

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](#)



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Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

From the President

Dedicated Volunteers Make it Happen

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Donate

2013 Meetings

September 11 - Enumclaw or Tacoma. Still TBD.

December 11 - KeyBank, 1212 Cole St, Enumclaw, WA

The next General Membership Meeting will either be in Enumclaw or Tacoma 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 on a subject of interest to members.

And, of course, some social time, too. All general meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend. When the meeting site is finalized, it will be posted on the Calendar on WASART's website.

Visit our booth at these upcoming



While meditating on what to write for this month's column, I reflected on the very large amount of time and effort contributed by our Training Committee and a number of our other senior members to make the just-completed Field Response training class a success, as described below.

That reflection led on to considering the time and energy contributed to our three major rescue efforts in the past four weeks, as well. It made me ask what motivates people to sacrifice their sleep, free time (and sometimes not-so-free time) and effort, and sometimes put themselves at risk, for no money and little recognition. The first and obvious answer is that we're all animal lovers, and the opportunity to help an animal in

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
[11th Annual Harbor Hounds](#) - September 14, 2013 - Gig Harbor, WA

Mission Statement

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

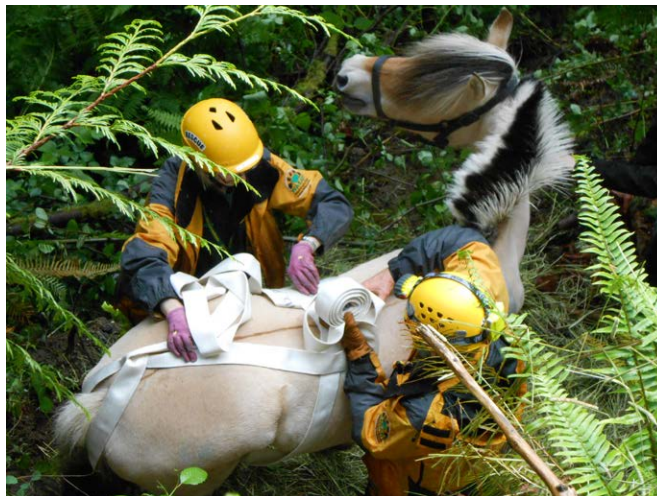


trouble is worth the sacrifice. That's certainly true, but I believe the answer goes beyond that. When the ending is happy, as with Gemma and Cocoa, the result is reward enough. When it doesn't end the way we want it to, as with Jake, we still know we did our best and take our solace from that. Read more about these rescues later in the newsletter.

But beyond the reward or comfort from the effort expended on a difficult deployment, there's a reason people spend hours on training, committee work, building new equipment, staffing outreach booths at community events, or cleaning and re-packing rescue gear after a mission. It's because, I concluded, we all have a sense that we're doing something big and important here, in creating and growing an organization that we can all be proud to belong to, and that fills an important niche in our communities. We still have a long way to go, but we've also come a very long way. I am so very proud to be a part of the effort, and to serve with our members who do so much to make WASART an organization worth their time and energy.

Bill Daugaard
President

Gemma Impresses as Rescued from 70 Ft Ravine



Workers rig Gemma in preparation for vertical lift.

Horse people everywhere know that Fjord horses are sturdy, calm and stoic horses and four year old Gemma certainly proved that point. On May 27th, 800 lb Gemma found herself standing on a four foot ledge at the bottom of a 25-foot sheer drop, below an estimated 100 foot steep, thickly wooded ravine. She appeared unhurt but was unable to self-rescue because of the steepness of the incline.

It was late at night when WASART was called and the team decided it was too dangerous to try and bring her out in the dark. The team reconvened the next day at 06:30 and quickly determined that it was not going to be possible to walk Gemma out on either of the two paths that looked promising. It was decided that a vertical lift straight up the incline would be necessary.

That meant muscle power would be needed to haul her up. While members of WASART's Technical Rescue Team began rigging Gemma for rescue, riggers and support personnel from several units from King County Search & Rescue Association: Explorer Search & Rescue, Seattle Mountain Rescue, Ski Patrol Rescue Team, NW Horseback Search & Rescue, and King County 4x4 unit converged on the scene. Personnel from the Redmond Fire Department also arrived to assist the operation.

After setting up various rope systems using the trees as anchors the patient Gemma, who had been rigged for nearly four hours and then sedated by her veterinarian, was hauled up the steep incline by about 40 responders working together to bring about the result we all desired: getting Gemma to safety.

Gemma arrived at the top of the ravine a little bruised, a little hungry, but otherwise unhurt and welcomed into the arms of her grateful owner.

This was a highly technical rescue that could not have been accomplished without the cooperative efforts of so many willing responders. With partners like these, anything is possible.



Gemma, safe after her experience coming up the 70 ft ravine.

Jake the Great



36 year old, 1800 lb, gentle Jake wandered off in the night and found himself in a bit of a pickle. When WASART was called on June 3rd, he had been laying down in a ditch for several hours, covered for warmth by his anxious owner but unable to get up.

When the WASART team arrived, they assessed the situation and decided it would be possible to strap Jake onto a Rescue Glide, a sort of backboard for large animals, and drag him up the incline to a safer location where his veterinarian could treat him more easily.

Six hours later, and with the assistance of eager neighbors, Jake was hauled out of the ditch and up to the pasture above where he rested comfortably for a little while. Sadly, though, Jake passed away later that day from a suspected blood clot. He was tired and old, 100 years in human years, and when the Rainbow Bridge beckoned, he couldn't say no. Rest in Peace, gentle Jake.



The rescue glide makes moving horses safely possible.

Coco's Turn on the Rescue Glide



Photo courtesy of King County Sheriff's Office.

