

# AeroStats



**July 2013**

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

**Volume 15, Number 7**

# WAS President's Letter



June is such a challenging month for ballooning. The weather hasn't set into its summer patterns and the landowners have their fields filled

with the summer crops, yet the days are long and improving. The Tigard Festival of Balloons dares to put aerostats into the air in June and this year was successful, until Sunday when the weather forgot that conditions should be improving. Yup, rain, after two successful flights and two night glows. Not shabby at all. I'm pleased that Marylin Bernhart received the Brick Morgan award. She's been working in the shadows for years and needed to be recognized.

We found another activity, non-meeting get-together, event or program to have members join in the same room and interact socially. Call it what you will, no club business was conducted yet we sure seemed to take time and enjoy the exercise. Our gathering of around two dozen aeronauts to go through the Salem AOA access training had all of the appearance of success. Joey Langenhorst, Airport Operations Specialist, ran the training and conducted a test as required for the FAA to retain Circ 139 regulations for a commercial aviation airport.

We also covered protocols and sensitivities of the normal pattern of airplanes and how we can conduct ourselves to minimize impact on their operations.

The discussion and training had an interactive nature and we're looking toward a flyout from the south end of the airport AOA. We'll have gate access and agreed communication protocols for the benefit of the airport, other aviation in the area and balloons. I have some good memories of flights out of SLE when we had the Oregon Championship in the 90's.

Being the group we are, the social times continued beyond the airport to lunch at Ram Restaurant and Brewery. About half the group gathered at the restaurant for food

and continued conversation.

Next month we can look forward to summer building it's weather patterns and more fields opening for landing. Bend is coming up then we move into the Willamette Valley. Several of us will be acting as luminaria in Woodburn in the Relay for Life. It's a way to offer our joy with balloons to support others, those touched by cancer in this case.

Let's bring the best we have for safe flying, willingness to work together and share the joys of balloons with others while supporting each other.

## Did you know WAS patches and window clings are available?

They are only available to WAS members. We've been trying to hand them out at various events. If you have not received yours yet, get in touch with either Tim or Shari Gale.

[wasprez@icloud.com](mailto:wasprez@icloud.com) or [sharigaleor@gmail.com](mailto:sharigaleor@gmail.com)

## 2013 WAS Officers

### President

Tim Gale

### Vice President

Koh Murai

### Secretary / Treasurer

Leslie Berning

### Community Relations

Jim Smith

### Newsletter Editor

Shari Gale

### Past President

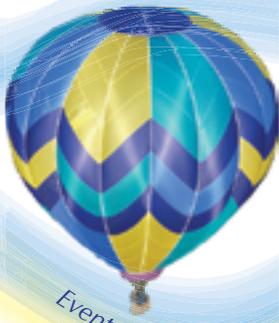
Mark Trujillo

### Activities Directors

Pasha & Justin Lubber

### FAA Liaison

Mark Trujillo & Jim Smith



# Happenings!

in the Pacific Northwest and beyond

Event information in this newsletter is not to be construed as an endorsement by WAS, its officers, or its members.

## July 2013

**July 12**  
**Relay for Life Luminaria Ceremony, Night Glow, 9 PM**  
Centennial Park  
Woodburn, OR

**July 19-21**  
**Balloons Over Bend**  
Bend, OR  
Contact: Balloons Over Bend  
Phone: (541)323-0964  
<http://www.balloonsoverbend.com>

**July 27**  
**Jefferson Mint Festival Fly-Out**  
Jefferson, OR  
Contact: The LeDoux's  
541-327-2907

## August 2013

**August 10-11**  
**Loose Goose VI**  
McMinnville, OR  
Contact: Laura Hancock,  
dayshancock@aol.com  
*Please note the new weekend date*

**August 23-25**  
**Wah Chang NW Art & Air Festival**  
Albany, OR  
Contact: Rebecca or Cathy, Albany  
Visitors Association  
800-526-2256 or 541-926-0911  
<http://nwartandair.org>

**August 29 - September 1**  
**Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic**  
Boise, ID  
Organizer: Scott Spencer  
Event is by invitation only  
<http://www.spiritofboise.com>

