

AeroStats



March 2013

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

Volume 15, Number 3

WAS President's Letter



First off, Thanks to Cory Miller for organizing the PNW Continuing Education Conference, formerly known as Safety Seminar. It had well chosen topics

presented by knowledgeable and capable speakers. Too bad Gordon Schwontkowski couldn't make it out of Chicago. Brad Temeyer ran through the Skew-T charts methods of prediction of fog and conditions aloft. Bert Padelt's discussion on hydrogen ballooning in the US and balloon club organization was most intriguing. Sam Parks's discussion of Ed Ristaino's accident was quite an eye opener. Sam did well, particularly considering his relationship with Ed as a close friend.

This morning on the news, I heard of the recent accident in Luxor, Egypt where an apparent fuel system failure resulted in the death of 19 people. That appears a lot like Dick Wirth's accident of 1982 in Albuquerque where a fuel system failure had a very similar result. Not as many people involved, yet the mechanism of failure and mode of fatality was amazingly similar. I've not heard of any official release of information from Egypt, as it's far too early, yet the video and descriptions follow the same path. I'll not be surprised if the cause is tied to a broken pipe, nipple or hose end failure. The 1982 accident was clearly a bogus part problem. I'll be waiting to hear about the 2013 accident data. It's important to hold our attention for the investigation result. It's too easy to jump to

judgment as the DJ on the morning radio did today. She expressed her concern over safety with anything in the air without an engine. I called in and said that for my 34 years of flying, I've found that safety is the responsibility of the operator and pilot. Balloons are safe, unless the attitude of the operator or pilot is cavalier over procedures, conditions and equipment. If we hear evidence of quick and uninformed public comments, it's time to confront the issue calmly and with clarity and fact.

This next meeting I'll have the vote for adoption of the bylaw adjustments proposed in the newsletter and late last year. You'll have already received a proxy ballot in an email. Send your reply to Leslie or bring yourself to our next meeting at the Salem FBO at 13h00. We can meet at the restaurant next door, The Flight Deck, for lunch, then get to the meeting for the grand vote. Subsequent discussion may be flying in Winthrop, WA or communications protocols over various bands and/or

continued discussion on the 1982 and 2013 accident, the 2012 accident, or other material from the seminar, or conference.

The last activity will have us retiring to the parking lot for some sort of flying weather dance or sacrifice. It's been a long winter.

Tim Gale
WAS President

The next meeting of the Willamette Aerostat Society will be Saturday, March 16, 1:00 PM at Salem's FBO office.

Get together before the meeting at the Flight Deck restaurant for a no-host lunch at 11:30 AM.

Please join in the fun!

2013 WAS Officers

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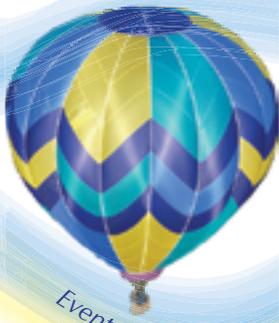
Mark Trujillo

Youth Programs

Cory Miller

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.

May 2013

May 10-12

38th Annual Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Walla Walla, WA

Contact: Betsy Hadden,

WW Chamber, 509-525-0850

June 2013

June 21-23

Festival of Balloons in Tigard

Tigard, OR

Contact: info@tigardballoon.org

503-612-8213

<http://www.tigardballoon.org>

July 2013

July 12-14

Southern Oregon Wines Aloft

Medford, OR

Contact: Drew Brown

541-779-6080

daybreakballoon@gmail.com

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 2

Sequim Balloon Festival

Sequim, WA

Contact: 360-461-2202

September 2013

September 7-8

5th Annual Quincy Valley Balloon & Wine Festival

Quincy, WA

[Invitation Only Event]

Contact: Kent/Kim Bacon,

509-787-3795

September 6-8

The Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, NV

Contact: Tasha Courtney,

775-826-1181

<http://renoballoon.com>

September 20-22

Montague Balloon Fair

Montague, CA

David Herfindahl

530-643-1305

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>

Adventure from Coast to Coast

By Shari Gale

Have you heard? Well, I expect that you have. It's the talk of the area. One of the Pacific Northwest's balloon teams is on a major media tour for Disney. Obviously, I'm talking about Scott and Laurie Spencer from Boise, Idaho.

