

# AeroStats



**February 2025**

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

**Volume 27, Number 2**

Join us for the  
February WAS meeting!

February 15, 2025  
1:00 PM

(Please note that is one hour earlier than usual.)

The Nut Tree Ranch Activity Building  
2902 E. 2nd Street, Newberg, Oregon  
Topic will be "How to Dawn Patrol"

## Table of Contents

- Secretary/Treas Report Page 3
- Happenings Page 4
- LBCC Course Page 5
- Safety Seminar Info Page 5
- Morning Glory Update Page 6
- Tower Tour Page 7
- MG Rental flyer Page 8
- Lake Havasu Page 9-10
- It Takes All Kinds Page 10
- WAS Hall of Fame Page 10
- Swiss Festival Page 11
- Seminar Application Page 12
- WAS Application Page 13

## 2025 WAS Officers

### President:

Sallie Loflin  
email: [prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org)

### Vice President:

Tim Gale  
email: [vp@wasballoon.org](mailto:vp@wasballoon.org)

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Wisner  
email: [sec@wasballoon.org](mailto:sec@wasballoon.org)

### Others:

#### Newsletter Editor:

Shari Gale  
email: [newsletter@wasballoon.org](mailto:newsletter@wasballoon.org)

#### Activities Director:

Open

#### Web Master:

Jack Loflin  
email: [webmaster@wasballoon.org](mailto:webmaster@wasballoon.org)

#### Officers:

email: [officers@wasballoon.org](mailto:officers@wasballoon.org)

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



## Willamette Aerostat Society

# Secretary/Treasurer's Report

### WAS January 18, 2025 Meeting

<https://wasballoon.org/>

#### 1. Call to Order 2:13pm

2. **Approval of Minutes** (December 7, 2024 – minutes printed in January issue) M/S/P

3. **Treasurer's Report** - \$3,168.54

4. **Correspondence** - None

5. **News, Regulatory** - None

#### 6. Upcoming Events

- a. February – Topic: Dawn Patrol (February 15, 1:00pm Newberg)
- b. April – Topic: Trailer setups (meeting has been moved to April 12, 9am Loflin's house. Business meeting at noon.)
- c. May – Topic: How to crew (May 17)
- d. June – Topic: Grey Matter: What is considered commercial flying? (June 14)

#### 7. Old and New Business

- a. 501(c)(3) application was sent to the IRS on January 2.
  - i. IRS is still reviewing applications submitted

prior to December 31

#### b. Donated balloon topics

i. Jack reminded everyone that comments are due on the rental documents no later than January 31st.

ii. Jack announced that the Tigard Festival of Balloons donated \$3,261 to purchase items needed, like hitch locks, radios, first aid kits, a new instrument for the balloon, etc.

**Thank You Cindy Murphy And Kristin Romelhardt!**

iii. Jack announced that he is working with Linn-Benton Community College to set up a ground school for crew and for pilots. If you want to be involved in creating the syllabus or helping teach, let Jack or Sallie know.

#### c. Devin White: All About Check Rides presentation

i. Devin gave a wonderful presentation on his experiences with his private and commercial check rides.

#### 8. Adjourn 3:11pm



*A heartfelt thank you goes to the Tigard Festival of Balloons, Kristin Romelhardt and Cindy Murphy for their unwavering support of the Willamette Aerostat Society and the Morning Glory project.*

*They are helping get things "off the ground."  
Thank you!*

# 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.

**Kanab Balloons & Tunes**  
February 14-16, 2025  
Kanab, Utah

**February WAS Meeting**  
Saturday, February 15, 2025, 1 PM  
Nut Tree Ranch Activity Building  
2902 E. 2nd Street,  
Newberg, Oregon  
Topic: How to Dawn Patrol

**Winthrop Balloon Roundup**  
February 28-March 2, 2025  
Winthrop, Washington

**March 8, 2025**  
**2025 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar**  
ALC Bridge Building at 812 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Jefferson, Oregon  
Contact: Tim Gale  
[habsafety@icloud.com](mailto:habsafety@icloud.com)

**April WAS Meeting**  
Saturday, April 26, 2025  
9:00 AM  
Loflin's Home  
Albany, Oregon  
Topic: Trailer Setups and Trailer/Fan Maintenance Party

