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Surprise!

The July edition of the newsletter is done on time! No one is more surprised than the editor.

A big thank you goes to my helpers Dale Justice and Pasha Luber for stepping in to proof when they weren’t expecting it.

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No WAS meetings are scheduled during the summer months.
Meetings will resume next October. It’s time to connect with your fellow balloonists out on the launch field.

Please send your ideas for the 2019 Safety seminar to Tim Gale. You don’t need to send him a letter. It’s easier than that.

Just send Tim an email to knightngale@comcast.net.
### 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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 28-July 1, 2018</td>
<td>Teton Valley Balloon Rally</td>
<td>Driggs, ID</td>
<td>Margaret Rose Breffeilh, <a href="mailto:margaret@tetonvalleyballoonrally.com">margaret@tetonvalleyballoonrally.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5-8, 2018</td>
<td>5th Annual Freedom Aloft</td>
<td>Prineville, OR</td>
<td>Greg Miller, 503-510-7835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27-29, 2018</td>
<td>Balloons Over Bend</td>
<td>Bend, OR</td>
<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:kimbacon80@gmail.com">kimbacon80@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24-26, 2018</td>
<td>Northwest Art &amp; Air Festival</td>
<td>Albany, OR</td>
<td><a href="http://nwartandair.org">http://nwartandair.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29 - September 2, 2018</td>
<td>Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>For more information: <a href="http://spiritofboise.com">http://spiritofboise.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7-9, 2018</td>
<td>The Great Reno Balloon Race</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>For more information: <a href="http://www.renoballoon.com">http://www.renoballoon.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7-9, 2018</td>
<td>Quincy Balloon Festival</td>
<td>Quincy, WA</td>
<td>Contact: <a href="mailto:kimbacon80@gmail.com">kimbacon80@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15-16, 2018</td>
<td>Alturas Balloon Fest</td>
<td>Alturas, CA</td>
<td>Contact: 530-233-4434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 28-30, 2018</td>
<td>The Great Prosser Balloon Rally</td>
<td>Prosser, WA</td>
<td>For more information: <a href="http://www.prosserballoonrally.org">http://www.prosserballoonrally.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17-21, 2018</td>
<td>Walla Walla Balloon Stampede</td>
<td>Walla Walla, WA</td>
<td>For more information: <a href="http://www.wallawallaballoonstampede.com">http://www.wallawallaballoonstampede.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19-21, 2018</td>
<td>Southern Hills Hospital Balloon Festival</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>For more information contact: Tim Hill at <a href="mailto:tim@balloonsovertherainbow.com">tim@balloonsovertherainbow.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Spread a little love to the Willamette Aerostat Society — Your local ballooning community

**Join WAS Today!**

There’s an application form at the end of this newsletter. Simply fill out the form and send it along with your check to our dedicated club treasurer, Dale Justice.
By Shari Gale

We have driven down I-5 past Grants Pass more times than I can count. We even stayed there one night on our way to California. We stayed in a motel that was within blocks of the freeway, and we did not bother to explore the town at all. That was a mistake. Grants Pass is a fun town with some unique shops in the downtown core.

There’s been a rally in Grants Pass for years. We never attended in the early years because the rally fell on the last weekend before school was out. It just wasn’t a good time for us. So, when we made the decision to fly there this year we really did not know what we were getting into.

From the freeway you can’t see very much open land. Grants Pass is in a small valley surrounded by wooded hills. We were told that flights sometimes have to be cut short since it is not advisable to fly over the hills into never-never land.

So, what exactly had we signed up for? It turns out we signed up for a remarkable weekend of fun. We had enough of our regular crew traveling with us, but we asked for local support because we did not know the lay of the land. We ended up with a woman named Donna who had just retired from the Post Office and had delivered mail in the area for years. Can’t beat that qualification!

The launch site was a local elementary school which is situated more or less right in the middle of town. Tim launched along with about 14 other balloons. He flew for just under one hour. He zigged and zagged and ended up landing only three blocks away. We could have walked from the launch site to the landing site.

He touched down in a city street which was wide, clean and had no powerlines at all. He was greeted by a severely handicapped-wheelchair bound man and his caregiver. They were delighted with the early morning entertainment. Many of the other neighbors came out to take photos and ask questions.

Tim wasn’t the only one to land in the city streets. Several other pilots did as well. The local police were cool with it all.