**August 31 - September 1**  
**Olympic Peninsula Air Affaire**  
*New Event replaces Sequim Balloon Festival*  
Sequim, WA  
Contact: Captain Crystal  
airboss@nwplace.com  
(She needs more balloons)

## September 2013

**September 6-8**  
**The Great Reno Balloon Race**  
Reno, NV  
Contact: Tasha Courtney,  
775-826-1181  
<http://renoballoon.com>

**September 14-15**  
**5th Annual Quincy Valley Balloon & Wine Festival**  
Quincy, WA  
[Invitation Only Event]  
Contact: Kent/Kim Bacon,  
509-787-3795  
*Please note the corrected date for this event.*

**September 20-22**  
**Montague Balloon Fair**  
Montague, CA  
David Herfindahl  
530-643-1305  
[dherfindahl@gmail.com](mailto:dherfindahl@gmail.com)  
<http://themontagueballoonfair.com>

**September 27-29**  
**Great Prosser Balloon Rally**  
Prosser, Washington  
Contact: Andrea  
andrea@prosserballoonrally.org  
509-713-2732  
<http://www.prosserballoonrally.org>

**September 28**  
**Hop & Heritage Festival**  
Independence, OR  
One Day Fly-Out  
Contact: Monmouth-Independence  
Chamber of Commerce  
503-838-4268  
windwind1@juno.com

## October 2013

**October 5-13**  
**Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta**  
Albuquerque, NM  
Contact: AIBF, Inc., 1-888-422-7277  
<http://balloonfiesta.com>



## Happy Birthday

Steve Hays	7/10
Terri Miller	7/23
Mark Trujillo	7/26



Photos on this page were taken by Linda Brandt, Shari Gale, Dale Justice and Terri Miller. Clockwise from top left: Marilyn Barnhart (a tireless volunteer), Mike Layman, Bill Woodhead, Greg Miller, Cory Miller, Julianna Miller, Leslie Berning, Meyghan Miller, Koh Murai, Jesse Rafn (with his sister and his brother-in-law), Edie Stoaks, Alan Sanderson, and in the center, the festival's balloonmeister, Jim Smith.

# Tigard Festival of Balloons, 2013

Wow! After last year's washout, well, one glow, this year's festival was a fantastic success. The weather mostly cooperated and the crowds were strong and enthusiastic.

We arrived in town on Thursday afternoon and after getting settled in drove over to the park to get checked in as crew and get our crew badges and parking pass. We also confirmed that briefing would be at 0515 (that's AM!) with liftoffs scheduled for around six. We really need to rethink this ballooning during the summer solstice with sunrise at 0520 here in Oregon. We missed meeting up with Alan and company as they were running a bit (surprise) late.

After setting the alarm for 4 am (ugh!) we made it an early evening so as to prevent any fatal damage to the clock in the morning. Friday morning dawned (early) with some high overcast, but was dry with the very light breezes blowing south... the right direction. We worked slowly getting set up as it was my first inflation since the rainy flight in Coalinga last November and Alan was off checking on a couple of balloons that had just been released from the shop and he wanted to make sure everything looked OK. We were able to snag a college student

who was attending with some friends as an extra crew person so I wouldn't have to drive chase alone. As would be expected we were last off the field leaving 5 or 6 balloons to start providing the free tether rides that the festival provides. Without any assigned passengers Alan was able to fly some of our crew, so Terri and Linda got the flight assignment. As Mothra wandered slowly and aimlessly above the city we noticed some light rain on the windshield...Oh, No, not again... but it soon stopped without leaving much of a trace as they say. After about an hour and a half Alan got lined up on a perfect landing field. It was humongous, had access (3 driveways), mowed, and no balloon eating blackberries...perfect. After a quick pack up and with no ceremony required we all headed home for a very necessary balloon nap.

