

AeroStats

The image features two hot air balloons. The one in the foreground is larger and has a multi-colored pattern of red, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The one in the background is smaller and has a pattern of yellow, pink, and purple. A tall, thin tree with green foliage is positioned between the balloons and the right side of the frame. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

June 2016

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

Volume 18, Number 6

The Flying Season Is Upon Us!

There will not be another
WAS meeting until next fall.

See you at a balloon
event this summer!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| <i>Jim Churchill</i> | 6/2 |
| <i>Barbara Ayers</i> | 6/3 |
| <i>Catherine Driver</i> | 6/5 |
| <i>Dennis Shrum</i> | 6/9 |
| <i>Janet Miller</i> | 6/13 |
| <i>Tom Sharpee</i> | 6/26 |

2016 WAS Officers

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Vice President:

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Activities Director:

Pasha Lubber
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WAS website:

<http://www.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.

June 24-26, 2016

Tigard Festival of Balloons

Tigard, OR

Cindy Padilla, 503-612-8213

<http://www.tigardballoon.org/#about>

July 1-3, 2016

**3rd Annual Freedom Aloft
Balloon Rally**

Prineville, OR

Contact: Greg Miller

503-510-7835

July 1-3, 2016

Teton Valley Balloon Rally

Driggs, ID

Margaret Rose Breffeilh

margaret@tetonvalleyballoonrally.com

July 8, 2016

Woodburn Relay for Life

Centennial Park, Woodburn

Robert Prinslow

woodburnboy@msn.com

July 22-24, 2016

Balloons Over Bend

Bend, OR

<http://balloonsoverbend.com>

August 13, 2016

Valley View Air Show

McMinnville, OR

Contact: Sheila Shelby

sheilas@onlinemac.com

August 20-21, 2016

Loose Goose Balloon Rally

McMinnville, OR

Contact: Laura Hancock

dayshancock@aol.com

August 26-28, 2016

Northwest Art & Air Festival

Albany, OR

<http://nwartandair.org>

August 30 - September 4, 2016

Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic

Boise, ID

For more information

<http://spiritofboise.com>

This is a "By Invitation Only" rally

September 2-5, 2016

**The Alvord Playa Rally &
Campout**

Contact: Cheryl Isaacs

971-226-7239

mc.isaacs@frontier.com

September 9-11, 2016

The Great Reno Balloon Race

Reno, NV

For more information:

<http://www.renoballoon.com>

September 9-11, 2016

Quincy Valley Balloon Festival

Quincy, WA

Contact: Kent/Kim Bacon

<http://www.partiesonthegreen.com>

September 16-18, 2016

Alturas Balloon Fest

Alturas, CA

Contact: Alturas Chamber of
Comm.

530-233-4434

September 17, 2016

Hop & Heritage Festival

Independence, OR

Contact: Mark Trujillo

marktrujillo@comcast.net

September 23-25, 2016

The Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Prosser, WA

For more information:

<http://www.prosserballoonrally.org>

Montague Balloon Fair

September 23-25, 2016

Montague, CA

Check out their Facebook page for
more information

October 12-16, 2016

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede

Walla Walla, WA

For more information:

[http://www.](http://www.wallawallaballoonstampede.com)

[wallawallaballoonstampede.com](http://www.wallawallaballoonstampede.com)

If you have a story or photos
to share with the WAS
community, please do!

Send it to Shari Gale at:
sharigaleOR@gmail.com

Thanks!



Fun Flying in Madras

by Shari Gale

I miss going to Walla Walla in the spring. I'm not alone. A lot of people miss having a May event on our calendars. We certainly can't count on decent weather on the Western side of the Cascades in May, plus the crops are starting to be a major consideration. This year since the growing season seems to be about 30 days early we needed to be even more wary than usual.

What was our solution? Easy. We decided to visit Madras in Central Oregon again. Tim and I went there last year, and we really enjoyed it. Why not go back?

The instigators of this plan originally were Dale Justice and Carmen Blakely. They got it going again this year, and were kind enough to include us.

We traveled on Friday, and planned to fly on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday the weather cooperated with us. The winds took us south. Tim ended up landing in a farm equipment yard. Every piece of farm equipment on the lot seemed to be studded with lots of pointy ends, yet there was a lot of open space. The only challenge was the fact that both gates leading into the property were locked tight. It looked like we were going to have to walk the basket out through a ditch, and along the street to get around the barriers across the driveways. It would work, but it would be *work!* Luckily, first one business owner, and then the other showed up and unlocked the gates. We were able to drive the trailer right up to the basket. Loading it had never been simpler.

After the flight we all invaded the home of local residents, Mack and Susan Gardner. They had generously offered Tim and me a place to stay, and they said we could use their kitchen for communal meals. That was an offer we were not going to turn down!

