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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. [View this email in your browser](#)


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

Helping Animals &amp; Their Owners in Disasters

## From the President

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## General Meetings

### September 10, 2014

Key Bank Meeting Room  
1212 Cole Street  
Enumclaw, WA 98022

The next General Membership Meeting will be held in Enumclaw, WA from **7 pm - 9 pm**. 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 invited to attend.

## Honoring the Ultimate Sacrifice



*Members of the search and rescue community line up to honor J.B. Bryson and the family he left behind.*

On July 12, Vice President Zoe Clelland, member Lauri McBeath-Davies and I, along with hundreds of other members of the search and rescue community, attended the very solemn and formal memorial service for fallen Skagit County Search and Rescue volunteer J. B. Bryson. Mr. Bryson who was killed in the line of duty while attempting to rescue two hikers in trouble at Pilchuck Falls, one of whom, 25 year old Peder Trettevik, also lost his life.

The service was attended by SAR volunteers from all over Washington, and from as far as British Columbia and Oregon. A long procession of SAR vehicles, including WASART's truck and trailer, wound through the streets of Sedro Woolley to the high school stadium, where the family was escorted by an impressive honor guard of the Skagit County Mountain Rescue Team, directed by officers of several different fire companies in their full dress uniforms.

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### Upcoming training

**July 26** - [Intake Shelter Tabletop Exercise & Potluck BBQ](#)

Point Defiance Park in Tacoma

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### Visit our booth at these upcoming events

**July 26** - [Tacoma/Pierce County Dog-A-Thon](#)

Ft. Steilacoom Park - Lakewood, WA

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

Tacoma, WA - Univ. of Puget Sound

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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.



It was, all in all, a poignant ceremony. It reinforced the sense of camaraderie of the SAR and emergency response community, and reminded us all that the rescue world is indeed a dangerous one. Whether it's J. B. Bryson searching for fallen hikers in steep terrain or our own Dr. Kelli Taylor descending 200' down a cliff above Puget Sound, in the dark, to rescue a dog (see story below), there is great potential for disaster. Only careful training and preparation, and strict adherence to safety standards, can minimize the danger, but it still remains.

WASART's condolences and deepest sympathies go out to Mr. Bryson's family and to the family of Peder Trettevik.

Bill Daugaard

President

[president@washingtonsart.org](mailto:president@washingtonsart.org)

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### Breaking News

## Chelan Fire Response



As of July 19, we are set up at the Chelan High School to help out with fire evacuations. We are taking in companion animals, mostly cats and dogs. You can follow along on [Facebook](#) or the [website](#).

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## Across the Street and 200 Feet Down



*Multi-agency cooperation saw Emmett safely back up a 200 foot cliff.*

When Josh and Ashley realized their pup, 8 month old, German Shorthair Pointer, Emmett, was missing, they posted notices on Facebook. Josh said they had been searching for Emmett all evening and though they noticed a Tulalip Fire Department truck on the main road overlooking a nearby cliff, they had no idea their lost dog was in the process of being found and rescued. Josh later remarked that he had noted the steepness of the cliff when he first moved onto the property but on that particular evening he assumed the emergency response vehicles were responding to a fire.

Residents had reported earlier in the day that they could see and hear a dog howling and barking from a ledge down the cliff and it was obvious there was no possible way the dog, later identified as Emmett, was going to be able to help himself. Residents called 911. The Tulalip Fire Department responded and the situation rapidly progressed into a multi-agency response. The Tulalip Fire Department called WASART and WASART's Vice President, Zoe C., was first on the scene at 2200 with a total of 10 Technical Rescue Team (TRT) members and 1 non-TRT member arriving on scene over the next 90 minutes. Nine of the responders were from King County and two from Whatcom County. Snohomish County Deputy Josh Wheeler was on scene and informed Zoe that the land owner (who was not the reporting party) had given permission for WASART to

set up in her back yard and that the FD currently had an attendant over the edge. Assistance from the property owner was invaluable as she provided lighting and facilities for all the responders.

At some point after the Fire Department arrived, the dog fell down another 50 feet and was now 175-200 feet down the cliff face. Although there were early reports of Emmett having a broken leg, he was now reported as ambulatory but fearful.

Also on site was the Technical Rescue Team from the Marysville Fire Department which had already sent one of their team members over the cliff but could not access the dog. After some discussion it was agreed that WASART's TRT members would rig another system in another location in hope of reaching Emmett. WASART TRT member and veterinarian, Dr. Kelli, rappelled over the steep edge to a very frightened and timid pup who eluded her efforts for a good 20 minutes. Dr. Kelli did succeed in muzzling and tying an emergency halter for Emmett's vertical ascent.

The Tulalip Fire Department and WASART members combined their efforts to haul Dr. Kelli and Emmett to the top and Emmett emerged slightly worse for wear but in overall good shape. Emmett wasn't wearing an ID so an Animal Control Officer transported the pup to the Everett Animal Shelter for the night. Emmett's owners, Josh and Ashley, had no idea their missing pup was the subject of all the neighborhood activity until WASART Public Information Officer, Michaela E., posted Emmett's picture on the WASART Facebook page.

