

Washington State Animal Response Team

"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"

WASART NEWS



From the President

August 2012

As I sit down to write this column, the Taylor Bridge fire is still burning, only 40% contained, in Eastern Washington. WASART is still standing by waiting to be called to help. It's frustrating to know that we have 7 horse and stock trailers, a trailer full of corral panels, a supplies and equipment trailer, and 20 members who are experienced large animal handlers waiting to help, but not being called. We have contacted the Kittitas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to notify them of our availability, and left messages with the animal shelter at the Fairgrounds in Ellensburg. We know that the shelter has more help than it needs, so it's understandable that we haven't been called to assist there. But as we read the various media and Internet accounts of owners needing assistance to evacuate, load and transport their horses and livestock, we can't help but feel we're needed there.



Mission Statement

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

Some may ask why we don't just load up, head over the mountains, and start helping. We don't operate that way. We only deploy when our help is requested by government agencies or individual animal owners, or when we team with national animal welfare organizations like the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). There are "cowboy" animal rescue groups out there that do self-deploy and show up uninvited. When they do, they generally create more problems than they solve, and soon become unwelcome by the communities they intend to serve. WASART has never operated that way, nor will we in the future.

If we can't yet deploy, we can at least help support the folks who are on-site and know from their own experience what is needed. In discussions with several in-the-know folk, we've been told that the amount of in-kind donations have overwhelmed them and cash donations are what are needed. To donate to the American Red Cross on-line or by phone, visit www.bfredcross.org.

There is also a need for cash donations to help pay for hay and food for the livestock, to reimburse vets who are providing emergency care for all the animals in their own time, and other animal-related expenses that are piling up. I've learned that a fund to help out with these expenses has been set up at Central Valley Bank, 100 N. Main, Ellensburg WA 98926 through the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Friends of the Kittitas Fairgrounds Foundation. A notation should be made on the checks: Taylor Bridge Animal Rescue Fund. There is the possibility also that a PayPal account will shortly be established on the Foundation's Facebook page but that may take a few days.

Disasters seem to bring out the best in people and while WASART cannot be there, we applaud the energy and compassion of the many firefighters, volunteers, and emergency management staff who have given so freely of their hearts and time. We are with them in spirit if not in person.

Bill Daugaard
President



I will be on vacation for several weeks next month so look for a combined 'WASART NEWS' for September and October sometime around the middle of October. If you have items of interest you would like to see posted in the newsletter, space permitting, email them to animalresponseteam@gmail.com.

New Board of Directors' Member

The Board of Directors is delighted to announce that **Christy George** has accepted the position of Secretary. She is not only a very active WASART member but she also brings an international education background and a wealth of business experience to the table. The Board welcomes Christy and is looking forward to a long and productive association with her.



Meeting with Ethiopian Delegation



On July 20, **Gretchen McCallum** and **Bill Daugaard** had the opportunity to participate in a very interesting and worthwhile event sponsored by the King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM). They were invited to join in an exchange of International Lessons Learned and Best Practices with a delegation of managers from the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Agency (essentially the Ethiopian equivalent of our FEMA) and a host of national and regional agencies and tribal representatives.

The exchange presented a scenario of a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone magnitude 9.0 earthquake and the damage it would cause to our region, based on an extensive FEMA analysis. The projected effects of such an event were truly sobering. The purpose of the exchange was to raise questions and share best practices about how to respond to such an event.

In addition to the delegation from Ethiopia, the participants included representatives from the US Forest Service, KCOEM, FEMA, representatives from the Muckleshoot and Snoqualmie Tribes, the Washington State Emergency Management Division, Seattle, Department of Emergency Management, international relief organizations, Microsoft's Emergency Information Management group, AmeriCorps, and Gretchen and Bill for WASART.

WASART was honored to have been invited to participate, and the opportunity to interact with a variety of other stakeholders in the exercise was very informative and useful. The Ethiopian delegation had valuable information to share, and all the participants found the exchange valuable and rewarding.

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Outreach Activities and Trainings

DOG-A-THON 22nd Annual



The Humane Society's Walk for Homeless Pets
July 21, 2012 - FORT STEILACOOM PARK

Another very successful event as the 2012 Dog-A-Thon on **July 21st** where WASART's booth was staffed by **Ritz Duchesne, Sarah Knapp, and Joyce Moody**.



Ritz Duchesne and **Joyce Moody** repeated their performance by staffing a WASART booth at the equally successful Woofstock event held at the University of Puget Sound on **August 4, 2012**. They were joined by **Heidi Kuester** and **Christy George**. Ritz even came home with a new puppy to add to her growing menagerie.