For the third time in just four short weeks, WASART was called to help extract a horse from a problematic situation. This time it was Coco who needed the assistance of WASART's team and Rescue Glide. Coco is a 10 year old Percheron mare who weighed in at about 2,000 lbs. How she managed to get herself into the quagmire wasn't the point. How to get her out was the issue.

There was plenty of assistance already on-site when the WASART team arrived. The Bothell and Woodinville Fire Departments were present as was the King County Sheriff's Office, the Regional Animal Services of King County, and several units from King County Search & Rescue such as NW Horseback SAR, Seattle Mountain Rescue, King County Search Dogs, Explorer SAR and King County 4x4. With the exception of the Fire Departments, all responders were volunteers who took time from work, family and other activities to help this horse in need.

In little less than five hours, sophisticated rigging systems were installed by riggers from the Fire Departments and the King County Explorer SAR unit using the nearby trees as anchors. Coco was rigged for rescue by the WASART Technical Rescue Team and sedated by her veterinarian and then pulled from the bog onto the Rescue Glide and moved to a pasture nearby. She was exhausted and a little bit woozy but quickly recovered and began doing what horses do best . . . eat.

As with the previous horse extractions mentioned in this newsletter, WASART could not have accomplished its objective of safely bringing these horses to safety without the willing cooperation of its partners. We all worked for the same objective -- to get the horses to safety. It doesn't get any better than that.

Deployed to Help Shelter in Moore, OK



Many of WASART's senior members have trained and deployed with national animal organizations. They do this not only to assist in that organization's work but also to bring the additional hands-on expertise back to WASART so that WASART is better prepared to respond locally or regionally when needed.

Shawndra Michell is one such WASART member who deployed with the American Humane Association from June 7th through the 14th, to help care for the cat and dog survivors of the recent tornadoes in Moore, OK.

There were 55 dogs and 33 cats when she arrived, and the numbers fluctuated each day as an animal would be reunited with its family (the favorite part of the day!), or when new animals would come in.

The heat was a major issue for the humans and the animals – there was one day that it reached 106°, and most days were over 100°, with high humidity. Due to that fact, and that this was in response to a natural disaster, the shelter was authorized to bring in a large air-conditioning unit to cool the arena off. That was amazing and in less than 24 hours, made everyone's life so much safer and better.

On a very happy note, she fell in love with a beautiful Sharpei-Shepherd mix and will be adopting him! She wanted to give him a name that was relevant to the event, but didn't want it to be about the death and destruction. So she took from the healing and recovery of the shelter, and named him 'Norman'. Happy days are ahead now for Norman. He's safe and loved in a forever home with Shawndra.

Bill's Tax Corner

Get Ready for Next Year's Tax Season by Helping Save Lives

Spring, beautiful spring is upon us. Sunshine maybe, spring cleaning perhaps but one of the definite things all of us need to do this spring is

to start our tax planning early (one-third of the year is already past). One of the ways to make the most of the income-tax system now or later is to max out your tax breaks. In general, a tax deduction is worth more now than later. Accountants highly recommend charitable donations as a vehicle to accomplish the above.

After reviewing your personal tax situation with your tax professionals so as to maximize your charitable donations based upon your tax brackets, please let WASART figure substantially in your giving. We have capital equipment needs and on-going funding requirements. Your donations are needed, carefully spent and add significant value to our community.

WASART prides itself on the fact that 98.5% of the donations it receives on a charge or debit card and 100% of cash and in-kind donations go directly to our programs and supporting the organization in covering items such as rescue supplies and equipment, training for WASART members and the general public, advanced training for WASART's Technical Rescue Team members in rescue techniques, general operating expenses such insurance, license fees for WASART's truck, corral panel trailer, supplies and equipment trailers, deployment software expenses, etc.

For your cash-flow purposes and ease, allow us to help you set up a monthly donation program that will adapt itself pursuant to your wishes and requirements over the next six months. Your cash-flow is evened out, and at the end of the tax year, you will have set aside what you require for optimum tax planning. For more information on how to financially WASART meet its goals of assisting the communities we serve, please contact info@washingtonsart.org or just hit the 'Donate' button above.

Bill Harris
retired CPA, JD

Training Opportunities – June & July

June 29 – Technical Large Animal Rescue



WASART is now offering **Technical Large Animal Rescue (Awareness)** training. This training introduces the concepts and techniques of rescuing animals in distress. Hands-on practice with live animals (if available) and manikins will help to increase proficiency. Use of readily available equipment such as rope, webbing and tarps to help

facilitate rescues will be emphasized in addition to demonstrations with specialized rescue equipment.

The cost is \$30.00 for WASART members and \$55.00 for the general public (adults only, please). Complete the registration form and send to the Registrar. Location: Cumberland Fire Station in Enumclaw, WA.

Registration/Information: Registrar registrar@washingtonsart.org

General Information: Training Director training@washingtonsart.org

July 13-14 – Animal Shelter Training

Learn how to setup and operate a temporary emergency shelter that would accommodate large and companion animals. This 16 hour course utilizes live animals, large and small, for this training to provide participants with as much hands-on training as possible.

The classroom segments will be taught at the Cumberland Fire Station in Enumclaw, WA and the hands-on components at a WASART member's nearby farm.

The final segment of the course will be a mock shelter setup exercise.

The cost is \$85.00 for WASART members and \$110.00 for the general public (adults only, please). The registration form can be found on the WASART website's calendar .<http://bit.ly/12bz9yc>

Registration/information: Registrar registrar@washingtonsart.org

General Information: Training Director training@washingtonsart.org

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info@washingtonsart.org - www.washingtonsart.org • (425) 681-5498

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