



# DOWNWIND CHASE

Official Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Aeronauts

◆ MAY 2026 ◆

**It's Time to pay your dues!** You may pay on-line or mail in your dues.  
\$25 for individual, \$35 for family!

## View from the Board Linda Walton

I was wearing one of my generic balloon shirts on Monday. I bought it from Discover Balloons at the Reno event in 2024. It's casual dressy, with Dana's balloon on the front. An acquaintance asked me if I had been out on the balloon field lately. No, I answered, we don't



fly very often in the winter as we are a weather dependent sport. Then, she said, I've always wanted to go in a balloon but I don't know where to go to get a ride. Well, we fly early in this area, California, Nevada and Oregon. I explained, we get up at 4am to fly at Reno in early September. That seemed to stall the conversation regarding balloon rides. But I did expand the conversation from there, mentioning some of the upcoming events. I like to encourage people to travel to Reno for the balloon event. It's much easier to get lodging in the Reno area than traveling to other events such as Albuquerque.

Recently, one of my sewing buddies asked me if I wanted to go on a cruise at the end of August. Well, the dates conflict with the Albany event and Reno. Oh dear! What a decision? How do you choose between a balloon trip and a cruise? So at this time, I'm going to pass on the cruise and will travel to Albany, assuming Alan Sanderson will be flying. It's been more that 10 years since I've made the trip and I'm looking forward to the event and all that goes with it.

*Continued on next page*

### IMPORTANT INFO!

#### CLUB MEETINGS

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

#### 2ND MEETING

OF 2026

Wed. May 6

@ 7PM PDT

#### ZOOM BOARD MEETING

NEXT ONE IS:

Thurs April 30 @ 7PM

CHECK EMAIL 4 LINK

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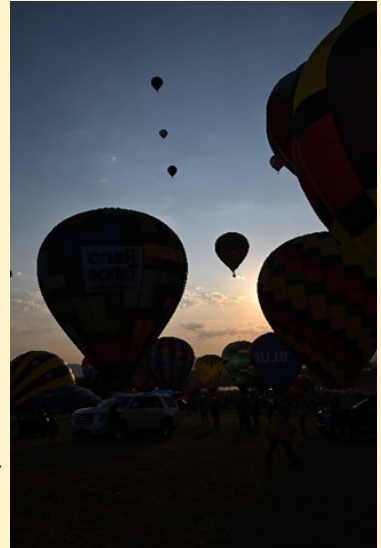
On the launch field, I carry my Nikon camera and my cellphone. My cellphone takes great pictures and I quite often share pictures when the topic of ballooning comes up. But, the reprints for notecards come from the Nikon. I even bought an extra wide angle lens to take pictures at Reno.

The tasks as a crew member vary, as I'm sure you are aware. There are times I can take pictures and times I'm busy with the balloon equipment. But, I'm trying to encourage the general public to explore our sport, especially when people come up and want to see the equipment in the basket. Right now, there are 5 balloon systems for sale in the newsletter, with at least 1 more to be added to the



list. That means there are 5 pilots retiring and not replaced by younger pilots. I worry that there will be a day in the future that the only balloon pilots flying are the ones that fly commercially. Well, as long as people like Dana keep flying, I guess the sport will survive.

Thanks for reading my letter. Please pay your dues. Linda Walton



## Contrails

<https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoJoeWx/posts/pfbid0QRzK9gB-SMiXJN1D8eSjwvuqp9hDYCqYPQhN32ocXVQi7pFYHcyYPRnRWtz4RiK1S1>

Most people don't realize why some plane trails stay and others disappear.

Those white lines are contrails, short for condensation trails. Jet engines release water vapor, and at 30,000-40,000 feet the air is around -40°F, so that vapor instantly freezes into tiny ice crystals.

If the air up there is ice-supersaturated (meaning there's more moisture in the air), the trails spread out and can last a long time. If the air is dry, they disappear quickly.

That's why some days you see lots of long streaks over Colorado and other days the sky is clear. It depends on moisture where the planes are flying, not anything being sprayed. This has been studied in aviation meteorology since World War II. The CIA has also declassified and released documents.

