

AeroStats



April 2022

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Willamette Aerostat Society
Volume 24, Number 4**



April WAS Meeting

April 16, 2022

2:00 PM at

Garmin AT, Inc. Building

2345 Turner Road SE, Salem, OR 97302

This will be an in-person meeting — the first one we've had in a long, long time.

Plan to attend and enjoy the company of your fellow balloonists.

Bob LeDoux will lead a discussion on landowner relations.

A huge thank you goes to Jack Lofin for arranging a place for us to meet.

Another huge thank you goes to Garmin AT, Inc. for graciously offering use of their meeting space.

Additional meeting space information to be sent to all current WAS members via email prior to April 16th.

Table of Contents

- Happenings Page 3
- Kongregation Page 3
- Meet Devin White
Pages 4-5
- Tulip Festival News Page 6
- HAB Crafts for Kids
Page 7
- WAS application Page 8

2022 WAS Officers

President:

Shari Gale

Activities Director:

open

Vice President:

Marianne LeDoux

Web Master:

Cory Miller

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dale Justice

WAS website:

<http://www.wasballoon.info>

Others:

Newsletter Editor:

Shari Gale

Email: ExecComm@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.

Saturday, April 16, 2022
at 2:00 PM
WAS Meeting at Garmin AT, Inc.
2345 Turner Rd. SE, Salem, OR
Additional information to be sent via email before the meeting.

May 13-15, 2022
Winnemucca Balloon Festival
Winnemucca, NV
Contact: Jeff Haliczzer
LiLHal1@sbcglobal.net

June 4-5, 2022
Sonoma Balloon Classic
Sonoma, California
<https://www.schabc.org>

June 24-26, 2022
Tigard Festival of Balloons
Tigard, Oregon
<http://www.tigardballoon.org>

June 25-26, 2022
Kongregation of Balloons
Prosser, Washington
Contact: Mandy Johnson
253-709-8889

July 1-4, 2022
Teton Valley Balloon Rally
Driggs, Idaho
Contact Ernie Hartt,
ernieharttwinston@me.com

July 1-4, 2022
Freedom Fest
Provo, Utah
<https://www.freedomfestival.org/event/balloon-fest/>

July 22-24, 2022
Balloons Over Bend
Bend, Oregon
<https://balloonsoverbend.com/night-glow/#morning-launches>

July 29-31
Ruby Mountain Balloon Fest
Elko, Nevada
<https://www.rubymountainballoons.org>

August 20, 2022
Arlington Sky Fest
Arlington, Washington
<https://www.arlingtonskyfest.com>

August 26-28, 2022
NW Art and Air Festival
Albany, Oregon
<http://nwartandair.org>

August 31-September 4, 2022
Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic
Boise, Idaho
<https://spiritofboise.com>

September 9-11, 2022
Great Reno Balloon Race
Reno, Nevada
<https://renoballoon.com/>

October 1-9, 2022
Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta
Albuquerque, New Mexico
<https://balloonfiesta.com/>

It's back!!
October 19-23, 2022
Walla Walla Balloon Stampede
Walla Walla, Washington

New Event

Kongregation of Balloons

A new no-host event has been announced for Prosser, Washington on **June 25 and 26, 2022**. The event is in honor of Kong (Jeff Shields). "Kong was instrumental for many of us when we were burned out or ready to give up ballooning and he pumped us up and got us going again."

Vic and Mandy Johnson's new balloon repair facility will, also, be dedicated that weekend. Come to fly and/or talk ballooning.

Lodging information can be found on this Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/KONGgregation-of-Balloons-111488478102867/>

If you have questions, feel free to call Vic or Mandy at **253-709-8889**.

Meet Devin White

By Shari Gale with generous help from Devin



The newest WAS member, Devin White on a training flight in Eden, Utah.

Photo by Derek White.

