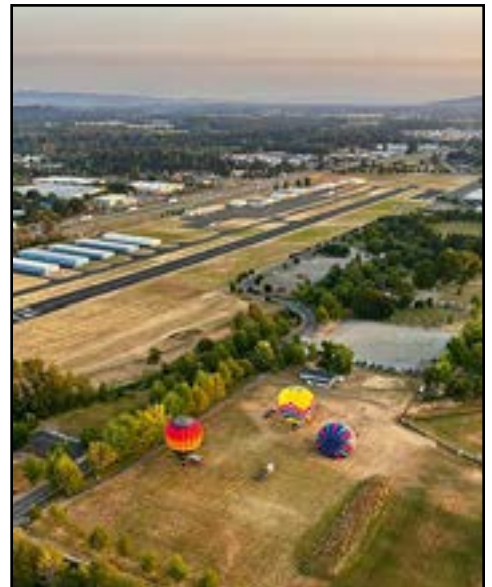
*Larry Simburger*

BFA Western Regional Director



# Flying in the Willamette Valley

Photos by Lisa Reid, Lisa Whitfield and Shari Gale



Please Remember to RSVP for the WAS BBQ,  
Do it right away (see page 3)  
[pres@wasballoon.org](mailto:pres@wasballoon.org)

# 2024 WAS Membership Application



Single \$20     Family (\$30 — applicant plus 3 family members, all in the same household)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family #3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot     Crew     Interested in hot air ballooning

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

BFA Crew Level: \_\_\_\_\_ BFA Pilot Level: \_\_\_\_\_ FAA Wings Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 e-mail

### Mail completed form with fees to:

**Willamette Aerostat Society**  
c/o Joy Sibayan  
22834 SW Forest Crk Dr, Unit 202  
Sherwood OR 97140

### Electronic Payment Option:

<https://wasballoon.org/membership/>



# 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:

When the crops start getting harvested, ballooning in the Willamette Valley fires up. Eric Reid and Tim Gale were caught playing in Freeway Lakes.

Photo by Lisa Reid

## Waiver

**AeroStats is a monthly publication of the Willamette Aerostat Society.**

**WAS welcomes you to reprint material from this newsletter by individuals or balloon club organizations for their personal or organization use.**

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

**Commercial use of material (articles or images) for any reason is prohibited without the express written consent 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 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.**