That afternoon we walked around town with some of our crew members. We went bear hunting in the downtown area which has a series of creative bear sculptures peppered around. It was hard to pick which bear we liked best. Many of...
the other pilots did the same thing.

We had the option to go out and watch the Friday night glow out at the festival grounds but chose to stay in town. We knew we were assigned to glow on Saturday. Considering the winds did not die down until quite late the glow did not start until a little after 10:30 PM, and the glow lasted for a full hour. The pilots/crew who were out there Friday night did not make it to bed until well after midnight. The 4:00 AM wake-up call was not appreciated. It was necessary, but not appreciated.

Saturday we still did not have a sponsor rider, so we took up one of our regular crew members, Megan Smith. She was so excited to go up, and she got to do her first splash ‘n’ dash. Tim did not make it into the Rogue River, but he made into a rather mucky pond in a housing development. Hey, it was a body of water. He is always drawn to any body of water within reach. Karalyn Mumm from Reno was flying in the area. She got some great photos. She also met up with the long tenured “angry landowner” of the city. She landed at the edge of his big green yard only to be greeted by this little old man using his walker who yelled, “Get off my lawn!” (We won’t talk about stereotypes here.) The neighbors all objected to his objection. Karalyn handled it perfectly. She had her crew walk her over to another lawn owned by someone who was thrilled to have a balloon deflate on her yard.

Tim landed in the back yard of a man who had often crewed for Bill Woodhead. He was very pleased to have us drop in on his two-acre plot of land near the river. We tethered his kids plus some other people who happened to stop by. There was a mom with a baby, a toddler and two young girls. When I walked up to her to ask if the girls would want to ride I was only allowed to say, “Would the girls…” before one of the girls yelled, “YES! We want to go!” They took off running and stationed themselves in front of our crew members with their arms up, just waiting to be picked up and put into the basket. Luckily, the mother agreed with their decision.

I don’t think we’ve ever had more enthusiastic passengers.

Knowing we had a late night in front of us we tried to get in as much nap time as we could during the afternoon. Two of our younger crew members decided to take a trip to Crater Lake! That kind of energy level is well in our past. They had a great time, but only one of them ended up making it out to the night glow. That made me feel a little less old and creaky.

It was way too windy to even think about glowing when we first arrived out at the huge farm field used as the festival grounds. The sky was filled with kites. There’s your sign!

The balloonmeister, Bob Raper, said he thought it would be 10:30 or 11:00 before the winds died down. He was wrong — and he was right. The winds died down just at 10:15 which was the designated time for the glow to begin. Nine of the 10 balloons were able to inflate, but the moment they were all standing the wind took a 90-degree shift and picked up intensity. It was time to rock and roll. None of our crew had ever participated in a night glow before. The entire process was a real eye-opener for them. We ended up two people short on our crew so the wind challenges were multiplied. Tim got on the radio and Karalyn Mumm brought her entire crew over for us. Were they ever a welcome sight! The extra help was the difference between success and failure.

Poor ol’ Knight-N-Gale was hot for an hour. When it was time to take her down our crew really jumped on the task. We ended up second in line for propane. At that time of night that is a big bonus. I made sure to

Continued on page 6
thank the crew multiple times.
The next morning the alarm once again went off at 4:00 a.m. Ugh!
It was another marvelous day in the Grants Pass area. This time we had sponsor riders. Neither of them had ever been near a balloon before. They were jazzed at the possibility of going up. They got an excellent ride. Tim was able to maneuver right to the festival grounds. Several other balloons also landed there.
Before we could take Knight-N-Gale down we were approached by a professional photographer. She offered us $10.00 to allow her to shoot some engagement photos with our balloon as the backdrop. We turned down the offer for cash but welcomed them to climb into the basket. The photographer staged multiple photos, but then we added a bonus. We offered to take them up on tether for some extra shots. They were thrilled. The young couple even helped us pack up the envelope at the end. The photographer just kept taking photos. She said she’d send me one. I hope she does. I want to see her end product.
In all, we had a fantastic weekend in Grants Pass. I’m very pleased we made the decision to finally take the four-hour drive down I-5. When we pass the area on our way to California in a few weeks, we will happily relive our experiences there.