The Walla Walla Balloon Stampede is the longest running balloon rally in the Pacific Northwest. Devin White grew up in Walla Walla. That means hot air balloons were part of his life from the very beginning. Some of his earliest memories involved watching balloons fly over his house each Mother's Day weekend. "I was an inherently curious kid (still am) and was totally mesmerized by balloons: the sheer scale, the beauty, the physics... well that last part came later. I recall pestering my family to jump in the car and chase down any balloon that we spotted. I distinctly remember standing near the center of the launch field at Tietan park as a youngster and committing internally, 'I'm going to do this someday'."

"On a sunny afternoon in 1997 my family (Russ, Sherry, Derek, Darci, and I) approached a landing balloon piloted by John Kent. We must have gotten a little too close because we were soon put to work. Much to our surprise, he asked us to help out with the following morning's flight... and every flight operation in Walla Walla since then. As John's crew grew

in number and skill, I branched out and lent a hand to Carmen Blakely and, occasionally, Cheryl Isaacs. Somewhere in there, college and "the real world" pulled me away from Walla Walla, so my participation became somewhat

sporadic. I still do my best to make it back to town for the Stampede whenever I can."

Devin got his first hot air balloon ride at age 10, on Mother's Day in 1997. It was the weekend they had met John Kent. After the inflation, John asked Devin, Darci, and Derek to go up for a flight.

Currently, Devin's brother, Derek, is in the Air Force. He's stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Utah. Derek bought a balloon and has his commercial certificate. Devin extolled the part his older brother played in getting Devin to take the final steps needed to become a pilot. "I'll start by saying that I may never have pursued my pilot certificate if not for Derek's support and tutelage. It all happened so fast. Toward the end of last summer (2021) I was joking with Derek about the possibility of chasing a certificate.



The White family, (Left to right): Their dad, Russell standing behind Darci and her son Russell, Basket: Sherry and Derek, Right: Karson, Kylie, Michelle (Derek's family), and Devin.

Meet Devin White

Continued from Page 4

Within about a week he hit me with a schedule; I would stay with his family for three weeks in Ogden and split training flights between him on the weekends and another instructor during the week. COVID lockdowns must have fogged my judgement, because I agreed. I began studying immediately and passed the written exam the day after I arrived in Ogden only a few weeks later. Derek was thorough and thoughtful in his instruction. He had a good sense of when to chime in and when to let me figure something out. At first, I was very skeptical of his confidence in my abilities, but it didn't take long for me to feel more at ease in the basket. My logical dreams of getting a second opinion (from an unbiased third-party instructor) disappeared via a series of unexpected schedule conflicts. Derek ended up being my sole instructor (which he's surprisingly good at) and managed to get me ready for a check ride that had to happen about five flights before I felt I would be ready. I would be remiss if I didn't offer a big thanks to my mom, Sherry, for making the trip with me, helping out on the ground, and allowing me to train in her balloon, "Take It Easy" (77k Aerostar Spring-top)."

Sherry White completed her training in late 2020. The entire family, at one point, surprised her in Ogden for an unspecified milestone birthday. They acted as ground crew during her training.

Devin's ballooning goals are to "discover life outside of work. To build a community with like-minded people in a sport that I have always been passionate about. I would like to upgrade to a commercial certificate in the near future to help offset expenses, but don't currently have any plans to start or join a ride operation. The real plan is to remain

open to opportunities and to take it one flight at a time."

Devin and his wife, Lauren, along with two dogs live in Snohomish, Washington. He spends his days and nights on a demanding job running a major plumbing and HVAC projects in the Seattle area. The best part of ballooning for Devin is the beauty, tranquility, and camaraderie...nature offers you a puzzle to solve each flight. There's never a single right answer and the rules may change frequently, but it's a highly engaging endeavor that helps me escape from the daily grind."

When asked what he wants the balloon community to know about him is: "I want to learn from all of you! I pick up a great deal of knowledge through the experience of others. Even though I'm very much introverted, I'm excited to sit down and talk shop about anything that might help me become a better pilot or make life easier on crew."

