

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](http://www.washingtonsart.org)

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

## From the President

# Serious About Fitness; Serious About WASART

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Donate

## General Meetings

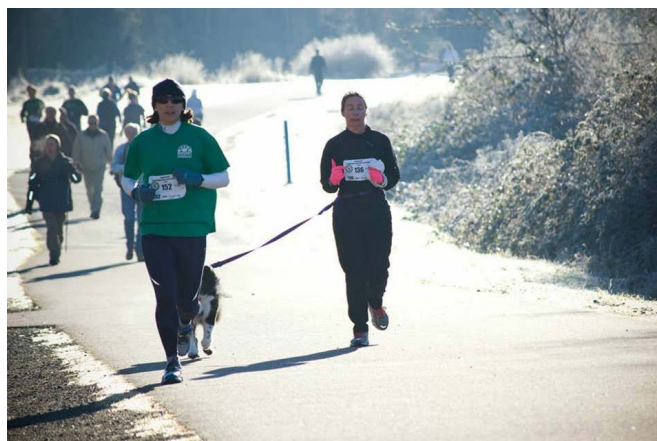
### March 12

Key Bank Community Meeting Room  
1212 Cole Street,  
Enumclaw, WA

### June 11

Shoreline Fire Department,  
#61  
17525 Aurora Avenue North  
Shoreline, WA 98133

The next General Membership Meeting will be held in Enumclaw, WA from **7 p.m. - 9 p.m.** The first hour is spent on WASART business and the final hour is a mini-training session on a subject of interest to members. And, of course, some social time, too. All General Membership Meetings are open to the public and everyone is



*WASART team member Julia Olszewski runs in the Resolution 5K benefiting WASART, organized by Serious About Fitness trainer and WASART member Carol Swindaman.*

2014 is off to an excellent start, thanks to good friend and long-time WASART member Carol Swindaman. Carol is a Hurricane Katrina animal rescuer, and her cat handling skills are a sight to behold. But her interests these days have taken her into fitness training and running. She is a trainer at Serious About Fitness in Redmond, and organizes their annual 5K fun run/walk to benefit a local charity.

This year Carol selected WASART to be the recipient of the proceeds from the event, "Resolution 2014," which was held on a beautiful, frosty, foggy but sunny

invited to attend.

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### Training Opportunities

(Open to the public)

#### [March 1-2 - Core Training](#)

Woodinville, WA

#### [April 26-27 - Field Response](#)

Enumclaw, WA

#### [June 7 - Transport](#)

Enumclaw, WA

#### [June 28 - Technical Large Animal Rescue \(TLAR\) \(Awareness\)](#)

Enumclaw, WA

#### [July 12-13 - Animal Sheltering](#)

Enumclaw, WA

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Visit our booth at these upcoming events

#### [February 14-16](#)

Clark County Fairgrounds

#### [May 17 - Petpalooza](#)

Auburn Parks - Game Farm Park

#### [May 17 - Evergreen Health & Wellness Fair](#)

Evergreen Hospital - Kirkland, WA

#### [July 19 - Tacoma/Pierce County Dog-A-Thon](#)

Ft. Steilacoom Park - Lakewood, WA

#### [August 2 - Woofstock](#)

Tacoma, WA - UPS

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morning on the first Saturday in January. Turnout was great, with over 120 participants, including 15 WASART members (and four of their dogs). To add interest and a little rigor, "fitness challenges" were included at the halfway point and at the end of the course.

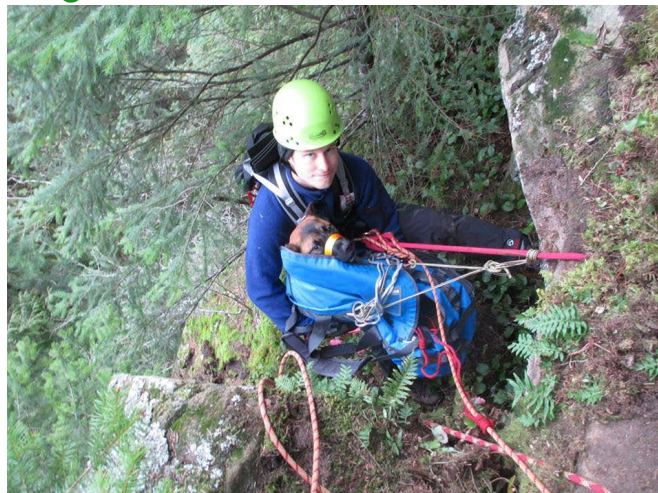
The participants were rewarded for their efforts at the end with a delicious chili feed prepared by a Redmond City Councilman and other volunteers. Adult participants were treated to some great beer from the [Hi-Fi Brewing Company](#), who hosted the chili feed, to make a perfect finish to a great event.