Taking good care of his seemingly dwindling crew Alan had tickets for all of us for the pilot's dinner on the field Friday evening. We all met there for a nice dinner with pulled pork, bar-b-que chicken, beans, salads, fruit and dessert along with an open beer and wine bar... hey, I could really get used to this... weight on! Given that sunset was at 2100 (that's 9 PM!) we did not stick around for the evening glow. Like I said, we need to think about this solstice timing. I know when I surfaced from my slumber after 10:30...well, maybe it was my bladder...I could hear a helicopter nearby and figured that the glow was in full swing... and they still have to get fueled to be ready for a 5:15 briefing in the morning...Ow.

Saturday morning was a fantastic,



TDE (Too Darned Early), morning. No clouds to be seen with just (very) light breezes again to the south. Besides our two assigned passengers for the morning Alan brought along an additional (young, strong, enthusiastic) crew person. I asked if we could keep him, but it turns out he has a balloon (currently finishing up in the shop) and is scheduled for his private pilot's check ride next month...darn...I really need to find some younger crew...heck, 50 somethings would be a great improvement.

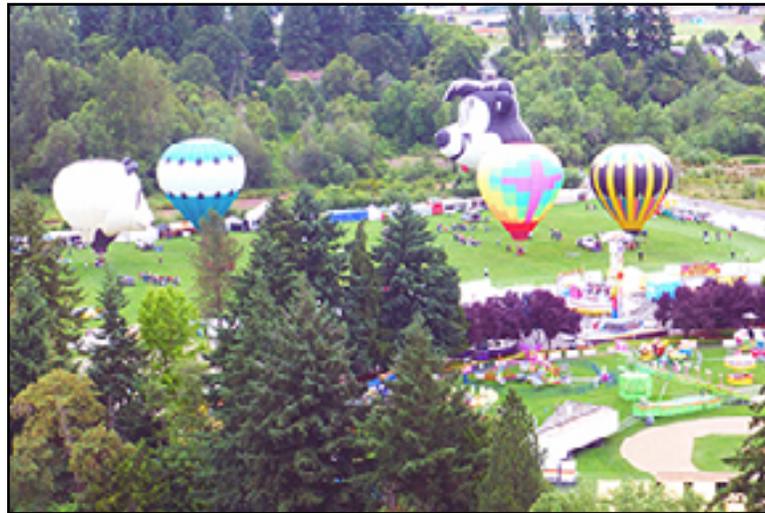
At briefing it was recommended that flights should be completed by around 0800 as the winds were forecasted to start switching to be



*Continued on page 6*

# Tigard Festival of Balloons,

Continued



where we were greeted by Bill Woodhead (WWJD Balloon.) Although the weather forecast for Sunday wasn't too good, we choose discretion and another early night to bed rather than returning to the park for the

second balloon glow...sleep, I need my sleep...

from the south by then. That really didn't impact the length of the flights when you launch at 0620. After about an hour of lazy floating around Alan spotted a parking lot with trees up wind that he could drop below to slow his progression toward the buildings. He dropped behind the trees and tried to "plant it" in the lot. I haven't heard that noisy a landing. There was an amazing "Thwack!" as the basket slapped the ground...then flexing...then...wait for it...rebound! Luckily our crew member was experienced enough to let go before he left the ground. Alan, holding tightly to the redline (well, actually green) was able to get the big bug back on the ground without advancing too close to the buildings. The crew was then able to maintain control and prevent any further excursions. After packing up we adjourned to a local park and joined a couple of other crews for a nice tailgate and ceremony. Brunch was packed up by 9:30...seems about the time we are usually packing up the balloon, not the food. We had the afternoon (and some morning) to ourselves which Linda and I used for a nice long balloon nap and some working on the day's pictures. As there was no freebie/comp'd dinner available for Saturday evening the entire crew decided to meet at a local salad buffet for an early dinner

second balloon glow...sleep, I need my sleep...

Although we didn't get the royal soaking rain Sunday morning as was forecast it was certainly wet enough to keep all the balloons safely packed away. Alan, much to his credit, taking great care of his crew this weekend had tickets for everyone to the get away breakfast at Gametime, a sports bar, bowling alley, arcade and also the title sponsor for the festival.