They picked up their new balloon the "Great & Powerful" just before they headed to Hollywood. They tethered the balloon on Hollywood Boulevard out front of the El Capitan Theater where the Jimmy Kimmel Show is produced. The star of the movie Great & Powerful Oz, James Franco, shared the basket with Laurie. They made it look like he was actually flying the balloon as Jimmy Kimmel introduced him on a live television feed. Here's what Scott had to say about the experience:

"While the full impact of this unique effort for our Disney family still hasn't set in I can tell you that I never ever expected to see pictures of movie stars on our web pages with our balloons.

"Disney is calling the 'Great & Powerful Oz' movie premiere one of the biggest in the companies history and certainly their biggest to date, with social media.

"With the first 'explosive release' of Oz images at the premiere our



Laurie Spencer spent some quality time with actor James Franco! He was nice enough to even let her operate the burners occasionally.



The Great & Powerful was tethered right outside the El Capitan Theater on Valentine's Day. There were people, cameras and movie stars everywhere. It all was the start of a memorable adventure.

'Great & Powerful' hot air balloon was seen by millions around the planet, it is a bit overwhelming to be a part of that.

"I'm just now getting Laurie back to earth after her time in the basket with James Franco.

"You can't imagine the number of cameras on us every moment that we were there. There were quite literally hundreds. It was crazy.

"In getting ready for the live show, we practiced for a couple days and the weather Gods smiled on us ... (another lucky career moment for me).

"We did the actual flying as you might expect. Laurie was in the basket the entire time and I spoke (gave her commands) via our radios, then she would tap James on the leg to get him to fire the burners.

"It worked

pretty good."

I'd say it worked very well. It was fun to see it all unfold on my own television. But they weren't done yet. The next day they were at the beautiful Langham Hotel in Pasadena to tether the balloon for TV anchors from all over the United States. The Disney Corporation brought in the media, the movie's cast and provided the production facilities. "All" Scott and Laurie had to do was tether the balloon for 14 hours one day. The next day they ran into a little wind, so lost part of the afternoon. They still had time to work with many, many media outlets.

The day after that they were in Disneyland tethering the balloon on Main Street. You can see it here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ng71KLrkpo&feature=youtu.be_gdata_player

This sounds like a lot of work, but they still weren't done. Immediately after the Disneyland inflation, Great & Powerful team members, Rob Ryerson and Rich Furman, left for Florida. Scott and Laurie flew to

Continued on page 6

Adventure from Coast to Coast

continued from page 4

Florida the next day. They tethered the balloon at the Daytona 500 track and for the Home Shopping Network.

Now they were done. Right? Nope. They are still not done! An appearance in New York City is planned in a few days. If you want to try to keep up with them you can follow them on their Facebook page, Scott and Laurie Spencer's Adventures in Ballooning.

In closing Scott has some advice: "For my ballooning colleagues, I hope this tour finally opens their eyes (sadly) to the fact that commercial or corporate hot air ballooning simply can not be supported any longer by simple appearances at balloon rallies. To grow the sport pilots must think bigger in their customer pitches."

I'd say Scott thought pretty darn big on this adventure!

Shari



The Great & Powerful was in Daytona for the NASCAR race.



All the stars came out for the movie's premiere. In the basket with Scott and Laurie is Robert Iger the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Walt Disney Corporation.



Fox Broadcaster Jeff Hammond endured a very windy tether with Scott and Laurie in Daytona, FL. As Scott said, "It wasn't a fun ride," but he "stood right there with us." You can see that not a hair was ruffled in the process.



At the Langham Hotel press junket in Pasadena, CA the Great & Powerful balloon team working some very long hours for two days in a row. One day they tethered for 14 hours. This adventure may be very exciting and memorable, but it must have been exhausting as well.



The entire event was filmed using an IMax camera. Hopefully, we will all get to see the result someday.

