



DOWNWIND CHASE

Official Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Aeronauts

♦ AUGUST 2026 ♦



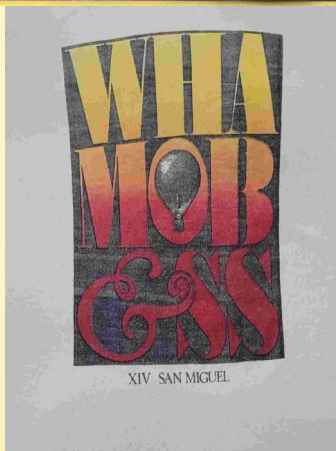
A view from Jeanne Anson Newsletter Editor, Co-Secretary

In 1978 my life changed forever. In July I was scheduled for a half hour balloon flight organized by a Epicurean Social Club in San Francisco to fly with a group of balloons out of Morgan Hill CA. Mick Farnham organized the balloon pilots. There were 8 balloons. As happens, the wind was too much for the flight and we ended up at Dom's for breakfast, a local eatery in Morgan Hill. My pilot was Ron Thornton. Many stories and adventures were shared. I was invited to crew the following weekend. "Sure, sounds like fun."

In August, I received my balloon ride in Rohnert Park. Your first ride is the one that grabs you. Then I was invited to crew for my first rally, WHAMOBASS! To the right is my very first Balloon Rally Shirt: Historic 1978 WHAMOBASS! Were you There? It was pretty amazing being welcomed by Deke Sonnichsen, the Bartletts and so many others.

With the reorganization/dissolution of the PCA, I will be stepping away somewhat. I've been using Microsoft publisher to create the newsletter for decades and in October of this year, that will be going away. The alternatives are not quite compatible. Have not really decided what I will do. Time will tell.

Soft landings, Jeanne



IMPORTANT INFO!

CLUB MEETINGS

VIA ZOOM, HELD ON THE *FIRST*
WEDNESDAY OF ODD-NUMBERED
MONTHS PLUS DECEMBER

**2ND MEETING
OF 2026**

Wed. July 1

@ 7PM PDT

ZOOM BOARD MEETING

NEXT ONE IS:

Thurs Oct 15 @ 7PM

CHECK EMAIL 4 LINK

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Frederick in Flight!

We spent a great weekend in Colorado. Unfortunately we only flew one flight, but inflated the other two days and had a candlestick at the Evening Glow with a live band, food trucks, booths and bubbles with big crowds.!

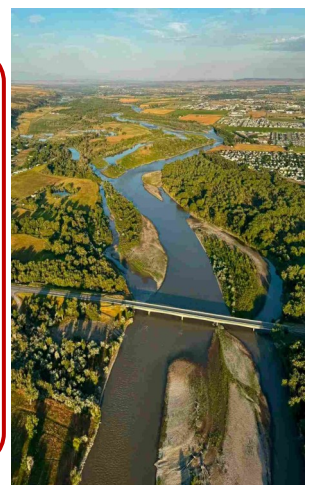
Soft landings, Jeanne
Photos from City of Frederick
Facebook page.



Big Sky Balloon Rally

Billings is a special place to fly. They only flew 2 spectacular. Days. We had other obligations this year and couldn't attend. Missed seeing everyone.

Photos by pilots Ginny Reiger, Pat Newlin & Crew Chief Carla Kelley!



Report from Dave Wakefield

I had a bit of fun with RE/MAX over the past few weeks.

June 10 – RE/MAX flight from KSTS Santa Rosa
June 20 – Wings Of History Kids Day
June 27 – Sonoma Balloon Classic Crew Training
July 4 – Crescent City Independence Day
July 11 - Sonoma Balloon Classic Crew Training

At the time of this writing, I'm looking forward to this coming weekend, July 17-19 at the Sonoma County HAB Classic and "Up With Kids" in Paso Robles on August 1st.

Nice to be back out with the balloon...More to come!



