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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.

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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 completed some or all of their training credentials. And, of course, some social time, too. All general meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Visit our booth at these upcoming

## From the President

### *Surplus Truck to Make Saving Lives Easier*



Our big news this month is about WASART's receipt of a surplus 2006 Ford 250 pickup from King County on May 3rd. This is a major event for us, indeed. While we have two utility trailers equipped with rescue gear, one stationed in Enumclaw and the other in Issaquah, lack of pulling power for the Issaquah trailer has been an impediment to deployment for incidents in or north of the I-90 corridor. Several members in the Enumclaw area have been available to tow that trailer, but lack of a truck to pull the other one has added at least an hour to our response times for northern deployments.

We were able to secure the truck thanks to the support of King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert, and to the assistance of King County Sheriff's Office Captain Rob Mendel. We had to meet the criteria for nonprofit organizations to receive surplus county property; then with Councilmember Lambert's help, we were able to receive the donation.

The truck has been well maintained and is very clean. We are proud to add it and its capabilities to WASART's assets. We intend to put it to good use and it has already performed flawlessly, towing our trailer to the Washington State Search and Rescue Conference in Ellensburg (story below). We are deeply grateful to Councilmember Lambert and Captain Mendel for their assistance.

Also present at the handover ceremony were Greta Cook, WASART Co-founder and past Vice-President, and Ken Hasbargen who worked closely with Captain Mendel to bring this wonderful donation to fruition.

Bill Daugaard  
 President

## events

[Foothills Day](#) - July 13, 2013 - Buckley, WA

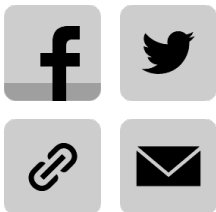
[Dog-a-Thon](#) - July 20, 2013 - Steilacoom, WA

[Touch-a-Truck Safety Fair](#) - July 27, 2013 - Tukwila, WA

[Woofstock](#), August 3, 2013 - Tacoma, WA

## Mission Statement

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



## Injured, Exhausted St. Bernard Rescued



On May 7, 2013 South Whatcom Fire Authority (SWFA) called WASART advising that a St. Bernard dog named Sadie was injured on Fragrance Lake trail in Bellingham, WA. As all of WASART's rescue supplies and equipment plus the majority of its Team and Operations Leaders were attending the 2013 SAR Conference in Ellensburg, WA, and unavailable, WASART's Duty Officer, Gretchen McCallum, contacted Bellingham residents and Whatcom County SAR members, Jim Peeples and Travis Hahn to see if they were available to respond to this deployment. Jim Peeples is a retired SWFA Chief of Special Operations, Rescues, and an instructor for the SWFA Rope Rescue Team and WASART's Technical Rescue Team. Travis Hahn is a former WASART member. Jim was provided with contact and other relevant information and after collecting GPS equipment and maps, he deployed to the site and met up with Whatcom County Humane Society Officer Katy Barnes at the trailhead. Travis Hahn joined them about 15 minutes later.

Several hikers coming down from the mountain informed them that the dog and her owners were about one mile up the mountain on a road that was inaccessible by vehicle. While Jim Peeples remained at the trailhead and coordinated securing a Stokes basket and wheel, Officer Barnes loaded up with a GPS, water, and emergency medical supplies and headed up the trail. Officer Barnes reached the out-of-shape dog and confirmed that although her paw was injured, she appeared to be suffering from exhaustion rather than acute heat stroke.

Shortly thereafter additional Whatcom County SAR and SWFA members as well as State Park Ranger, Amber Forrest, responded with the requested Stokes basket. With Sadie being unable to walk any further, the 158 lb dog was loaded into the Stokes basket and with 4-6 people assisting, was transported down the trail until they arrived at the trailhead. At approximately 8pm, Gretchen received a call from Jim Peeples that Sadie and her owners had been escorted by Officer Barnes to Animal Emergency Care for immediate treatment. Sadie was subsequently released to return home with follow-up care required later in the following week.

Superb cooperation and coordination with partner agencies Whatcom County Humane Society, Whatcom County SAR members, South Whatcom Fire Authority, and State Parks Ranger Amber Forrest made this job go smoothly. Photo credit: Whatcom County Search & Rescue Council (Facebook page <http://on.fb.me/10FLV7C>).

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### Teamwork Saves Dog in Culvert



Sugar, a three year old black Labrador Retriever, was stuck 30 feet down a culvert drainage pipe that ran under the roadway then dropped steeply down the opposite slope about 50 feet. The culvert was made of corrugated plastic with an approximate diameter of 18". This incident was almost on top of the mountain, about 4.5 miles in from the trailhead. It was getting dark, there was snow on the ground of the old logging road and the owner and his friend only had day hiking gear with them, no overnight equipment.

Recognizing that immediate assistance was required, WASART's Duty Officer, Dennis Brislawn, called WASART Field Response qualified members and Bellingham residents, Lauri McBeath-Davies and Fred Knight and asked them to deploy immediately to the scene while he began the process of forming a team to respond from King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties. He was informed at that time that Whatcom County Humane Society Officer Rebecca Crowley and Summit to Sound Search & Rescue (STS) members Ed Honcoop, Cindy Honcoop and Jim Peeples had also been called and were deploying also.