Reprinted from Colorado Balloon Club Newsletter.

## Passages

**Russ Reichert** service May 8, 2:00 pm  
veterans cemetery, Eagle Point, OR





## Mammoth Flights!

Flying in Hot Springs SD is a very special adventure!

Where else can you fly with a replica of a pre-historic Mammoth?

The Fall River Balloon Festival is August 23-25, 2026

Photo by Pat DeSmet



## 2026 Youth Camp AMAZON WISH LIST!

### Support the Future of Ballooning!

Both the Southeastern Balloon Camp and the High Sierra Balloon Camp rely heavily on donations to keep camp tuition as low as possible for families.

Every single scholarship we provide is made possible through generous donations from supporters like YOU.

We've created Amazon Wishlists filled with items that directly support our campers' experiences—from training materials to everyday camp needs. If you're able, please consider purchasing an item (or a few!) to help us continue inspiring the next generation of balloonists.

Southeastern Balloon Camp Wishlist:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2YN6PVJWACCO2...>

High Sierra Balloon Camp Wishlist:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VRWDO0T9ID3J...>

**Your support truly makes a difference and helps keep these life-changing opportunities accessible to all. Thank you for investing in the future of ballooning!**

**Minutes to April 29, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting**

**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 Treasurer:** Linda Walton (LW)

**Club President:** April Turner (AT) **Club Vice President:** Dave Wakefield (DW)

**BoD Mtg Secretary:** April Turner (AT) **General Membership Mtg Secretary:** Jeanne Anson (JA)

**Guests:** NONE

**called to order:** 7:06PM | 19:06 Pacific

Pat has set himself a reminder for 1 week prior to meetings to request Dave/Linda send the general membership meeting reminder.

**1. PCA Budget Discussion – LW**

Proposed 2026 budget versus 2025 actual

**ACTION ITEM:** [2026 PCA Budget](#), [PCA 2025 Actuals](#) **April** has a calendar item to reach out to Dave by May 15 to review posting these and other documents to the BOD page.

**2. Treasurer Report - LW**

1/1/2026 through 3/31/2026	Starting Balance: checking	\$	2,699.97		
Category - Checking Account	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	QTD	
<b>INCOME</b>					
Club Dues	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	
Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
GoDaddy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
Category - Chase	Starting Balance: CD	\$8,000.00			
Interest	\$112.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$112.79	
<b>Chase TOTAL</b>				<b>\$8,112.79</b>	
<b>Total of ALL ACCOUNTS</b>					
				<b>\$10,837.76</b>	

Next CD maturation is October 27, 2026

**3. New Business:**

A. Email – Status of fix/functionality – TS / LW / DW

**Solution identified:** Issues with Outlook 365 to Gmail persist. Have switched to all bulk mail being sent through PCA Gmail account To: PCA email BCC: full roster.

**Dave** (Communication Committee Chair) and **Linda** (Secretary) to document the process of using the Gmail and Go-Daddy email accounts. Need to get with Dave as soon as he is well. **Target May 15 to determine when/how to execute.**

B. Procedural practices (proposals/storage) – Pat will send in a separate email for approval. **PENDING email process above**

i. **Newsletter archive:** We do not have backups of NL .pub files and only backups of .pdf newsletters are webspace and Dave’s PC. Jeanne edits & maintains .pub files on her computer and new .pdf sent directly to Dave, not to Dropbox.

ii. **Minutes Archive:** BOD and some General Meeting Minutes are available on the BOD page from July 2021. Any previous archives may need to be located for legal compliance. While it is recommended for non-profits to maintain minutes indefinitely, the minimum is 7 years.

iii **Dropbox:** space used 1.68GB of 2.25GB. Late May, Dave can help us review the contents, and create a plan for future use. He has moved many of our operational needs to MSFT 365 and we need to understand the storage relationship.

Linda had mentioned that only one of the pilots with equipment for sale is a member. Should we decide to remove the non-member ads after we ask them if they’d like to join?