Flying Sonoma County with David Dunrud and Shari Skaife



Flying Sonoma County – KSTS Sonoma County
Charles Shultz Airport



Sonoma Balloon Classic Crew Training



RE/MAX and R3D2 at Wings Of History Museum



RE/MAX at Crescent City



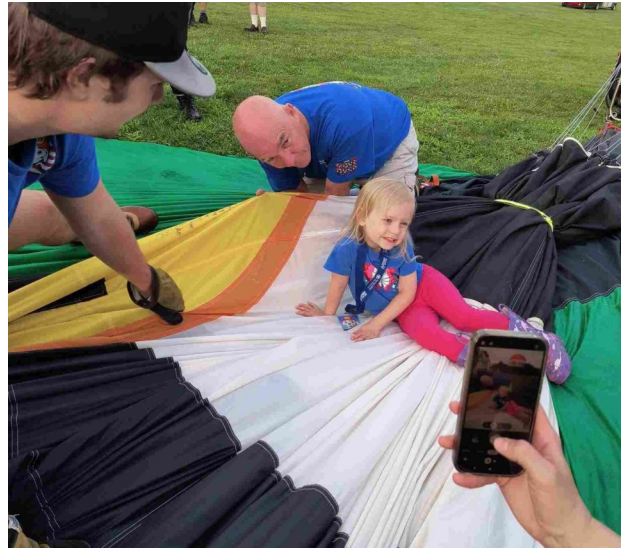
RE/MAX at Crescent City
Beachfront Park

BFA Women's Balloon National Championship

It was a full week of ballooning with [Tony Colburn](#) and I scoring for the BFA US Women's Balloon National Challenge and then we flew competition at the Jackson, MI Hot Air Jubilee Balloon rally.

Challenges were between Canadian wildfire smoke, heat, rain and crops. Tony flew his longest flight into the next county. He received 8th place at the Jackson jubilee!

From Claire Colburn's FB Page!



Amy Gneiting 1st

Cheri White 2nd

McKenna Secrist 3rd

Congrats to all 18 contestants!

PCA General Member Meeting Minutes by April Turner



July 1st, 2026

ATTENDEES

Pat Moore, Dana Thornton, Linda Walton, Dave Wakefield, April Turner

- ♦ Meeting Opened: 7:00PM, Pacific
- ♦ Discussion on RC balloons, manufacturers, new refillable 11b propane cylinders and how useful RC balloons are for outreach and school programs.
- ♦ Reviewed new battery storage facilities and data centers coming to South Bay / Gilroy and the needs to move balloon storage (Dana's storage facility closed) Industrialization is ever increasing in the area.
- ♦ Great Reno Balloon Race is having its 45th anniversary this year. Ron Thornton will be attending giving us all a great chance to catch up with him. The last scrapbook entries I have with Ron are 2005. Reno also has changed format to 4 days, so Media Day is now in July, which feels a bit disjointed. Pat is looking forward to the RC group taking the field again after the mass ascension. Most of us are planning to go to Reno, if not to fly, then at least to visit.

♦ UPCOMING FLYING:

July 4th – Dave will be in Crescent City with ReMax

July 17-19 Sonoma Hot Air Balloon Classic

August 1st, Dave will be in Paso Robles with ReMax

August 28-29 Lincoln Wings & Wheels

September 10-13 Great Reno Balloon Race

September 18-20 Montague Balloon Fair

September 26-27 Clovis Fest

October 17, San Martin Food Truck Fly-in

October 17-18 WHAMOBASS in Turlock

NEW BALLOON:

Dana advised that he will be flying the new MO|Hi balloon, a Kubicek specialty envelope designed for a local winery in Morgan Hill. With this change he will also be converting Free Spirit to a 4 corner basket with a door.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM Pacific

Thanks Everyone!