**Walla Walla Balloon Stampede**  
May 8-11, 2025  
Walla Walla, Washington

**May WAS Meeting**  
Saturday, May 17, 2025, 2 PM  
Nut Tree Ranch Activity Building  
2902 E. 2nd Street, Newberg  
Topic: How to Crew

**Winnemucca Balloon Festival**  
May 16-18, 2025  
Winnemucca, NV

**June WAS Meeting**  
Saturday, June 14, 2025, 2 PM  
Topic: Grey Matter — What is Considered Commercial Flight?

**Tigard Festival of Balloons**  
June 20-22, 2025  
Tigard, Oregon  
[www.tigardballoon.org](http://www.tigardballoon.org)

**Teton Valley Balloon Rally**  
July 3-6, 2025  
Driggs, ID

**Great Reno Balloon Race**  
September 5-7, 2025  
Reno, NV



***It's easy to renew.***  
***There are two ways to do it.***

1. Visit the WAS Website: Go to <https://wasballoon.org/membership/> and fill out the renewal form. You can include multiple family members by scrolling down the form. This is the method the Executive Committee encourages you to use. It makes tracking memberships much easier.

2. Mail a Check: If you prefer, you can mail a check to the club treasurer using the form provided at the end of this newsletter.

***Dues are due by March 31, 2025.***

# HAB Operations Course Comes to LBCC

Jack Loflin has been working with Linn Benton Community College, located in Albany, Oregon, in order to offer a course on hot air ballooning. They sound excited to offer this course, but approval is still in the works. This is what the class will look like:

The class will offer two crew sessions and five advanced sessions.

The first segments of the course are designed to teach the basics of crewing for a hot air balloon.

The first of the two crew sessions will start with a classroom introduction to ballooning, system

components, safety, terminology, dropline use and the BFA Crew Achievement Program. The second session will move outside. It will cover crew positions, assembly, inflation, preflight, deflation and pack-up of a hot air balloon.

The advanced segments are designed to give the students a jump start of the knowledge necessary to pass the FAA private pilot knowledge test. The first of the advanced sessions will start with rules, regulations, documents and HAB theory. The next session will be about meteorology — weather

basics, weather patterns, and weather hazards. The third advanced session will cover interpreting weather reports, forecasts, use of approved sources. The fourth session will be about airspace and communications. The final session is going to be about aeronautical decision making and aeromedical factors.

Jack is hoping several WAS members will jump in to help with these classes. Please do not be shy about getting involved. Both crew and pilots are welcome. Contact Jack at: [loflinj@gmail.com](mailto:loflinj@gmail.com) to volunteer. **It's Time to Sign Up!**

## Elevate Your Knowledge From Lift-Off to Landing It's Time to Sign Up For the Safety Seminar!

Registration is open now for the Safety Seminar. It will be held on **Saturday, March 8th, 2025.**

### Location

It will take place at the same place as last year:

**ALC Bridge Building  
812 N. 2nd Street,  
Jefferson, Oregon**

**Cost: \$70 per person, with a \$10 discount if you register no later than February 15, 2025**

*(No refunds after Saturday, March 1, 2025.)*

The seminar has received pre-approval by the BFA, and it will have FAA Wings credit.

### Speakers and Topics

•Pat Cannon, past president of the Balloon Federation of America, will discuss accidents and a second

segment about dealing with FAA after an accident.

•Joe Mollahan, from our local FAA FISDO, will cover airport incursions and hazardous attitudes.

•Jack Loflin will be talking about pilot decision making.

•John Saltenberger will cover weather for us. He will be speaking this year on temperature dew point/radiation fog/cloud bases.

•Sallie Loflin and Laura Hancock are going to address ways crew members can help in the event of an accident/incident.

•Lastly, Tim even managed to get a recently retired member of the Albany Fire Department to give a quick talk on first aid. He is going to concentrate on what you can do on the scene of an accident/incident.

The registration fee had to go up this year due to increased costs. The seminar will cost \$70 per person with a **\$10 discount if you register**



**no later than February 15, 2025.** Lunch, as always, is included.

Any profit from the seminar will be donated to WAS.

