

Sugar Valley Composite Squadron presents

Charles Willard: All About Blimps

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 6:30



Charles grew up in Winston Salem, and graduated from Forsyth Technical Community College and Western Carolina University. At Western Carolina, he completed a BS in Geography with a focus on Cartography. For eight years after college, Charles designed the graphics on hot air balloons for The Balloon Works, a North Carolina manufacturing facility in Statesville, NC. During this time, he earned his lighter than air private pilot's certificate, was involved as a flight test pilot on prototype hot air balloons & competed in BFA sanctioned hot air balloon competitions across the southeast US.

Charles spent the next 24 years working in fire departments in the U.S. and around the world in training and education of new technologies. These included positive pressure ventilation and chemical/biological protection after 9/11. From 1995 to 2011, Charles was a Technical Sales Associate with W.L Gore & Associates, the company that makes GORE-TEX. Charles has also worked with law enforcement and rescue agencies and has a passion for helping those who help others.

Today, Charles is the Vice President of The Blimp Works, a manufacturer of balloons and blimps. The company produces advertising blimps, aerostats for military surveillance, balloons for aerial video & photography, scientific research and other applications. The Blimp Works has been in business for over 30 years and is located near Statesville, NC.

Please join us in the Blue Hangar at Sugar Valley Airport for this fascinating presentation.