

Welcome to this issue of the Washington State Animal Response Team's monthly newsletter! Find out what the President has to say, what deployments we've been on, where the next meetings will be, and where we'll be with upcoming events. [View this email in your browser](#)


www.washingtonsart.org

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

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2013 Meetings

June 12 - KeyBank, 1212 Cole St, Enumclaw, WA
 September 11 - TBD
 December 11 - KeyBank, 1212 Cole St, Enumclaw, WA

The next General Membership Meeting will be in Enumclaw from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The first hour will be spent on WASART business and the final hour on a mini-training session and a graduation ceremony for WASART members who have

From the President

It's great to be able to report on WASART being recognized by others for the work we do for the benefit of animals. On March 12, Gretchen McCallum received, on WASART's behalf, a 2013 Special Achievement Award granted by the Pierce County Council in recognition of our efforts during the Graham Horses sheltering deployment.

Following the award presentation, Gretchen, WASART's PIO, Michaela Eaves, and I were invited to the 2013 Volunteer Recognition Brunch in Tacoma, WA on March 16, where the Graham Horses effort was again recognized, along with the achievements of many other volunteers who contributed in their own ways to the betterment of Pierce County. As a gesture of the County's appreciation, they presented us with a new equine head protector, similar to the one we already carry in Trailer No. 1, that will help to fill out the equipment manifest for Trailer No. 2.

If you've checked our Facebook page recently, you've seen that the Graham Horses event resulted in volunteers contributing more than 4,600 hours and almost 49,000 miles driven in support of these horses. Those hours and miles were contributed by a total of 106 volunteers, 31 of whom were WASART members; Gretchen used her formidable powers of persuasion to recruit the rest.

Though the award only mentions WASART by name, it belongs to all the volunteers who participated, and their efforts were also acknowledged at the recognition brunch. Along with Pierce County, WASART truly appreciates their contribution. All of the volunteers can wear the "39 Horses" patch created by Pierce County in appreciation of their efforts, with pride.

I can't let the telling about this award pass without special acknowledgement of Gretchen's contribution. She personally put in more than 330 hours recruiting, organizing and scheduling the volunteers. Without her extraordinary efforts, this whole episode, and the benefits it brought to the 39 horses rescued from deplorable conditions, would not

training credentials. social time. All general meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Visit our booth at these upcoming events

[Shoreline Emerg. Preparedness & Safety Fair](#) - April 13, 2013 - Shoreline, WA
[Petpalooza](#) - May 18, 2013 - Auburn, WA

Mission Statement

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



indebted to you, Gretchen.

Bill Daugaard
President

Core Training A Great Success



With 58 trainees at the annual Core training on March 2-3rd, WASART's ability to more effectively respond to calls for assistance in animal-related emergencies increased dramatically. The majority of the attendees were new WASART members, some traveling from as far afield as Oregon and Clark County, WA, with the remaining attendees senior WASART members completing their three year re-certification requirement. Besides the desire to deploy to assist animals in distress, many of the participants also joined several of the committees that provide the administrative elbow grease to keep WASART running efficiently.

The Disaster Mental Health segment taught by Mary Schoenfeldt of the City of Everett Emergency Management Department garnered the highest score on the 'which segment of the training did we enjoy the most' list. Captain Robert Torrey of the Redmond Fire Department, for the second year in a row, expertly introduced the segment on Fire Safety & Suppression. Through the generosity of the City of Redmond, their facilities easily accommodated the large number of participants in both the classroom and outdoor settings of the training.

The new members bring a wealth of training, experience, and energy with them to WASART and WASART enthusiastically welcomes them all.

Transport Training Scheduled for April 20th



Transportation is a vital piece of the WASART mission to help animals and their owners when they need assistance. The Transport unit encompasses hauling the WASART trailers to trainings, deployments and outreach events, and transporting large and small animals in trailers and vehicles. The scout vehicles survey road conditions, relay communications and transport responders.

The training is open to all WASART members as well as members of the public (adults only) who wish to learn more about trailer maintenance and various truck/trailer configurations, best practice spotter techniques, and how to safely drive and maneuver trucks and trailers. The Scout segment will cover driver duties and skills, communications, navigation and Base Support. The cost is \$30 for WASART members and \$55 for the general public.

For more information, email training@washingtonsart.org. The registration form is on WASART's website at <http://bit.ly/ZpBGqI>

WASART Attends the BCHW Annual Rendezvous



From March 15 through the 17, WASART had a vendor table at the Back Country Horsemen of Washington's (BCHW) annual Rendezvous held in Ellensburg, WA. The Rendezvous is attended by BCHW members from around the state's 37 chapters. It is an opportunity to get new information, swap stories and renew friendships. Greta Cook and Ritz Duchesne represented WASART.

fit for our organization. WASART has had a vendor table about every other year. It was nice to note that now people are looking to see if we are in attendance. This year, the vendor area was open for 3 days. All spaces were full. There were over 300 members at the evening dinner and the Rendezvous was open to the public.

We sold a First Aid kit, collected some donations and got lots of questions from those affected by the fires last summer in the area. Many of the Pierce County members expressed their gratitude for WASART's handling of the 39 horse horse impound in Pierce County last fall. In addition, Greta showed attendees some of her "rope tricks" like making an emergency halter and how to rig a large animal lift. Our large animal was a stuffed horse and able to sit on the table but people could see how it worked.

Kittatas Hosts Annual Search & Rescue Conference



The annual Search & Rescue Conference is fast approaching and many of the myriad of classes are already posted on www.wasarcnf2013.org. It is being hosted this year by the Kittitas County Sheriff and will be held at the Kittitas Valley Events Center. The actual conference is on May 10-12, 2013 but the pre-conference classes are scheduled for May 5-10, 2013.

Participants from Search & Rescue communities all over the Pacific Northwest as well as from Canada and Iceland attend this very popular conference which is hosted by a different county each year. In 2014, it will be hosted by Pierce County and it will be King County's turn in 2015.

Members of WASART's Technical Rescue Team will again, for the third year in a row, present a technical rescue skills demonstration as well as provide instruction in several segments in the SAR dog and SAR horse tracks.

Over 500 Search & Rescue enthusiasts as well as the general public usually attend this conference so early registration for the classes is recommended.

For more information either visit the above website or email wasarcnf2013@gmail.com.

Combined April-May Newsletter Issue in May



Much as I'd love to put out another newsletter in April, my vacation to Turkey beckons and I'll be gone most of the month of April. So look for the next WASART NEWS on or about May 15th.

But life doesn't stop while I'm gone. Our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/WASART - is updated regularly and our website will keep on humming. And, of course, if you have any questions, you can always contact **Bill Daugaard**, WASART's President, at president@washingtonsart.org

Hoşçakal (Goodbye)

Gretchen

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