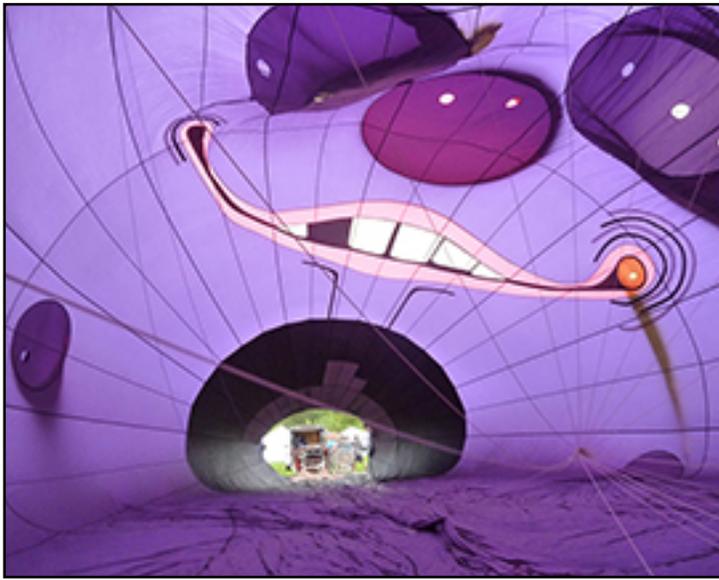
We had a great time this year especially after last year's soaking. Our thanks to Balloonmeister, Jim Smith (it was great to see him out and about), all the volunteers and sponsors. Special congratulations to Marilyn Barnhart for receiving a special award for 18 years as crew coordinator for the festival.

Next year will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Jim was promising a really special event.

*Alan Brandt*

*All the photos with this story were taken by Linda Brandt.*





*Banner photo at the top by Shari Gale.*

*Top right photo of Koh Murai taking off in front of his previous balloon by Linda Brandt.*

*Photo (left) of Chris Whitfield, his passengers and Jason Fast by Dale Justice.*

*All other photos on this page by Terri Miller.*



# This Newsletter Took A Community Effort

A huge public thank you goes out to the WAS members that have consistently helped me publish this newsletter. Yes, I manipulate the photos in Photoshop, place those photos and the articles in InDesign, and even write some articles, but without the contributions of these key people this newsletter would have been terribly thin. This happens month after month. Alan Brandt (far left) dutifully writes down his impressions and insights into every ballooning event he attends. His wife, Linda Brandt (center left) takes great photos, as does Terri Miller (center right) and Dale Justice (right). They share without hesitation. In other words, they make my life a whole lot more enjoyable.

Thank you Alan, Linda, Terri and Dale. *Merci, Danke, Muchas gracias, Dziękuję, Ďakujem!*

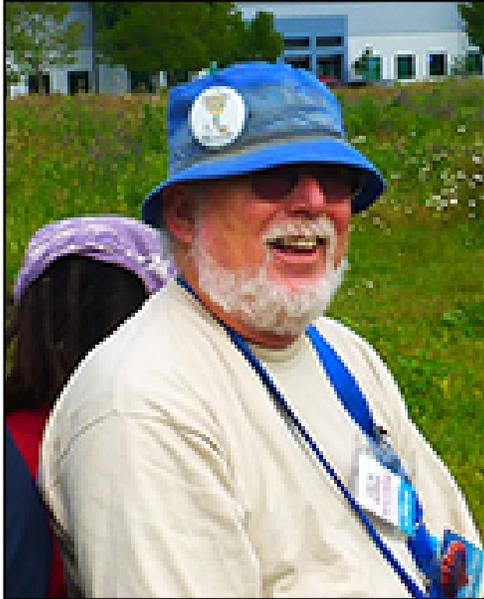


Photo by Linda Brandt



Photo by Terri Miller



Photo by Terri Miller



## WAS to Help Shed the Light on the Fight

### Relay for Life of the Woodburn Area July 12, 2013 • Centennial Park, Woodburn, Oregon

Several WAS member pilots have offered to participate in a nightglow in support of the Relay for Life in Woodburn. We will set up outside the perimeter of the track which will be lined with standard luminaria. It will be an inspiring sight for those involved in the fight against cancer. This is a great way to give back to the community and help make a difference while showcasing our sport.