Devin recently joined WAS and participated in the last WAS Zoom meeting. He is hoping to come down to Albany to either fly or crew during the Northwest Art and Air Festival in August. I would not be surprised to see him in Walla Walla for the Balloon Stampede in October.

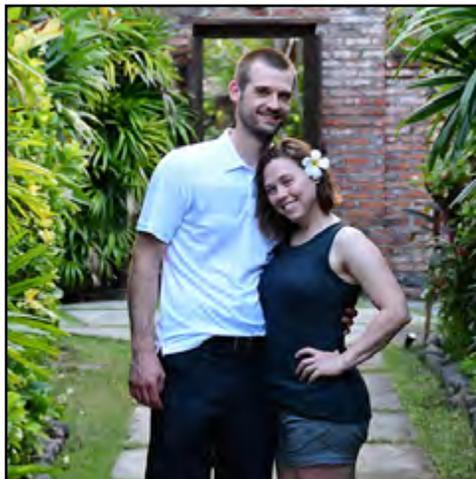
He will definitely be an asset to the ballooning community.



Devin's mother, Sherry, let him train on her balloon, "Take It Easy."



Devin is now flying a balloon named "Spectra." The envelope is a Kubicek BB30ED, 105 cu. ft. with ~80 hrs total time and very bright polyester fabric. He has paired it with an Aerostar basket.



Devin with his wife, Lauren, in 2019.

The Prime Time to Fly Over the Tulip Fields is NOW!

The Tulip Festival at Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm is now underway. The Iverson family has once again generously offered their farm as a launch site during the festival. **The opening date was Friday, March 18, 2022. The festival will run until Sunday, May 1.** The farm is located at 33814 S. Meridian Road, Woodburn, Oregon. (They are 15 minutes east of I-5.)

Paid Riders Need Field Passes

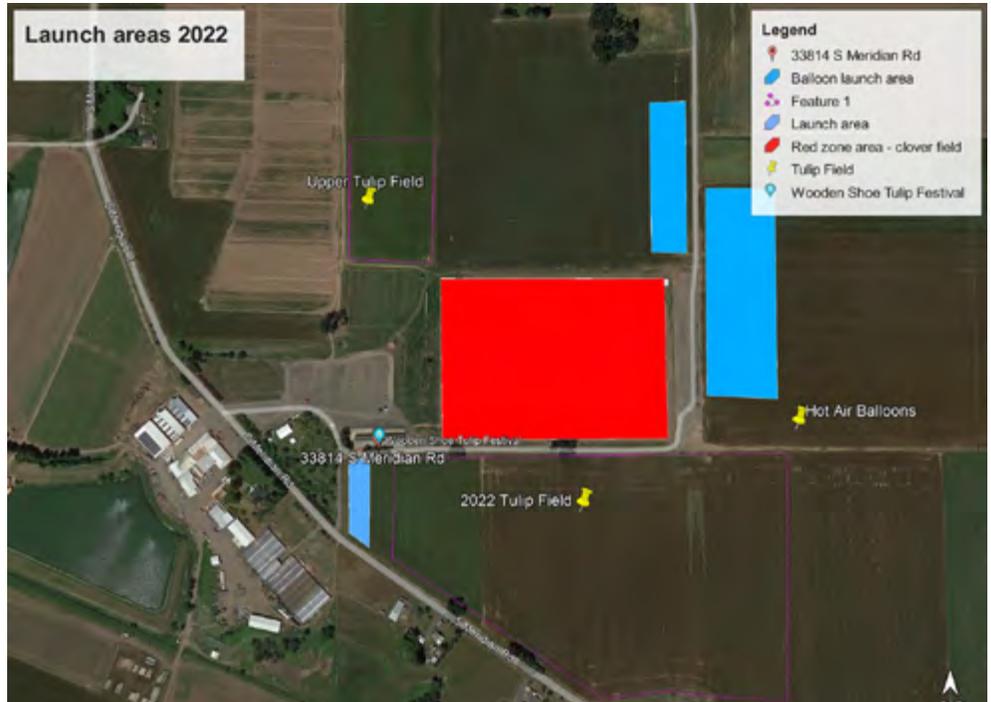
Pilots and crew will not be charged admission. Paid riders, however, do need to buy an admission ticket on line at: <https://woodenshoetulipfarm.ticketspice.com/2022>.