The dog was wearing a collar and her face could be seen from the top of the culvert. Using a large branch and the catch pole from Officer Crowley's vehicle, the rescuers were able to attach joined sheets and towels to a large branch. A GoPro camera was connected to an extendable pole also attached to the sheets and towels and the improvised devise was lowered down the culvert and under the dog to give it traction. The entire episode was viewed via cell phone, thanks to wifi capability of the camera. Once the towels and sheets were nearly under her, Sugar was called by her owner to come to him. Although whining and whimpering continuously, Sugar responded well and made her way about 15 feet up the culvert. At that point, she appeared exhausted and could not continue. Jim Peeples used his pole with a hook on it to reach Sugar's collar and pull her the rest of the way out of the culvert.

Sugar was unharmed and very, very happy to see her owner. The sun was setting as everyone packed up and drove back down the road to the gate.

Responding agencies on this deployment were WASART, Whatcom County Humane Society, and Whatcom County Summit to Sound SAR members. We are fortunate our partnerships with these organizations and others helps all of us to save more lives.

## Members Trained to Tow



On April 20, 2013, WASART's certifying and re-certifying members were put through their paces at WASART's annual Transport training. This training is required for members to be certified to drive their own trailer, the WASART supplies & equipment trailers, the corral panel trailer, and to act in a support role as navigator, ground support spotter and scout vehicle driver during deployments, trainings and outreach events. Twenty-two WASART members and one non-WASART member were supported by eight WASART instructors and helpers who generously provided trucks and trailers in various configurations for their use.

Following the classroom portion of the training, the attendees next participated in the hands-on segment. This segment started with a vehicle inspection showing the differences in the tag-along and goose-neck hitches and a review of safety issues. They were then divided into groups and paired with instructors and vehicles. With a total of six vehicle and trailer combinations of varying sizes and hitch types, everyone had the opportunity to drive different rigs. Ground support spotters learned some of the challenges of staying in contact with the driver, and hitching and unhitching were practiced. All the participants agreed that the funnest part of the training was experiencing how an animal feels when riding in the animal compartment of a trailer.

WASART's next Transport training is scheduled for June 7, 2014 in Enumclaw, WA.



Check out our video here: <http://bit.ly/10FKzKj>

Presenting at the Search and Conference



The 2013 WA State Search and Rescue Conference, which concluded this past weekend, was hosted by Kittitas County SAR and held in Ellensburg. This conference is the longest running SAR conference in the nation and draws participants from our state as well as across the US and internationally.

WASART was honored again to be able to attend and present a class on 'Who We Are and How We Support SAR', as well as again putting on a Technical Animal Rescue Demonstration. Assisting members included Bill Daugaard, Greta Cook, Rechelle Marie Schimke, Julia Olszewski, Linda McCoy, Carla Dimitriou, Fred Knight, Amy Adams, Kate Tegeler and Jon Mercer. We also displayed our #1 Supplies & Equipment trailer and contents as well as horse dog manikins rigged for a lift. The trailer was towed to the Conference by Bill Daugaard in our recently acquired Ford F250 truck donated by King County.

Next year's conference will be hosted by Pierce County at the Puyallup Fairgrounds and is scheduled for the weekend of May 9-11.

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## WASART assists KUOW



On April 10, six WASART members spent their morning answering phones and accepting pledges to assist local National Public Radio affiliate KUOW in their spring fund-raising drive. Michaela Eaves, Christy George, Shelley Lawson, Ginger Dickson, Rose Henderson Peterson and Bill Dugaard spent the time between answering calls in practicing knot-tying and informing KUOW's staff and the other volunteers about our mission and what we do. Our level of support managed to get WASART an on-air mention, and interest from host Steve Scher and producer Katy Sewall in accompanying us on a rescue deployment. It was a fun and satisfying opportunity to assist another nonprofit in a worthy cause.

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## UPCOMING TRAINING

### June 8-9: Field Response Training

Field Response training is a two-day course geared towards animal rescue and evacuation in emergency situations. The class will cover Advanced Fire Safety, Animal Assessment and Trailer Loading Techniques, Rope and Water Rescue Awareness and Zoonotic Diseases. It includes an extensive animal-handling component. Attendees will be instructed in and given the opportunity to handle a variety of animals, typically including horses, cattle, llamas, goats, dogs, rabbits, chickens, and others. Field Response Training is open to both members and non-members.

More information and registration: <http://bit.ly/13ETdOv>

### June 29: Large Animal Rescue Training

Technical Large Animal Rescue Awareness (TLAR) training will be offered again on June 29th from 9-5. This eight-hour course is open to WASART members and the general public. All are invited to attend this intensive training to gain skills and knowledge to assist in the emergency rescue of large animals and dogs. WASART Technical Rescue Team members will introduce the proper techniques to harness, rig, and assist in the safe rescue of large animals from life threatening situations while maintaining the highest level of safety for the responder. Trainees will receive both classroom instruction and practical hands-on training with the help of live animals and manikins.

More information and registration: <http://bit.ly/113bNAd>

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