**6 PM, Friday, 7/12: Opening Ceremony**  
Help celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, to inspire hope, and to remind everyone cancer is a year-round priority.

**6:30 PM, Friday, 7/12: Survivors Lap**  
Cancer survivors take the first lap around the track to celebrate their victory over cancer. They will be cheered on by everyone else.

**10 PM, Friday, 7/12: Luminaria Ceremony (balloons to gather at the field beginning at 8 PM)**  
This is a time to remember people who have lost their battle with cancer, to support people who currently have cancer, and to honor people who have fought cancer in the past. The power of this ceremony lies in providing an opportunity for people to work through grief and find hope.

**11:30 AM, Satday, 7/13: Closing Ceremony**

For more information and/or the opportunity to make a donation or dedicate a luminaria to a loved one go to: [www.woodburnrelay.com](http://www.woodburnrelay.com)

# Meet the Newest Balloon Owners in the Valley

## Michael, Becky, Nicole and Mikey Hebda

The following is an interview between AeroStat Editor, Shari Gale, and Michael Hebda. The Hebda's recently purchased Michael Layman's balloon, fan and trailer. The next step will be flight lessons.

### SG: When was your first exposure to ballooning?

We got our start when Terri Miller talked her boss (me) into coming out to the Tigard Festival of Balloons to crew with Alan Sanderson. He took me for a flight that first morning, and I was hooked..... and my wife extraordinarily jealous!!

### SG: How long have you been active in ballooning?

We have been active in ballooning ever since that day in 2009. We started crewing with the whole family that summer with Ron and Sandy Grove. We have crewed for numerous pilots over our few short years: Alan Sanderson, Ron Grove, Mark Trujillo, Jim Smith, Jesse Rafn, Chris Whitfield, Jason Fast, Carrie Hanneman-Smith, Greg Miller, Jim Campbell, and a few

more at least once in some capacity over the years.

### SG: Please tell us a little about your family.

Becky and I have been married for 17, going on 18 years this August. We have two children, Nicole 12, and Mikey 10. Everyone has been literally "floating on air" since we called Mike Layman and said we would like to purchase the balloon. Then it was nervousness until the deal went through!!

### SG: What is the first thing you want to do after you get your HAB pilot's license?

If the stories are true from other pilots, the first thing might be taking a shower!! Truly, it would probably be take a flight as a family together in the basket alone for the first time.

### SG: Any other things you want to say to the ballooning community?

As we go into our 5th season of ballooning, the one thing we cherish is the time together as family, and the



*Greg Miller took up his granddaughter, Meyghan Miller (center) along with Becky (left) and Nicole Hebda (front right) during the Tigard Festival of Balloons. The next time Becky and Nicole fly in a hot air balloon it may be in their own balloon!*

family of the ballooning community. We have been welcomed with open arms, and supported throughout our experiences. Every time we crew, we cherish the opportunity to learn something new, yet understand there is so much more! The support and enthusiasm from all of the pilots, fellow crewmembers, and friends as we take this step into pilot/owner has been overwhelming. It truly highlights all of the love that can be found and shared amongst members in the sport of hot air ballooning. Our thanks to Mike Layman for the chance to join the special group of pilot owners, and to all of those who have taught us along the way (especially Ron Grove, Mark Trujillo, and Jim Smith), those who have blessed us with the opportunity to be a part of the ballooning community, and encouraged us as we have walked down this path. We are looking forward to a wonderful experience as we move forward!!

*Best regards,  
Michael, Becky,  
Nicole, and Mikey*



# FAR out

by Stephen Blucher, reprinted from *The Tetherlines*, newsletter of the Ballooning Society of Pikes Peak

FAR Part 141 authorized flight schools have a set curriculum by which they do their training. However, most students never see the inside of such a place for various reasons. Most training is done by independent instructors. The FARs do not stipulate, for the most part, how the theory and flight are to be taught; only the total flights/hours and what a student must know to pass a written and a check ride.