Balloons and their chase vehicles will be allowed back on the farm property after the flight.

Wooden Shoe Liability Forms and Red Zone Maps Available

As in the past, each and every person involved in ballooning on the Wooden Shoe property needs to sign a waiver of liability. Crew, passengers, pilots and balloon owners all need to sign. There are no exceptions. A copy of the waiver can be found on the WAS web site at: <https://www.wasballoon.info/wooden-shoe-tulip-field/>. Once the forms are filled out, please put them in the big mail box on the west side of the main building.

You can also find a copy of the Red Zone map for the area surrounding the tulip fields on the web site listed above. The Rose family owns a huge chunk of land east of the tulip fields. They are not at all balloon friendly. They do not want anyone landing on their property. Please make some extra copies of the red zone map to take



Barb Iverson sent us this map of the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival grounds. The blue boxes indicate the areas balloons can use as a launch field. The red box indicates a clover field. The Iverson's do NOT want you to enter that area with either your balloon, vehicle or even your feet.

to the field with you in the event someone has forgotten to bring theirs. As always, carry one map in the basket and have one in the chase vehicle. We want to keep landowner relations as good as they can be in this area. The Iverson family has been gracious in allowing balloons to launch from their fields for years and years. It's critical for all of us to follow these requests.

Contact Information

If you have questions, you can reach Barb Iverson at her email address: Barb@woodenshoe.com or you can send her a text on her phone: 503-932-5817. (It is unlikely she will answer a call from an unidentified phone number, so texting is your best option.)

It will be a treat to fly from the tulip farm this spring. See you there!

Here Are A Few Do's and Don'ts

- Do not drive into the fields if they are wet or damp. Your chase vehicle will leave ruts, crush new grass, and you might just get stuck. There's plenty of room in the parking lot.
- Drive carefully. Pedestrians are everywhere. Drive slow, and give way to foot traffic and other vehicles.
- Serving alcohol on Iverson property is discouraged.
- Carry out what you bring in. Trash barrels provided by the farm are for their customers use, not your trash.
- If you see a festival or farm worker, please say thank you.

Will WAS Still Exist in 2023?

WAS will cease to exist without someone volunteering to lead the club. Shari, Dale and Marianne are all retiring from their positions on the Executive Committee at the end of the year.

WAS needs three members to step up to become president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

No officers, means no club.

Give it some thought, do you want to be the hero of 2023?

Contact any of the current officers if you have questions. Their contact information is on page two.

Hot Air Balloon Crafts for Kids

Build your own hot air balloon

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/31670/hot-air-balloons#&gid=undefined&pid=1>