PCA Board Meeting Minutes—July 16, 2026

2026 Board Members: Pat Moore (PM) April Turner (AT) Tom Sharpee (TS)
Linda Walton (LW) Jeanne Anson (JA)

Chair of Board: Pat Moore (PM)

Club Vice President: Dave Wakefield (DW)

BoD Mtg Secretary: April Turner (AT)

Club President: April Turner (AT)

Club Treasurer: Linda Walton (LW)

Gen. Membership Mtg Secretary: Jeanne Anson (JA)

Guests: Larry Simburger, Dana Thornton, Tom Rossi, Dave Wakefield

Meeting Called to order: 7:03PM Pacific

1. Treasurer Report - LW CD current \$8181.89 + \$56.68 accrued interest
Checking \$2570.98
2. Presentation of PCA current and future status as a Club and 501C4
Pat's Presentation (attached)
We have 25 Pilots and 8 crew on the membership roster.
Membership spans CA, OR, WA, SD, AZ, NV and TX
3. Review of Action items from Executive Session
Larry Simburger confirmed that the BFA has a process for accepting directed funds.
There are no requirements to refund any dues as the club will continue through the end of the year.
 - + Please take inventory of PCA artifacts and submit to April artinhmb@yahoo.com
 - + Add a discussion about the future of the newsletter in its current form or move to Social Media
 - + Pat will draft a letter to the Membership and send to the board for review after Garlic Festival.
4. For the good of the order:
 - ◆ Per Larry, Idaho, Nebraska, Utah and other clubs have made this same transition to social club from official board/financial club.
 - ◆ Debbie Spade manages the Ballooning Hall of Fame database. April to check to ensure that Deke is in the Hall of Fame. Possibly create a bio for the clubs.
 - ◆ After the August 2nd, we will have a meeting with Larry Simburger to discuss West Coast folks to add to the List of Notable Balloonists.
 - ◆ Tom agrees that the social club option is a good one, and meetings vary in frequency based on flying season. Pat will work with Tom to refine schedule.
 - ◆ Eastern Washington is still growing, but much of the old flying areas have been built out.
 - ◆ BFA board is planning a fundraiser for the Indianola museum, especially as insurance fees have changed. They are looking for better ways to collect donations on their website. Kendra is the contact at the National Balloon Museum.
 - ◆ Roy Foote from Boisie Idaho perished in a fire at his home while he was trying to put it out. The BFA has a first responder decal to place on our trailers to support. Mrs. Foote formed a foundation to create the package and they are looking for donations for postage.
 - ◆ There are approximately 30 local clubs that the BFA board are looking to have present at board meetings – we should get on that list.
 - ◆ The BFA has a new RC/Model balloon division on the website (no board, no dues yet) BFA is looking to see if there are ways to replicate the European RC experience of free flight.
 - ◆ Larry participates in events in Albany, Tigard, Walla Walla, Prosser and a movable rally. Plus Boisie. Been to Red Rocks, Page, AZ, one in Missouri (crew chief moved).
 - ◆ BFA currently knows of 1600 LTA aircraft, with 6000 individuals with LTA rating (resurgence of rating collectors from fixed wing). Discussions with manufacturers indicate possibly 3000 active pilots. There are about 2000 members in the BFA as young people haven't seen the value proposition.
5. Motion to close: Moved: Tom S Seconded: Linda & Pat Closed at: 8:15PM Pacific