There is a flyer and an application included in this newsletter. If you have questions, please reach out to Tim at [habsafety@icloud.com](mailto:habsafety@icloud.com)

# Morning Glory Update

Things are moving right along. **First, a huge thank you goes out to the Tigard Festival of Balloons.** That event and the non-profit that funds it, with the help of Kristin Romelhardt and Cindy Murphy, have agreed to donate \$3,261 to WAS to help get Morning Glory off the ground and well stocked with equipment. This monetary donation, along with the initial donation Bales and Laura made, provides a resource for current and prospective pilots that has never been available. We now have a means to get people more involved in ballooning without the burden of purchasing a system of their own. This is exciting!

WAS has been able to purchase the following with those funds:

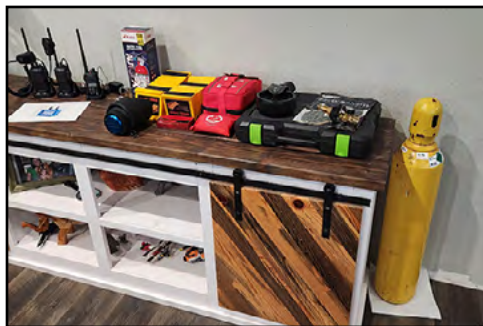
1. DigiTool flight instrument
2. 80 cu ft helium tank with regulator for pibal inflation
3. 5 watt crew radios with external speaker/mics
4. Portable aviation radio



5. Two first aid kits (big one for trailer, small one for basket)
6. Handheld anemometer
7. Fire extinguisher for the basket
8. Heavy duty hitch lock
9. Combination door locks (don't have to worry about lost keys!)

10. Small toolkit
11. State/Federal registration fees for the aircraft and trailer
12. Materials necessary for the trailer roof repair

Club members have also stepped up in significant ways. Mandy Johnson donated some office supplies (paper, binders, etc.) to help organize documents. Koh Murai took a look at the system during the January WAS meeting and donated some propane fittings necessary to get the nitrogen pressurization tank



hooked up to the fuel tanks. Tim Gale has agreed to work with Alan Sanderson to complete the annual inspection. Dave Sullivan, the US DigiTool dealer has offered the club a screaming deal on an instrument. There may be a little bit of money left over, so let Jack know if there is something you think would be useful to have in the trailer.

Tim Gale also asked about what frequencies we planned to utilize for the crew radios. This resulted in Sallie (who is also the BFA Treasurer) working with the BFA to get permission for any pilot/instructor/crew who is utilizing this system to use the BFA's FCC license and frequencies. This allows us to use higher transmit power, improving communications between the basket and crew. Thank you to the BFA for allowing us to utilize their license!

As of this writing (late January) zero comments on the rental documents available at [wasballoon.com/rental](http://wasballoon.com/rental) have been received. Jack highly doubts he hit the nail square on the head the first time. **Don't be shy about bringing something up if you think it can be improved.** There was some discussion during the January WAS meeting about approving instructors, so expect some small changes to that procedure that will be valid for at least 2025. Jack would really like to have any comments by the end of January to give us time to work through anything that may be significant. But, hey, better late than never. So if you've got something, send it to Jack.

On that note, here are some highlights of what is currently proposed in the rules. Some of these rules are descriptive and intentionally conservative to reduce risk and help student pilots develop good habits.

- The rental rate proposed is \$150 per flight or tether. The renter is responsible for refilling the fuel tanks at their expense.
- Instructors must be approved by the WAS Board and be club members.
- Instructors may not rent the system themselves to provide instruction. The system must be rented by a club member that is receiving instruction or taking a flight. (This has roots in FAA regulations so isn't really negotiable.)
- Only members that have received a "checkout" flight given by an instructor may rent the balloon for solo flight.
- In order to be eligible to rent the system, you must pay a \$200 deposit \$150 of which is fully refundable.
- Prior to removing any component from the trailer, all passengers and crew must sign waivers.

*Continued on page 7*

# MG Update

Continued from page 6

- Prior to flight, a worksheet must be filled out to document PIC, FAA weather briefing, and provide assurance that weather minimums and club procedures have been followed.
- At least two crew members must be available for launch through landing and remain on the ground.
- No splash & dashes.

There are more, but those are the highlights. Take a look at the documents and let Jack know if you have concerns.