Science Experiment — teaches the concept of hot air and cold air

<https://www.jumpstart.com/common/hot-air-balloon>

Marbled Hot Air Balloon art craft

<https://www.lessons4learners.com/marbled-hot-air-balloons.html>

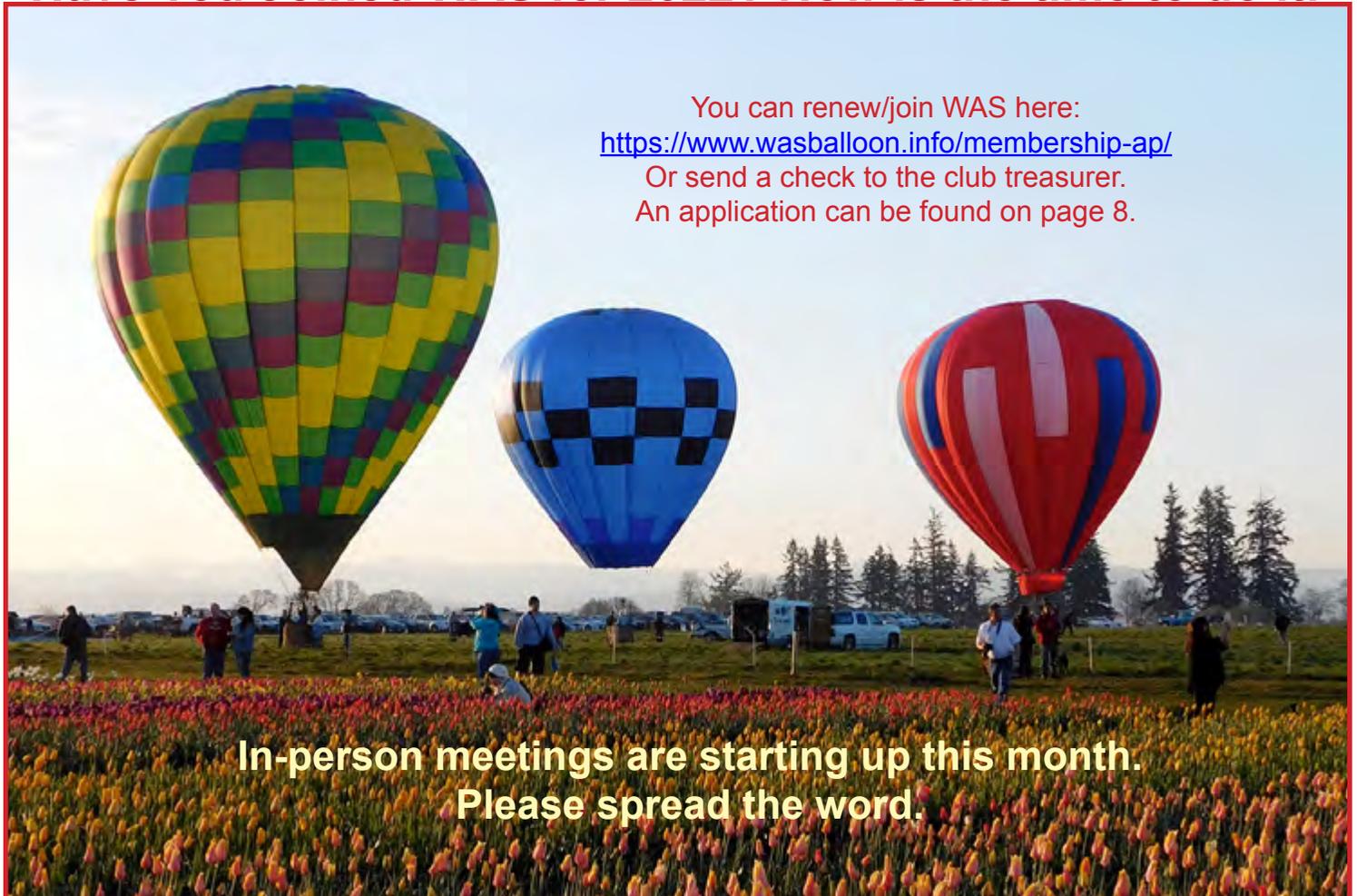
Exploring the science of hot air ballooning

<https://www.virginballoonflights.co.uk/blog/keeping-the-kids-flying-high-science-activity-for-kids>

The mother lode! 25 crafts for kids featuring hot air balloons

<https://www.easy-crafts-for-kids.com/hot-air-balloon-crafts-for-kids.html>

Have You Joined WAS for 2022? Now is the time to do it!



You can renew/join WAS here:

<https://www.wasballoon.info/membership-ap/>

Or send a check to the club treasurer.

An application can be found on page 8.

**In-person meetings are starting up this month.
Please spread the word.**

2022 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

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

You may also join on line.
The URL is: <https://www.wasballoon.info/member-ship-ap/>



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:

Spectra is Devin White's new balloon system.

Photo by Derek White.

Waiver

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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.