

Washington State Animal Response Team

"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"

WASART NEWS

From the President

WASART is very pleased and honored to have been invited to join the Washington Search And Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council (SARVAC). While the Search and Rescue mission and WASART's don't coincide completely, they have much in common, have close parallels, and complement each other. That was clearly demonstrated again in last month's rescue of a dog from the top of Mt. Si, when 4X4 SAR, Seattle Mountain Rescue and WASART teamed together to bring the dog down, while ensuring that her rescuers and her owner remained safe. History has shown over and over that people will put themselves at risk in order to rescue their animals. The rescue of a pet often also becomes the rescue of its owner, or vice versa.

Among the parallels between SAR and WASART is the question of demonstrating competency to perform the skills essential to our missions, and to maintain the skills once mastered. Rescue work, whether for humans or animals, is often risky, and rescuers' safety depends on their own skills and those of their teammates. So it's critical that those who rappel down a cliff face or swim into river rapids know that their teammates who are tending the ropes or spotting for hazards up and down the river, or operating the rescue boat, know their trade and can perform it without error. The way to do that is for those who participate in these activities to show their teammates that they have the necessary knowledge and ability. That's what core competency demonstration is about, and it's a subject that both Search and Rescue and WASART are now pursuing.

We are happy and proud to be part of the SARVAC team.

Bill Dugaard
President

May 2012

**Be Kind to
Animals Month**



Mission Statement

To help animals and their owners through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.

Annual Search & Rescue Conference, May 18-20, 2012

Due to a successful showing last year, WASART was invited to present again at this year's Washington State Search and Rescue Conference. Technical Rescue Team members **Bill Dugaard, Julia Olszewski, Pat Conaway, Mike Tyler, Lauri McBeath-Davies, Fred Knight, Rory Kelleher, and Jason King**, assisted by **Wendy Swanberg Conaway**, made the trip down to Goldendale, Klickitat County, WA, and gave two, one and a half hour presentations as well as participated in an outreach



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event open to the public. Pat Conaway took the lead with the presentation. The other team members demonstrated vertical lift harnesses on both a live dog and Cowgirl, the horse, both of whom were volunteered by their owners.

WASART's tripod was erected and audience members observed the Blue Mare being transported on



the rescue glide before being rigged into the tripod to simulate a rescue from a well, ditch, etc.

Not to be outdone by his wife, **Lauri McBeath-Davies**, who received an award at the 2011 SAR Conference, **Fred Knight** received a Leadership award at the 2012 Conference. Besides being very active WASART members, they are also members of Whatcom County Search and Rescue.

Approximately 600 attendees travelled from

Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California for the Conference as well as from Canada, New Zealand, and Iceland. The 2013 SAR Conference will be hosted by Kittitas County in Ellensburg, WA on May 17-19, 2013.

WASART's Field Response Training, April 28-29, 2012

Members of the general public as well as WASART members certified/recertified in Field Response training which, when mandatory requirements and Core training are completed, will make the WASART members eligible for deployment on rescues. As in 2011, the training was held again at the Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, WA and involved two full days of classroom and hands-on animal handling. Courses covered were hazmat and biosecurity awareness, zoonotic disease awareness, fire safety, animal assessment for loading and handling, water rescue awareness, rope rescue awareness, and base support training, among other courses. The Peninsula Fire Department presented the fire safety course and senior WASART members and members of WASART's Technical Rescue Team taught the remaining courses.



The animal handling classes were a big hit, as always. **Gary Kaufman of Lands End Llamas in Olympia** again provided his llamas and instructed the attendees in the psychology and handling of the animals. **Natasha and Elizabeth Lovell** allowed their goats to be rounded up, led, loaded, etc., for the attendees'

edification and **Lynn Henke** brought her horses.



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Accommodation was in rustic cabins and catering was provided by WASART members, **Tim** and **Deanna Brix**, whose hard work and delicious and timely meals were appreciated by all.