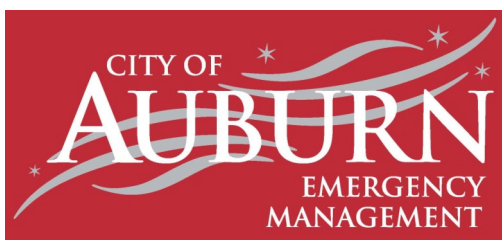
In accordance with WASART's emphasis on its members obtaining as much cross-training as possible with other organizations, nine WASART members attended a Noah's Wish training in Issaquah, WA on **August 11, 2012**. The WASART contingent was **Amy Adams, Jason King, Lanette Knapp, Carol Satre, Greta Cook, Molly Reagan Axt, Christy George, Marie Schimke, and Connie Edwards**.



WASART's 2012 Emergency Sheltering Course was held in Enumclaw, WA on **July 28-29th** and attended by 16 trainees supported by over 15 WASART instructors, senior members, and outside instructors. The attendees were **Molly Reagan Axt, Alexis Firlotte, Connie Edwards, Tammy Schmidt, Michael Durkin, Rory Kelleher, Blunt Jackson and Joyce Edwards**. New WASART members who also trained were **Marnie Cannon, Renee Young, Gregory Roeben, MD, and Linda Hendrix**. Members of the general public who also attended were **Peggy Townsend, and Cheryl Rogers and Heather Ferguson** who are the SW British Columbia and National Coordinators respectively for CDART (Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team).

Upcoming Events

The 10th Annual Charity Dog Walk known as **Harbor Hounds** will take place in Gig Harbor, WA on **September 15, 2012** from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The event benefits the Prison Pet Partnership and the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor Midday. WASART will staff a booth at this very popular event for the fourth year in a row. For more information, contact harborhounds@yahoo.com or call 253-858-3145.



On **September 16, 2012**, the **6th Annual Auburn Emergency Management Disaster Fair** will be held at Plaza Park, Main and Division Streets, Auburn, WA. Learn how you and your family and pets can be prepared for any disaster that might confront you. Presentations by experts in their fields, prizes, vendors, hands-on activities, etc., will make this event one that is well worth attending. For more information contact hkitchen@auburnwa.gov, call Heather Kitchen at 253-876-1922 or visit www.auburnwa.gov.

Upcoming Events, con't

The well attended **Maple Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair** is scheduled for **October 13, 2012** and will be held at the Rock Creek Elementary School, 25700 Maple Valley-Black Diamond Road SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038. Its hours are 9:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m. and it is co-sponsored by the City of Maple Valley and the Church of Latter-Day Saints. There will be emergency preparedness demonstrations, information displays, emergency preparedness classes, break making, first aid kits and disaster supply starter kits, etc. For more information, visit www.maplevalleychamber.org.



St. Martin's University in Lacey, WA will be the site of the **Thurston County Emergency Preparedness Expo** on **October 13, 2012** from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The address is 5300 Pacific Avenue SE,

Lacey, WA and the event will utilize the Marcus pavilion and Worthington Conference Center. For more information, visit www.co.thurston.wa.us or contact Vivian Eason at 360-867-2825 or easonv@co.thurston.wa.us.

Also on **October 13, 2012**, **Puyallup's Emergency Preparedness Fair** will be held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds Expo Hall from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Free admission. It is being sponsored by the City of Puyallup Emergency Management and other local and national organizations. There will be presentations throughout the day by members of various organizations including **Gretchen McCallum** from WASART. At noon, she will give a powerpoint presentation on Large Animal Disaster Preparedness. A food drive for people and pets is also being organized. For more information, contact Carolyn Cockrum at ccockrum@ci.puyallup.wa.us or visit www.ci.puyallup.wa.us.



WASART's final planned activity of the year will take place on **October 27-28, 2012** at the Enumclaw Expo Center. As it has done in previous years, the annual **Mock Shelter Exercise** is an opportunity for WASART members to put into practice the skills they have learned from deployments and their various trainings from WASART and other organizations. This is a full-scale drill involving months of pre-planning by WASART's Team and Operations Leaders, live animals both large and small, an overnight spent at the Expo Center, members of the general public acting as concerned animal owners, and WASART members playing the roles assigned to them as if this was a real-life disaster. The goal of the exercise is to find the holes in WASART's planning, training and execution so that improvements can be made and in place before a disaster hits in which WASART will play a role rather than during the disaster. If interested in learning more about this exercise, please contact **Greta Cook** at gretacook@hotmail.com.

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.