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

Again this year the Iverson's welcome balloonists to come participate in their annual Tulip Festival at the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm east of Woodburn on March 29 through May 5.

Balloonist's behavior:

- Respect the landowner's property. Don't drive into the fields if they are wet or damp. Leaving ruts or crushing new grass is not OK.
- There is room in the parking lot to back rigs/trailers up to the edge of the field to unload.
- Drive carefully. Foot traffic is everywhere (especially when you return). Drive slow and give way to foot and vehicle traffic.
- Use of Alcohol. Serving alcohol is discouraged. If you include alcohol in your post flight routine, do it discretely and avoid calling attention to your party.
- Carry out what you bring in (especially alcohol bottles). Trash barrels provided by the farm are for their customers, not our trash.

Launch Fields:

This year the tulip fields are located south of the main buildings. **Our launch field is east of the tulip field.** It's a 25 acre grass field, so there's lots of room. You are also welcome to launch from the parking areas or in the grass field north of last year's tulip field. **STAY OFF the wheat** that is now planted in last year's field.

Come out and participate in this year's non-sponsored event. Fly when you want each day of the festival. Be responsible for all your own costs. Obey all flight regulations; there is no waiver for these flights. W.A.S. is posting this notice as a courtesy to its members and is not acting as a sponsor of these flights in any way directly or implied.



Annual didn't go exactly as planned?

Been wanting to get something new?

Call your Lindstrand Dealer today for the latest offers and deals!

Here are a few things to consider when comparing Lindstrand to another brand:

- Are fabrics like DIAMONDWEAVE™ with it's proven 500+ hour performance, and Hyperlife™ available?
- Does it include standard features like a Nomex scoop and throat?
- Does it include complete freedom of choice in color and pattern design?
- Are the burners powerful, reliable and yet easy to maintain?
- Does it include these basket options as standard equipment: upgraded size, cushion floor, leather trim and nylon skid protectors?
- Does the manufacturer have a proven track record of world-class performance and customer service before and after the sale?

Kong 503-819-5664, Vic 206-915-2002, Mandy 253-638-9696



After Flight Breakfast? It's a Good Idea!

“Silence can easily be interpreted as agreement or consensus, or it may hide dangerous elements of groupthink. Similarly, a near-miss tends to be interpreted as a success, when, in fact, it is truly a chance to evaluate the mission for better ways to avoid a failure next time. Dr. Dillon recommended that we spend more time analyzing successes to identify not just what we’ve done well and contributed to success, but also what went wrong but somehow didn’t cost us the mission; because the next time around, it may very well cost us the mission.”

From NASA's 'The Critical Path', Volume 20 Number 2, 2012 Summer/Fall Newsletter

From a flight safety perspective this is equally true. Hence the need for post flight tail gate or beverage/meal.

Koh Murai, WAS Vice President

Scott Spencer, who has been on The Great and Powerful Oz movie balloon tour (see story on pages 4 and 5), had a little down time. He photoshopped himself into the Disney movie poster (right) and titled it, “If I were flying.” Once he got the balloon safely on the ground Scott would most likely head to a breakfast debriefing. He would need to talk it out!



FAR out

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

There is information on safety related subjects that in today’s world is good for all pilots to have, and it is **not** located in the FARs but the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM).

Some balloon pilots fly in air-space and have no clue with whom they are sharing that space. All around this great nation of ours there is air space containing military training routes (MTR) often nowhere near a military base. Balloon pilots must read their sectional charts carefully and note thin gray lines running through or near their operational areas. Do not mistake the slightly wider blue federal airways with “V” numbers along them. The gray lines will have designators “IR” or “VR” followed by three (3) or four (4) numbers, each meaning something different but equally important.

IR (instrument route) means no matter the weather, the fighter or bomber pilots will have their heads in the cockpit and not be looking outside the aircraft. VRs (visual

routes) are theoretically used only when the visibility is at least five miles, the ceiling more than 3000 feet above ground level (AGL) and the pilots are flying by outside visual reference. Of course, five miles is an eye-blink at 450 knots in a swept wing bullet.