When the accounting is finished, Carol and Serious About Fitness will present WASART with a handsome and much needed donation that will get the year off to an excellent start, indeed. We are extremely grateful to Carol for organizing the event and for making WASART its beneficiary. And it was a great time, to boot! Thank you, Carol.

Bill Daugaard  
President

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## Chuckanut Trail Proves Dangerous to Dogs

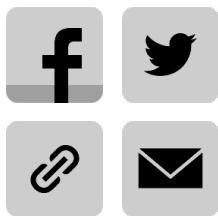


*Bellingham Mountain Rescue Council's T. Jason*

Did you know we're often available to talk to your group about WASART or disaster prep?

### Mission Statement

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



### *Holert brings Charlotte up the cliff.*

On January 21, 2014, Charlotte, a one year old Belgian Malinois/pitbull mix, was hiking with her owner on the Chuckanut Ridge Trail in the Chuckanut Mountains in Whatcom County, a county sharing a border with British Columbia, Canada, when she went over a cliff. Charlotte's fall happened at twilight in a rugged region in the Lost Lake area. Charlotte tumbled for 150ft. The dog's owner knew she'd survived the fall because she could hear Charlotte barking but it was getting dark, too dark to attempt a rescue.

WASART received the call to help Charlotte the next morning. It was a group effort that included the [Whatcom Humane Society](#), [Bellingham Mountain Rescue Council](#), members of the [South Whatcom Fire Authority](#), and former fire fighter and long-time Search and Rescue participant, Jim Peeples. WASART members from Whatcom and King Counties responded to the call for assistance, with Whatcom County members Lauri McBeath-Davies and Fred Knight assembling the team for the 15 minute hike from the trailhead to find Charlotte. Not only was WASART's utility trailer with all its rescue gear staged at the trail head but Jim Peeples also brought his command trailer, equipped with a computer, large screen display for maps, whiteboards, radios and recording devices.

After a long cold night, alone and injured, Charlotte was able to help herself by barking in response to her owner's voice thus giving the technical rope team the information they needed in order to pinpoint their descent. When the climbers reached Charlotte they tucked her into a large duffel bag and hauled Charlotte safely up the cliff.

Dr. Steve Johnson, veterinarian and and WASART Technical Rope Team member, and WASART's Libby Osnes-Erie, a Licensed Vet Technician, were waiting for Charlotte when she reached the top. According to Dr. Johnson, Charlotte had suffered some trauma

from her fall. She was hypothermic and was having respiratory difficulty as well as some paralysis in her hind legs. Charlotte was loaded onto WASART's small animal stretcher and carried from the scene and then she, Dr. Johnson and her relieved owner were rushed to her veterinarian in Bellingham for emergency treatment.

As always, WASART appreciates the assistance from all the participants in this rescue. The rescue required careful planning, choreography and intense cooperation across the teams. It is a tribute to everyone who participated that the rescue went exactly to plan, was conducted safely and Charlotte was brought safely to the surface to be reunited with her anxious and grateful owner.

Photographs and a raw footage video of the rescue can be found on [WASART's Facebook page](#) and were provided by Jim Peeples and a member of the Bellingham Mountain Rescue Council. An article by the Bellingham Herald is also posted on the site.



*Fred Knight and Lauri McBeath-Davies stand in front of Jim Peeples's command trailer at the Charlotte*

*deployment. McBeath-Davis served as Operations Lead for the rescue.*

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## Orientation 2014 Turns Out 100% Sign-up



*Presenting member Chris Black discusses Go Bags and gear a typical WASART member might need during deployments and for disaster readiness.*

In spite of driving rain, howling winds, power outages, AND a Seahawks game, WASART's Orientation on Jan. 11, was a success. Between our Lakewood and Shoreline presentation locations WASART signed up almost 100% of the attendees who are eager to start their training and spreading the WASART 'word'. One new member drove to our Lakewood location from Portland, Oregon. This means we now have two WASART members who reside in Oregon.