Carmen organized breakfast. I organized dinner. Everyone contributed. We enjoyed a couple of wonderful meals, but best of all we had a comfortable spot to socialize. In a restaurant you always feel as though you need to leave so other customers have a place to sit. We were able to just sit around at the Gardner's home and talk until the urge for a nap became too strong to ignore.

Sunday we weren't so lucky. Rain was in the forecast. It wasn't a question of *if* it would rain. It was a question as to *when* it would start to rain. We could have flown, but Tim, Carmen and Dale all chose to keep their envelopes safely tucked away in their trailers. Actually, the decision was made before Tim & I got to the field. Carmen and Dale were already parked close together with their vehicles pointed out toward an exit. We did not have to ask what they were thinking.

It was the right decision. It start-



Knigh-N-Gale's landing site. Photo by Mack Gardner



Carmen Blakely cooking breakfast for the starving balloonists. We enjoyed a wonderful chance for socializing due to the generosity of local residents, Mack and Susan Gardner.

Photo by Shari Gale

ed to rain at about the same moment we would have been landing if we had flown. We got wet as we walked across the Black Bear Diner's parking lot. Our envelopes were right where they should be – dry.

Flying in Madras



Charitie Gamble of Madras helped organize the local crew for both Carmen and Dale. Her enthusiasm for ballooning is infectious. Photo by Shari Gale.



Meet Allison. She's been ballooning since she was 9. This time Dale gave her a flight lesson. She did the burner test and all the flying up to just before the actual landing. She'll turn 14 in a few months and will be applying for her student license. You can see just how enthusiastic she is about ballooning from this photo.

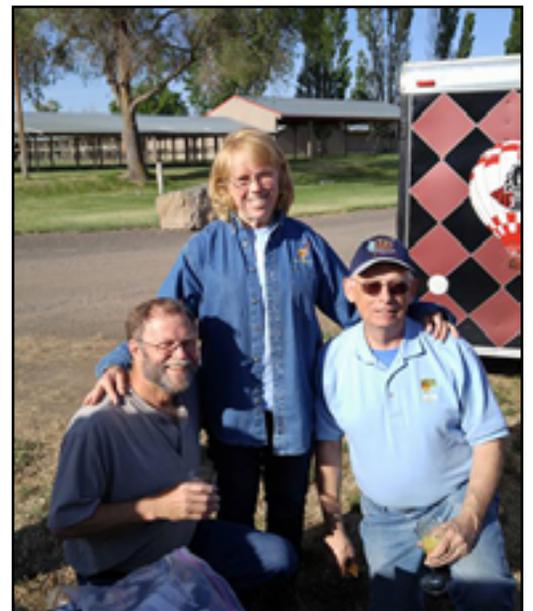
Photo at left by Mack Gardner.
The two photos above by Dale Justice.



Dale Justice thought his all female crew was great.
Photo by Dale Justice.



Susan Gardner took this photo during her flight.



Pilots Carmen Blakely, Tim Gale and Dale Justice enjoyed a chance to fly in Central Oregon.
Photo by Charitie Gamble.

Valley View Air Show

August 13, 2016

Once again local balloonists have been invited to fly out of the Rock of Ages Valley View Retirement Community just outside of McMinnville on Saturday, August 13th. Pilots and crew will be offered breakfast and T-shirts. The pilot will be reimbursed for propane.

Their meadow is always a lovely launch site. There is only one direction that excludes flying. Going west from there is not a good idea. You'll almost immediately find yourself in the Coast Range. There would be few landing sites in that direction. Usually the winds are out of the north, so that is not a problem.

Besides the balloons the airshow will include an exhibition by McMinnville Aircraft Modelers Remote Controlled Aircraft club, a car show, free horse and wagon rides, and kids play area (including a bouncy house, water slide and activity booths). There will also be music from 2 to 9 PM.

If you want to participate, please contact Sheila Selby, sheilas@onlinemac.com



Have you been reflecting on your need to belong to the local ballooning community?

Here's your chance. Join WAS. We are a friendly, enthusiastic bunch of people. We would love to have you become part of our group.

It's easy to do. Just fill out the membership form on page 9, write out a check, and mail it to the club treasurer, Dale Justice. His address is at the bottom of the form.

Memorial Day Fly Out Jefferson, Oregon

By Shari Gale



Marianne and Bob LeDoux organized a fly out for local balloonists in Jefferson, Oregon on Memorial Day. About seven or eight pilots showed up. For our area that's an excellent turn out.

The weather looked good, but the springtime challenge of finding an appropriate landing site was a huge factor. What to do? Launch or not to launch. That was the question. Pibal after pibal was launched to

river for a nice splash 'n' dash, but he resisted the temptation because doing that would have gone against his flight plan. He knew what he had to do to get to the airport and he stuck with it.