This has been a courtesy for former longtime members Not a big hassle and does give current members additional access to the equipment.

**Linda** will rattle the bushes to try to get these folks to pay their dues. May 15

Jeanne advised that Jane Jennings ad to be removed as she will submit a new one. May 15

**4. Continuing Business / Action Items:**

- a. Newsletter and website click rate – Dave
  - i. PDF from Dave – Board reviewed report from Dave. No questions however noted lots of bot activity. Low participation, most clicks are to the newsletter

**5. Committees:**

- a. Newsletter – Jeanne sent board letter assignments:
  - January: Jeanne A [https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL\\_JAN2026.pdf](https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL_JAN2026.pdf)
  - February: Pat M [https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL\\_FEB2026.pdf](https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL_FEB2026.pdf)
  - March: April T [https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL\\_MAR2026.pdf](https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL_MAR2026.pdf)
  - April: Tom S [https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL\\_APR2026b.pdf](https://www.pcaballoons.org/images/NL_APR2026b.pdf)
  - May: Linda W
  - June: Pat M
  - July: April T
  - August: Jeanne A
  - September: Tom S
  - November: Linda W
  - December: Pat M
- b. Membership Development
  - i. Outreach – Vacant.
    - Do we have any recruiting efforts happening at the Lincoln and Ceres events?  
**April** to Ask Melanie if there will be a booth at Ceres  
**Linda** to ask David Dunrud if we can put cards out at the tether booth. Also ensure pilots have cards to hand out. Ask pilots who are not part of the PCA to join/hand out cards.
  - ii. Communications – Dave W. **Linda** to send roster to Dropbox by May 15
- b. Education and Training – April T./Pat M. **Pat and April to meet on 10:30 AM Friday May 15th to kick off. Pat to send Zoom.**
- c. Calendar based Events (not a committee)
  - i. BFA Youth Program June 22-28.
    - Linda** will email Karalyn to see if she wanted Costco gift cards or the Amazon wish list items.  
Budget is \$450
  - ii. Awards April needs to get a final quote for appreciation glasses. April to get final quote ASAP
  - iii. WAMOBASS: Planning to be kicked off in May. **Pat** will start an email thread. Preference against AI logos
  - iv. Christmas Party: To be kicked off in October

**6. For the good of the order:..**

Linda's hummingbirds are doing well and the price is down on Costco 25# sugar.

**7. Motion to close:** Moved: Pat Seconded: Jeanne Closed at:8:04PM | 20:06 Pacific

## Fly Canada!



In Drumheller, AB, Canada this past weekend, the Calgary Balloon Club gathered for flying and comradery to kick off the 2026 flying season. There were fire pits, balloon documentary viewing, dinosaur silliness and good times.

Thanks Jenn Poduski of High River AB for sharing.



# 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 <a href="mailto:pcamoore587@gmail.com">pcamoore587@gmail.com</a>	2026	Chair of BOD
April Turner <a href="mailto:pca.april@gmail.com">pca.april@gmail.com</a>	2026	President & Co-Secretary
Dave Wakefield <a href="mailto:pca.dwake@gmail.com">pca.dwake@gmail.com</a>	Volunteer	Vice President
Linda Walton <a href="mailto:pca.lindaw@gmail.com">pca.lindaw@gmail.com</a>	2026	Treasurer
Jeanne Anson <a href="mailto:ansonlta2@gmail.com">ansonlta2@gmail.com</a>	2027	Co-Secretary
Tom Sharpee <a href="mailto:tomsharpee@gmail.com">tomsharpee@gmail.com</a>	2027	

## 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




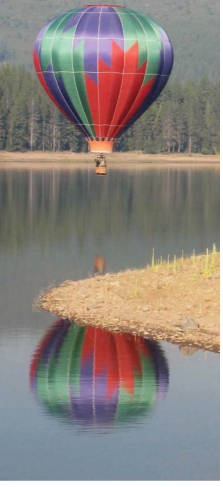
Raven S-55A



2001 Cameron 'Shoe 90



TBW AX-8B—Racer

Aerostar  
S49A