Currently, our general member population spans King County and surrounding counties of Pierce, Lewis,

Thurston, Kitsap, Snohomish and Whatcom County. Collectively, our volunteers encompass diverse levels of experience, from members who are veterinarians and vet techs, to ranchers and small pet owners, to mountaineers and technical rope experts, and includes those who have little or no animal expertise other than a desire to help critters and their owners. We are men and women of diverse ages from young adults to retirees.

Upon joining WASART, all new members are eligible to participate in any or all of our training programs. Stay tuned for our Core training coming up March 1.

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## New T-Shirt for a New Year



*Hang out with our helper Bo on the new t-shirt, going to the printer on Feb 1.*

We're happy to announce that we're offering a new t-shirt for both members and the general public to purchase to show their support of WASART.

This shirt features Bo, one of our mascots and training helpers being lowered in a harness. He illustrates everything WASART stands for, and everything we try to be -- open-hearted, up to a challenge, always ready to help.

The shirts are currently available for presale to help pay for the printing costs. Anything not directly a cost in the production, shipping, or sales tax of the shirt

goes directly to WASART to support the team's mission. They are 100% cotton, and available in both men's and women's styles.

As a bonus, our printer will be [Sanctuary Screenprinting](#), a non-profit helping at-risk youth in the Seattle area. Supporting community is important to us, so it's a double bonus to keep the business local and be working with another non-profit.

Deadline to order is Feb 1 and we are hoping to have them back around Feb 15.

Interested? Preorder yours at <http://www.tshirtpresale.com>.

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## Charitable Deductions



Many of us volunteer to help raise funds or perform other tasks on behalf of animal-rescue groups and other charitable organizations. The IRS offers a reward for such service in the form of write-offs for unreimbursed expenses incurred during the deployment. To qualify as charitable deductions, the expenses in question must further the groups' missions, such as foster care for stray animals.

As an animal-rescue or other type of volunteer, be mindful of tricky rules for donations be they gifts of cash or property or volunteer expenses.

What follows is a summary of the many possibilities.

### **Only Out-of-Pocket Outlays Count**

To claim deductions use Schedule A of Form 1040 only for what you spend to cover unreimbursed expenses—for instance, telephone calls, postage stamps and stationery, as well as other pertinent materials such as office supplies for fund raising campaigns.

What kinds of expenses can be written off? Basic sheltering supplies qualify, such as animal feed, medicines, cat litter, cleaning supplies, etc., as well as fees paid to veterinarians and trainers, and food for volunteers building temporary evacuation shelters for displaced pets.

### **Uniforms**

When uniforms are required their expense and cost of cleaning is deductible.

### **Travel**

Start counting deductions the minute after you leave the house. Allowable deductions include travel expenses to and from animal shelters, veterinarians, meetings, fundraising events, and so on. All transportation fares to and from the volunteer job site can be claimed.

If you drive your car you have two options: First option, deduct the actual cost of gas and oil. Depreciation is not a cash payment so it is not deductible. Only claim the insurance if the car is used exclusively for charitable driving. Claim repairs only when directly attributable to that use.

The second option is, simply, to claim a standard mileage rate. The standard rate was 14 cents a mile for tax year 2011 but check with your accountant as that rate may have changed since then.

Regardless of your chosen option, remember to deduct parking fees and tolls. In case of an IRS audit, support your deductions with a glove compartment diary and record all trip details including parking fees.



If you rent an auto specifically for a charitable event include the entire rental charge with your other charitable expenses.

### **Overnight Expenses**

When overnights are necessary, lodgings and meals, as long as they're "reasonable," as opposed to "lavish or extravagant," are 100% deductible.

Be audit proof. If you attend conventions back up your deductions. Sign in where possible and keep a copy of the convention program. Check off the sessions you attend. Keep a diary of convention related expenses, along with hotel and restaurant bills.

### **IRS Paperwork**

Strict rules apply when a volunteer incurs an unreimbursed expense of \$250 or more, such as an airline ticket. No deduction for the outlay is permitted unless you obtain and keep for your records a written statement from the charity. The statement needs to describe the type of services you performed for the charity and whether you received any benefits in return. The charity need not list the expenses you pay as a volunteer.

### **Help from the IRS**

For more information, take a look at [IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions](#), or telephone 800-TAX-FORM.

Excerpted from article written by Julian Block, attorney, for Pet News and Views.

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WASART NEWS is a publication of the Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART) published on or about the 15th of each month. WASART is an all volunteer, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Mail us at: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

[info@washingtonsart.org](mailto:info@washingtonsart.org) - [www.washingtonsart.org](http://www.washingtonsart.org) • (425) 681-5498

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