The insurance / annual costs will be approximately \$1500/year. Ten rentals will allow the club to recover the cost of that. The club plans to continually evaluate where things go during the year and certainly at the end of the year, and potentially return some of that rental income. The goal would be to pay for any fixed costs and build a reserve to pay for repairs, aging equipment replacement, etc. Bob LeDoux asked during the January meeting what we would do if we rented it 50 times this year. Jack responded “Party” but the real answer is probably return some money to renters and reduce the rental rate for 2026.

Remember that Shari made a flyer promoting Morning Glory and learning to fly that you can print from the website or newsletter and post in your favorite haunts. (It can be found on the next page of this newsletter.) Jack has also been working with some aviation clubs/organizations (like the Experimental Aircraft Association, Oregon Pilot’s Association, and local flying clubs) to get the word out. Let Sallie know if you have other ideas as to how we can spread the word about ballooning.

# Tower Tour in Walla Walla

Recently WAS member, Justin Anderson, took a tour of the control tower at the Walla Walla Regional Airport. He wanted to share the experience with other pilots, many of whom will be flying at the upcoming Walla Walla Balloon Stampede in May.

Justin reported, “The overall experience with meeting the controllers at the KALW Tower (Walla Walla Regional) was a very casual experience. They highly encouraged more local pilots to do the same. They appreciated that I took the time and expressed interest in “how we can work together to make things better for everyone.” Their biggest ask is proper communication, which help them make better decisions as maintaining safety within the airspace. Since they expressly mentioned that the handheld versions of aircraft radios may not get picked up or that transmissions can be unclear, save the tower phone number and call them. This

not only helps them but helps us without having to communicate a lot of information between loud burn interruptions.”

## The key points are:

- Controllers appreciate a heads up the day before the day you will be flying
- Give them details about your intention of flight, total duration of flight window, direction, altitude, etc.
- Call the tower an hour before you start your flight operation. This helps with better communication.
- Finally, they asked pilots to let them know once they have landed, so they can stop watching for balloons. This is not required, but it is appreciated.

These tips, of course, are appropriate for any operations within a tower control zone, no matter which area you are flying in.



## Save the Dates!

Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm is excited to officially announce their 2025 tulip festival dates:

**March 21st - April 27th!**

Dates are tentative and may vary depending on bloom conditions. Be sure to check their social media channels and website for the latest updates on festival dates and hours of operation.

**LIVE THE DREAM:  
DISCOVER BALLOONING!**

**Learn to Fly a Hot Air Balloon in an Aerostar RX-7**

**Balloon Rental at Reasonable Rates through  
the balloon club Willamette Aerostat Society**

**Current FAA certified pilots:  
Only 10 hours instruction  
required for your  
lighter than air rating.  
No written test required!**

**Interested in crewing or learning about  
hot air balloons in general? Then the  
Willamette Aerostat Society is the  
place for you. Visit the website to join.**



**Website: [WASballoon.org](http://WASballoon.org)**





# 2025 Lake Havasu Balloon Festival

Cory Miller, Angela Moore-Miller and Josh Moore traveled to Arizona for one of the first rallies of the year. Cory, as always, has kindly shared his wonderful photos with us. Thanks Cory!



*Cory, Angela and Josh posed in front of the Coke balloon on a windy morning.*



*Anotehr photo on page 10*



Nominations are now open for the newly established WAS Hall of Fame!

To qualify, nominees must have been WAS members for at least five years and have made significant contributions to the sport of ballooning. For those who have not been members of WAS but have still made notable impacts, consider nominating them in the Honorable Mention category.

To submit a nomination, include a brief biography of the nominee along with any photos or videos you may have. Send all nomination materials to [prez@wasballoon.org](mailto:prez@wasballoon.org).

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our ballooning community!

### It Takes All Kinds... And We Thought Balloonists Were Creative

*Reprinted from August 2003 AeroStats*

In case you missed it, the following dialogue recently appeared on the Lboro net. It started when Alan Nobel at Cameron Balloons received a request. "Please send details or brochure on your one and two person balloons."

The letter, neatly written on lined yellow paper, was received in their Bristol Sales Office. The sender's address? The State Prison, Florence, Arizona, USA.