The 10 WASART members who certified or recertified in Field Response were: **Connie Edwards, Alexis Firlotte, Molly Reagan Axt, Michael Durkin, Blunt Jackson, Shelley Lawson, Tammy Schmidt, Joyce Moody, Chris Hollinger, and Susan Mosby.** Also attending the training were **Steve Lloyd** and Whatcom County Animal Control Officer, **Rick Johal.**



CERT Training, May 9, 2012

On May 9, **Lynn Telford-Zenk, Bill Daugaard** and **Denise Steinkerchner** presented the “Pets in Disaster CERT” class for the South Snohomish County CERT members of ESCA (Emergency Services Coordinating Agency). Approximately 20 people were in attendance and asked some very good questions regarding leaving food for animals if evacuating the



owners, demonstrating how to make household items into leashes/collars/carriers, and basic animal behavior. They were joined by Jazz (Katrina survivor) and Granite (Catahoula Leopard dog) to help demonstrate passive and assertive behaviors in canines. Bill, Lynn and Denise ended the presentation with a slide show of Katrina rescues and stayed around for 30 minutes after the conclusion of the class to answer questions, practice/review muzzles/leashes, and observe Jazz and Granite work the room for attention. As excited as Bill, Denise and Lynn were to share their knowledge with the ESCA group, they were able to do a little learning themselves and take part in ESCA’s monthly class of Sign Language. They can all sign their

names now and introduce themselves to those who are hearing impaired. ESCA has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) for companion animal disaster sheltering and is in process of finalizing their MOU with WASART for animal rescue/recovery. We are very excited to partner with both of these north end friends.

Submitted by Denise Steinkerchner
WASART Operations Leader



Puget Sound Regional Planning Workshop, May 11, 2012

The purpose of this workshop, made possible by the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program, was to address the issues surrounding a region-wide catastrophic event requiring hundreds and thousands of residents to evacuate and the importance of planning for how and where these evacuees would be sent and received. It was held at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center on May 11, 2012 and was attended by representatives from various police departments, county Emergency Management Departments, fire departments, the Salvation Army, King County Public Health, and others. **Cathy Reaney** attended on behalf of WASART, the only animal-related organization present.

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Overriding areas of concern were understanding the real capabilities and capacities of pass-through sites as well as sites hosting evacuees from impact areas. Tracking of personnel, resources, reimbursement details, etc., were also discussed at great length. No date for the next Puget Sound Regional Host Community Planning Workshop is currently available but will be disseminated when known.

Outreach Activities

April 23, 2012 saw **Ginger Dickson** and **Gretchen McCallum** staffing a booth at the West Seattle Gathering of Neighbors in the Chief Sealth High School, West Seattle, WA. A 20 minute discussion on Disaster Preparedness for Pets was also presented to the many local folk who attended the event.



The Shoreline Emergency Preparedness and Safety Fair, sponsored by the City of Shoreline, CERT, and other community organizations, took place on **May 5, 2012** at the Shoreline Central Market. Doing their usual great volunteer work as ambassadors for WASART were **Michaela Eaves**, **Terry Garcia**, and **Kevin Garrett**. Look for them again staffing another WASART booth at the upcoming **Mill Creek Festival** on **July 14-15, 2012** in Mill Creek, WA.

For the fourth time, WASART attended the annual Petpalooza event at the Auburn Game Farm on **May 19, 2012**. As always, it was well organized and very well attended with an audience on the grounds of approximately 5,000. There were hundreds of vendor booths and a multitude of doggy events such as agility, flying dogs, etc. WASART's booth was thronged by members of the public who were interested in WASART activities, training opportunities, and discussions on preparing their pets for emergencies and disasters. WASART members **Marie Schimke**, **Ritz Duchesne**, **Alexis Firlotte**, **Sarah Knapp**, **Gretchen McCallum** and **Diane Carter**, worked steadily throughout the day spreading the WASART word while taking a little time to visit and enjoy the booths of other animal-loving vendors.



WASART's General Membership Meetings are currently held on the **2nd Wednesday of each quarter** at **7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.** The **March 14th** meeting was held in Shoreline and the **September 12th** meeting will be held at the **American Red Cross Mount Rainier Chapter, 1235 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA**. The **June 13th** and **December 12th** meetings will be held at the **Key Bank, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022**. All these meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.