He messed up his Hot Air app upon landing. He accidentally erased all the data, but he's pretty sure he was going about 15 mph at one point. Luckily, it wasn't that sporty on the ground, but he did have a

high wind landing. Where did he land? At the airport. On the east side of the runway. I had the access code to this non-tower airport, so retrieval was straightforward.

The flying conditions won't be what I remember about this

flight. It will be the passengers. We had given away the ride to benefit the local high school's athletic department. The lady who bid on it was someone we knew. She was so excited to go. At the last minute her husband decided he did not want to go, so she called up her best friend. They've been friends since first grade. Becky drove up from Eugene. She hadn't really had time to think about what she had agreed to do that morning. Just before she was going to step into the basket she went into

panic mode. She turned to me and said, "I'm going to throw up. Where can I throw up?" She was shaking.

Actually, I think she was looking for someone to give her a reason not to go up. I was inclined to tell her to get out of the basket, but her friend kept telling her, "Take a deep breath. You'll be OK." I later learned that Becky is often melodramatic. Her response to going on this little adventure was not over the top for her.

Becky would not even look when Tim lifted off. She hid her eyes. At first she was shaking, but before long she started to enjoy herself. By the time they landed 40 minutes later, she was elated. She was so proud of herself for conquering her fear.

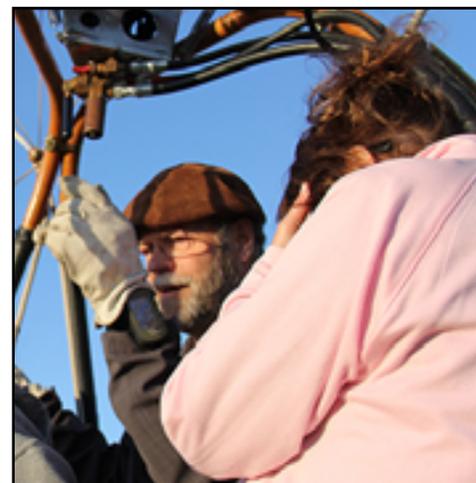
I'm glad I did not suggest she bail on the ride. It turned out that it was a huge win for her, and now she and her long time best friend have one more story to tell their grandchildren.



help in our quest to answer it.

In the pilot briefing Marianne listed the places she knew would be a safe place to land where crop damage would not/could not happen. The list wasn't very long. She wisely said, "Long range planning is your goal today. Pick a spot early and work your way to it."

Tim decided to launch. Only Tim, Marianne and Alan Sanderson chose to fly. Tim picked the Albany airport as his goal. He said he knew he could have dropped down into the



Photos on this page by Shari Gale.

Memorial Day Fly Out

Photos by Dale Justice



Watching another round of pibals.



"Now, what do we do next?"



This is part of the Knight-N-Gale crew on Memorial Day. They are all members of the Walz family. Three generations are represented here. This is one of the things that makes ballooning such a wonderful sport!

Benton County
Historical Museum

Saturday July 23, 2016
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

1101 Main Street
Philomath

Family Day

at the Museum

SATURDAY
JULY 23, 2016
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
FREE!

Up, Up, and Away!

Planes, trains, helicopters and hot-air balloons will fill the day and skies at the Benton County Historical Museum for our free *Up, Up, and Away Family Day at the Museum*. So pack a picnic and bring the whole family for a free day of fun at the museum.

No alcohol
Service animals only – No pets
Thank you!



Hot Air Balloons!

Starts at 8 a.m.
Hosted by the Willamette
Aerostat Society, with fun
facts and rides,
weather permitting

Planes, Trains and Helicopters!

Afternoon
Model airplanes and
drones fill the sky!
A visit by the REACH
Air-Ambulance helicopter

Art, crafts and books!

Afternoon
Courtesy of local
artists, Corvallis Arts
Center and the Benton
County Bookmobile

And more!

Scavenger hunt! Food carts!
Exhibitions on flight and
railroad photography
in the museum!

Model Trains!

Model train displays
hosted by The Oregon
Electric O Gaugers

Come fly with us!

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
tel. 541.929.6230 • bentoncountymuseum.org

Thank you to our sponsors!



2016 WAS Membership Application



Name: _____
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: _____ 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 (includes family) (\$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

The Willamette Aerostat Society publishes an annual membership directory, acknowledges member's birthdays in the club newsletter, and communicates via e-mail and the website. We recognize and respect our member's privacy. If you do not wish personal information about you published, please indicate below. Information published on our website is public domain and subject to retrieval via Internet connection. Unless otherwise indicated below, it is assumed it is OK to publish this data in our annual directory:

- Do Not publish name
- Do Not publish address
- Do Not publish phone number
- Do Not publish cell phone number
- Do Not publish e-mail
- Do Not publish birthday

Please use a 2nd page 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



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:

Saturday morning flight on a grey day in Madras in May. Photo by Shari Gale.

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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.