The number of numerical digits is really important. Three (VR 123) indicates the plane should be operating above 1500 feet AGL. Four digits (IR1234) mean...well, can you spell tree topping? This pilot is on the deck, probably relying on terrain avoidance radar and is going really fast. The three digit pilot is higher, we hope, and also going really fast. By personal experience, a three number route does not guarantee the pilot is flying 1500 AGL.

If you are not flying on or across a MTR but one exists in the area, are you safe? Do not bet your life on it. Again by personal experience, I was passed by four military jets miles off the training route. Were they flying legal VFR? Yes.

Can you find out if a MTR is “hot”? Maybe, but probably not. A pilot from any base might be on any given route and local authorities not have a clue about it. According to one FAA Flight Service Station, there is not a central clearing house for the information.

When operating near a MTR, fly carefully. By the time you hear the thunder, the plane has long since passed.

Happy Birthday

Justin Luber	3/6
Tim Gale	3/12
Jeannine Marshall	3/13
Kelly Haverkate	3/15
Jack Whitney	3/31

Have You Missed Flying in Medford?

Rallies come and rallies go. For years there was a balloon rally in Medford, Oregon. It was cancelled a couple of years ago due to lack of sponsorship. Have you missed flying in Medford? Well, that is about to change. This year the rally is being reborn with a new theme and some new ideas. ***Southern Oregon Wines Aloft will be held on July 12 through 14 in Central Point, Oregon.***

This first year the organizers will limit the number of participating balloons to 15, with the hope of

expanding the rally in coming years. Besides flying other activities for the pilots and crew are being planned. They include rafting, wine tasting, a nightglow and a pilot/sponsor dinner.

Further information will soon be available. Several volunteers have stepped forward to host pilots in their homes. Some hotel rooms will be available as well.

If you have questions please call fellow balloonist and event organizer, Drew Brown at 541-779-6080. Or send him an e-mail to daybreakballoon@gmail.com.

A big
Thank
You
goes to
Cory Miller
for single
handedly
organizing a
great continuing
education seminar.

Don't Come Up With a Big Goose Egg!

The Loose Goose VI balloon rally has changed weekends. If you plan your summer around the former rally dates you might just find yourself alone in the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum parking lot wondering where everyone is hiding.

Change your calendar to show the new dates of August 10 through 11.

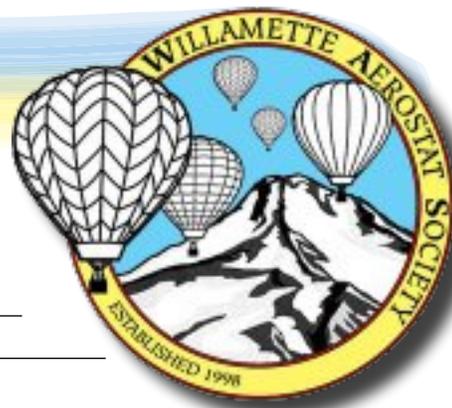
Everything else is the same: We will have the same fantastic launch site (launching in front of the Spruce Goose or the Wings & Waves Waterpark is hard to beat); the same outgoing "Mother Goose," Laura Hancock will be charge; the same dedicated museum staff will be there to greet us and see to our needs; and we will be flying over and around the same warm and welcoming community of McMinnville. The only change is the event date. Don't come away with a big goose egg by showing up on the wrong weekend.

If you have questions, please contact Mother Goose at dayshancock@aol.com.



While you are reading this some local pilots will be in Winthrop, Washington flying in the snow! This year there should be lots and lots of snow in the Northern Cascade Mountain range. The photos that come back should be spectacular. Look for them in next month's newsletter. The photo above was taken by Dale Justice in 2010.

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)

Enroll or new JB Membership. We will forward 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:

newsletter@wasballoon.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:

Scott & Laurie Spencer, along with a bunch of dedicated crew members, closed down Hollywood Boulevard for the premiere of the newset Disney movie, *The Great and Powerful Oz*. Story on page 4.

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

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

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