High Hopes is flying in the lower right corner of the photo above. It was piloted by Alan Sanders. On this Sunday morning flight one of Alan’s passengers was Nancy Cross, one of the owners of Fort Vannoy Farms. Not only did the Fort Vannoy Farms host the festival on their land, they also loaned Alan one of their trucks when the transmission on his truck died. Alan reported that Nancy loved flying over the land owned by her neighbors. When Alan finally landed he was close enough to her house that she chose to walk home rather than travel back to the festival field. Not many other pilots can say they had a rider walk home after their flight!

All of the photos on this page were taken by Sheryl Zimmerer during her flight in Knight-N-Gale on Sunday morning. The photo to the left shows the landing site. The row of concrete barriers down the center of the field were primarily used by the kite flyers, but also the balloons who tethered in the field giving rides to spectators all three days of the festival. The lower left photo shows the launch area at Parkside Elementary School. The lower right photo shows the Rogue River as it snakes its way through the valley.
Grants Pass Balloon & Kite Festival

Greg Miller preparing for take off on Friday morning.

Student pilot, Janna Ingram, had crowline duty for her grandfather, Koh Murai.

Kearney Davis (upper balloon) and Koh Murai (lower balloon) flew over town on Saturday morning.

Gary Lockyer from British Columbia took the 12 hour drive to join us in Grants Pass.

These were just a small fraction of the kites flown during the afternoons out on the festival field. The soccer ball, behind the front kite, reminded many of the balloonists of an HAB envelope during a windy inflation attempt. It was a good example of why we were not attempting to fly that afternoon. Amazingly, the biggest kites were just tethered to concrete blocks. There was no guidance needed from anyone once they were airborne.

These are the two little girls mentioned in the story who were so enthusiastic about going up. One was six and the other was eight. They could not wait to go back to school on Monday to tell their classmates what they had done on Saturday morning. It’s moments like this that make getting up at 4:00 AM worthwhile!

Photos in the two right columns by Shari Gale

Photos above by Megan Smith
More Photos of the Grants Pass Balloon & Kite Festival

The best landing sites come with a port-a-potty!

From this angle it looked like Koh Murai did not have a very good landing site. In truth, he found an excellent one with a landowner willing to unlock gates for his crew. There were only three red zones in the entire valley.

Canadians Dale Richie (left) and Garry Lockyer (right) drove down to Southern Oregon to fly with us, which makes this the only international event in the state.
Calling all Student Pilots and Commercial Pilot instructors!

Are you a student pilot or do you have a student who is ready to take their check ride? Kay West, FAA Designated Examiner, will be making her yearly trip to the Pacific Northwest in an effort to assist in giving check rides to those student pilots who are ready.

If you want to make an appointment, please let Terri Schofield know. Kay can perform check rides August 18 through 22.

Please contact Terri via her email address: tmschofield814@outlook.com to solidify your reservation and cost.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Adventure Awaits

Have you ever considered just getting into your chase truck and driving to other parts of the country to see how other areas run their rallies? Here are some rallies scheduled for later in the year. One is near. The others are fairly far away.

Links to the rally home page is included to make it easy for you to at least explore from your desktop computer.

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival
Spring Creek, Nevada
July 26-29, 2018
http://www.rubymountainballoonfestival.com

Huff ’n Puff Balloon Rally
Topeka, Kansas
September 7-9, 2018
http://www.huff-n-puff.org

Plano Balloon Festival
Plano, Texas
September 21-23, 2018
https://www.planoballoonfest.org/default.aspx

Owl-O-Ween Hot Air Balloon Festival
Kennesaw, Georgia
October 19-20, 2018
http://owl-o-ween.com

Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival
Yuma, Arizona
November 16-18, 2018
http://www.crcballoons.com

Oh, Come On!
Serving On The WAS Executive Committee Isn’t Hard!

New officers are needed for next year. You will find it a lot more fun than you thought. Please contact a current officer if you want to volunteer.
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
Name: __________________________________________   ❑ Pilot ❑ Crew
Name: __________________________________________   ❑ Pilot ❑ Crew
Name: __________________________________________   ❑ Pilot ❑ Crew
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 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

Mail completed form with fees to:
Willamette Aerostat Society
c/o Dale Justice
2902 E. 2nd St. Unit 76
Newberg, OR 97132

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.
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:
The calm inflation before the winds picked up gave this guy on the crownline time to look at his cell phone during the Grants Pass Balloon & Kite Festival. Photo by Shari Gale.