Alan's question was "Anybody know what the penalty is in the US for aiding somebody to escape from a state institution?" For those of you familiar with Lboro discussions, this was more than sufficient fuel to spark a number of responses:

"What I'd like to know is how he expects it to arrive at the prison without anyone noticing! Soft, un-incarcerated, landings..."

"The penalty? 20-30 years dealing with the FAA! You may be able to plea bargain if you're lucky, in which case, take the hard labor!"

"He's probably a bit heat addled. Been awful warm 'round these parts lately — even up here on the hill. I guess it would be OK to inquire about the balloons, or even to have the brochures. Maybe he needs some plans so he can make a balloon out of bed sheets and license plates."

"Since I am a corrections officer — if I were in the tower and a hot air balloon came to pick up a prisoner, the result would be death by M14."

"Who is planning to be the fly in — fly on pilot?"

"...if an inmate escapes... how far will he get? How fast will he get there? How hard is it for most chase crews to keep up with a balloon? Therefore, how hard would it be for law enforcement to chase it? (Talk about a slow-speed chase.)"

It really does take all kinds to make the world go around.



# Festival International de Ballons à Château-d'Oex

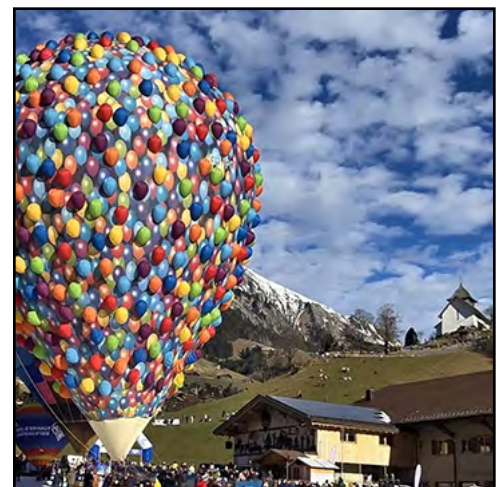
Monica Cretu took a quick trip to Europe to visit her family, and included a fun weekend in Switzerland. The draw was a balloon rally, naturally. She attended the Festival International de Ballons à Château-d'Oex. It is a very popular event. Monica reported that all trains and roads were packed with visitors.

Flight operations do not start until 9:30 AM. (*Editor's Note: Can U.S. events take up this trend? It seems quite civilized.*)

On the first morning the flights were canceled due to "excessive altitude winds, current conditions present a risk of gusts that can push balloons up ridges and slopes." (*Editor's Note: What they call a slope; I call a mountain side.*) Instead of free flight several pilots chose to do tethered flights for kids. Monica spent a good portion of her day crewing for one of the balloons, which took up a lot of kids.

On the second morning Mother Nature decided to play nicely. Monica was able to crew for one of the balloons, but was unable to stay any longer. She had to miss the rest of the week long festival, but at least she was able to get hands on during their trip.

All of the photos below were taken by Monica and generously shared with the rest of us.



The second day of the rally was a day more suited to free flight. Monica crewed for this balloon.

On the first day Monica volunteered to crew for this balloon as it gave tethered rides to kids. She was there from 9:30 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon. That takes dedication! The result was a lot of happy people.





# 2025 Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar March 8, 2025

ALC Bridge, 812 2nd Street, Jefferson, Oregon

## Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First* *Last*

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If you want Wings credit, please be sure to use the same email address on file with the Wings Program.)*

WAS member      BFA #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
*cell phone* *land line*

Pilot     Student Pilot     Crew

Insurance Company:  RPS     AIR     Evolution     Welker     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost: \$70/ person with a \$10 discount if registered before February 15, 2025.**

Lunch included.

*No refunds after Saturday, March 1, 2025.*

Please print out this form and send it along with your check to: **Tim Gale / Seminar**  
**1300 39th Ave SW**  
**Albany, OR 97321**

**Phone: 503-369-6123**  
**[habsafety@icloud.com](mailto:habsafety@icloud.com)**

# 2025 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 Dave Wiser

28707 210th Ave SE

Kent, WA 98042

### 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:

On a cold, crisp morning in Albany, Koh Murai and Tim Gale got together to play in the park. It was the first balloon sighting in the Willamette Valley this year. Photo by Shari Gale.

## 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.**