**Project Plan for Closure of PCA
504 entity**

Task	Responsible	Start Date	End Date	Complete	Notes
Remove Cheddar renewals link from website	Vice President	28-May-26	1-Jun-26	✓	August 2nd Grand Re-Opening and they will talk to me afterward. They are interested. Pat has some of the other signage from the 194th.
Detail WHAMOBASS submission to BFA Museum	President	1-Jun-26	30-Jul-26		
Organize future WHAMOBASS requirements	President/Chair	1-Jun-26	30-Jul-26		
Physical inventory of PCA assets	Board	1-Jun-26	30-Jul-26		
Document instructions for editing social media	Vice President	1-Jun-26	30-Jul-26		There are no conditions set in the bylaws.
Detail dissolution procedures from Bylaws	Chair/Pres	1-Jun-26	30-Jul-26	✓	
Manual meeting invite to membership	Chair	1-Jul-26	1-Jul-26	✓	
Purchase Domain Name for 5 years (to 2031)	Treasurer	1-Jul-26	30-Jul-26		
Create plan for web/social updates	Vice President	1-Jul-26	30-Jul-26		Dave to remove renewal page and remove link from home page Pat and Linda have documentation to consolidate Larry Simburger confirmed that we can direct to Jr. Balloonists
Close site renewal contract	Treasurer	1-Jul-26	30-Jul-26		
Cancel auto-renewal of Zoom account	Treasurer	1-Jul-26	30-Jul-26	✓	
Close agreement with Cheddar	Treasurer	1-Jul-26	30-Jul-26		
Manual meeting reminder to membership	Chair	9-Jul-26	9-Jul-26	✓	Larry Simburger confirmed that we can direct to Jr. Balloonists
Transfer email account to free gmail account	Vice President	15-Jul-26	1-Oct-26		
Remove renewal form from website	Vice President	15-Jul-26	31-Jul-26		
Collect 5 years of documents for retention	Treasurer	15-Jul-26	1-Oct-26		
Elect Funds Recipients	Board	16-Jul-26	1-Sep-26	✓	
Deposit CD into Checking	Treasurer	1-Oct-26	31-Oct-26		
Distribute Funds	Treasurer	1-Oct-26	30-Dec-26		
Final income tax filing	Treasurer	1-Dec-26	15-Jan-27		
Cancel Mailbox	Treasurer	1-Dec-26	31-Oct-27		
Close bank account	Treasurer	1-Mar-27	30-Apr-27		
Discuss future of Newsletter	Secretary	7/16/2026	30-Aug-26		
Draft Membership Letter notifying of status	Chair	7/16/2026	30-Jul-26		



PACIFIC COAST AERONAUTS CLUB CONTACTS

2026 PCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CLUB OFFICERS

Names & Email Addresses	Board Term Expires at End of Year	2026 Officers
Patrick Moore pcamoore587@gmail.com	2026	Chair of BOD
April Turner pca.april@gmail.com	2026	President & Co-Secretary
Dave Wakefield pca.dwake@gmail.com	Volunteer	Vice President
Linda Walton pca.lindaw@gmail.com	2026	Treasurer
Jeanne Anson ansonlta2@gmail.com	2027	Co-Secretary
Tom Sharpee tomsharpee@gmail.com	2027	Member

2026 PCA COMMITTEES

Committee	Chairperson	Members
Newsletter	Jeanne Anson	<i>And All Members!</i>
Membership Dev. Outreach	TBD	TBD
Membership Dev. Communications	Dave Wakefield	TBD
Education & Training	Pat Moore April Turner	Jeanne Anson Tom Sharpee
Calendar Based Events	Not Committees	Start Dates
BFA Youth Program	Jeanne Anson	On Going
Awards	Linda W & April	Later in the year
WHAMOBASS	Board	Planning starts 3/26
Christmas Party	Jana Couch	Oct 2026 planning starts



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FOR SALE

Balloon and Equipment

Right-click on picture captions for more details



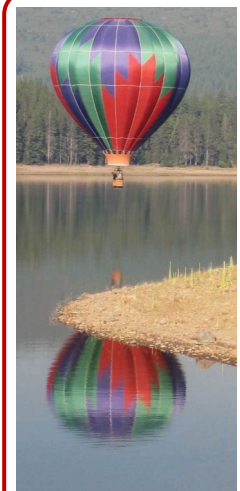
Raven S-55A



2001 Cameron 'Shoe 90



TBW AX-8B—Racer



Aerostar S49A