It is not a secret by any means. The information is in Federal Aviation Regulation Part 61, Subpart C. It will take some research to find the specific parameters for hot air balloon training in amongst all the sections for airplanes, gyrocopters, powered-lifts, etc. However, once located and highlighted in your *up-to-date* FARs, the training procedure goes easily; at least the flight part. The other knowledge students must possess might be harder to grasp.

An area some instructors, especially those not doing training on a regular basis, are lax in at times is the matter of endorsements. Not

because the instructor is negligent but simply due to being “rusty” on some regulations.

Take for example the student who is “signed off” (endorsed in the logbook *and* on the Student License) for solo flight. She takes off in a 5-knot wind and climbs to the legal altitude for the area over which the flight is being conducted. At that height the wind is 16 knots...not a big deal. The student is well trained for such a situation.

After an hour and forty-five minutes the balloon returns to terra firma with a safe, albeit a bumpy, landing. Was the high wind adventure legal? Reference FAR 61.93 and the pertinent subsections.

It is the responsibility of the instructor to make sure students have the necessary endorsements for each stage of training. However, it behooves the student to be aware, as well, as to which endorsements must be where and when.

Training is different for various balloon types, so students and instructors must make sure the proper

parts of Part 61 are referenced so the learning process, logbook entries and endorsements meet the proper specifications. There have been cases of students failing a check ride not because of knowledge or ability, but because of improper logbook entries.

The more students know, the less chance such a situation will arise. Instructors are not infallible, and sometimes things “slip through the wicker”.

A student balloon pilot holds a Private Pilot Certificate for airplanes. *Now* what log entries and endorsements are necessary?

A balloon pilot instructor who saw this column in pre-publication said this question would cause some trainers to put their minds to work and maybe do a little digging to find the right answers. “You are going to make them think,” he said.

Terrific! It is good for us all who show others the way, to make sure we are guiding the neophyte aeronauts up the right path.



Here are two more photos from the Tigard Festival of Balloons. As you can see from Terri Miller's photo on the left, the attendance at the Festival was very good. Just about everyone had a camera. Some people looked for creative angles in the photos they took as you can tell by the photo above by Linda Brandt.

# 2013 WAS Membership Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
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  Yes  No  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ JB  Yes  No  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ JB  Yes  No  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ JB  Yes  No  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ JB  Yes  No

## Membership Type

Charter (\$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

*WAS publishes an annual Membership Roster, acknowledges Member's Birthdays monthly in **AeroStats** & communicates via email and our website. We recognize and respect our member's privacy. If you do not wish personal information about you published, please indicate so below. Information published on our web site is public domain and subject to retrieval via Internet connection. Unless otherwise indicated, yes is assumed:*

Publish Name in Annual Directory:  Yes  No  
Publish Phone # in Directory:  Yes  No  
Publish Cell Phone # in Directory:  Yes  No  
Publish Family Member Names in Directory:  Yes  No

Publish Address in Directory:  Yes  No  
Publish E-Mail Address in Directory:  Yes  No  
Publish Birthday in AeroStats:  Yes  No

## Mail completed form with fees to:

**Willamette Aerostat Society**  
c/o Leslie Berning  
P. O. Box 3784  
Salem, OR 97302



# 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 other than e-mail addresses.

## 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 members ballooning related or event information published on a space available basis at no charge.

Business Advertising by Club members is considered Commercial Advertising, subject to fee's 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 Ad Space Rates

Full Page — \$30	1/2 Page — \$20
1/4 Page — \$15	Business Card — \$10

Ad's 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:

Terri Miller & Dale Justice's shadows popped up on Jesse Rafn's balloon, Morning Melody, during the Tigard Festival of Balloons. Photo by Terri Miller.

## Waiver

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**Material to be considered for publication should be mailed or e-mailed to the Newsletter Editor at sharigaleOR@gmail.com**

**Publication deadline is the 2nd Saturday of each month.**

**AeroStats reserves the right to deny publication of submitted material for any reason.**

**Material published in AeroStats does not imply endorsement by WAS, its officers, newsletter editor, or its members of an event. Nor does it imply agreement with opinions, comments, or endorsement of any product.**