Emmett and his family were then reunited thanks to a safe and well coordinated group effort on every level and between each agency. The emphasis on safety and communication cannot be overstated. Though Dr. Kelli is a skilled mountaineer fully capable of rappelling over a 200 foot drop, she would not have made that descent without the assurance that everyone on her team, as well as those on the teams

of other contributing agencies, all had her safety foremost in their minds.

Many of us join search and rescue teams, or organizations such as WASART, for the purpose of saving the world one life at a time, be that life a human or an animal. Our technical training grants us that privilege but it also demands we give equal emphasis to crafting healthy human relationships and clear communication with our fellow team members. During a multi-agency response when we find ourselves in the company of people we don't know the variables can sometimes confuse the best laid plans of mice and men. In the shadow of the recent tragedy in Skagit County, the Emmett rescue underscores the inherent risks and dangers involved in search and rescue work. It also affirms the importance of shedding our individual frail human egos for the benefit of the safety of every responder on site.

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**Guest Columnist: Gary Kaufman**

### If we could talk to the animals...



*Gary Kaufman of [Roads End Llamas](#) graces our newsletter this month with this column on animal communication. Gary and his llamas are favorites of students during spring's Field Response Training. Want to see Gary talk about how his llamas express themselves? Check out this video of him [discussing vocalizations](#).*

"If we could talk to the animals, learn their languages, think of all the things we could discuss. If we could walk with the animals, talk with the animals, grunt and squeak and squawk with the animals...." (Dr. Doolittle)

Truth be told, we do...with every movement, twitch of an eye, or change in breathing we are always talking to the animals. We have learned talking to the animals with carefully chosen words, actions and routines is an important, perhaps critical part of relationship building. From that came knowing they are listening. Never doubt for a moment that your animals are always talking to you in one form or another. More importantly never doubt that in situations of crisis, theirs or ours, they are listening even more. Which brings me of course to story telling time.

The llamas that share their lives with us are a mixed bag of mellow, not so mellow, and a few that have had much torment in their lives. When handling them life runs the gamut from 'ok whatever' to 'don't think so, not now, not ever'. But they know me, and we honor each others' rules when it comes to how we interact. One day I came home to the smell and sight of smoke...deep, dark, trees and brush are on fire somewhere smoke, rolling down the ridge and sweeping down the valley. The fire department confirms there is a wildfire, and that Natural Resources is looking by helicopter (no duh, we can see and hear them). We are told to begin preparing for evacuation just in case, but not to worry....yet.

The plan, on paper, goes into action. Phone calls for support transport are made, Chloe begins gathering the list of out of the house stuff, and I head out to halter and confine the llamas...boys first because they are most at risk.

But I was talking to them without a word and they were listening. They all knew life was not for the moment, normal; everything about me, my actions, my pace, my breathing, everything was wrong. The mellowest ran for the high ground right alongside

those I knew would be a problem and had to be rope herded back into confinement. Not a one would tolerate a halter with their usual ease. The girls were even worse after witnessing from afar what had transpired with the boys. Their panic and concern was not the smoke or the potential danger, but was the reflection of my tensions. Instant decisions had to be made about those that could not be rounded up and we did. Even some of the llamas that many WASART members have met and handled were among those we simply could not catch in the time we were giving ourselves to save as many as we could should evacuation be needed.

Evacuation was not needed; the fire was found and contained, but a huge lesson was learned. We do talk to the animals and they understand, everything, all the time and they will react and mirror your mind. We hope to never repeat our adventure and doubly hope that we remember the lesson learned. It is an easy thing to look back and say, 'I learned', though truth be known in the heat of the moments' needs, remembering that our creatures are listening may be the most difficult task of all.

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## Good Karma in the Form of a Puppy



*Introducing Maggie, daughter of WASART rescued dog Moses and now part of the WASART family.*

Here's a little good karma. Some of our readers might recall the rescue of Moses, the 130 lb. Newfoundland

Search and Rescue Service dog whom WASART rescued after he fell down a 200 foot cliff on the Rim Trail at Mud Mountain Dam in Enumclaw early last Fall. Moses not only survived his ordeal but he helped to sire a litter of 14 Newfoundland pups. (Read about the Moses rescue in the [October 2013's newsletter, second article](#))

Meanwhile, Deanna, a long time WASART member, was forced to retire Silas, her service dog who is also a Newfie. Silas has some serious health issues which will leave Deanna in the lurch for a working dog. Thanks to the Moses rescue, Gretchen, one of our WASART founders, was able to make a connection for Deanna, and her husband, Tim, so that they could meet the Moses pups. It was love at first sight so Tim and Deanna instantly put a deposit on one of those pups. Her name is Maggie.

Maggie is now almost four months old and a whopping 45 pounds, which is a third of Moses's weight. According to Deanna, Maggie is "**AWESOME!!!**" (underlining and bold enhancements strongly encouraged by Deanna). Maggie is a sweetheart, does not spook and is also as "smart as a whip." In the first week that Deanna and Tim had Maggie, she was absorbing 16 commands. By the third week, Maggie was able to locate their vehicle in the parking lot with only five repetitions. Silas is now retired and will spend his time farm carting, in other words, helping Deanna in the garden.

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## UPCOMING TRAINING

### Table Top and BBQ with WASART

Both WASART Members and non-members are invited to an intake tabletop exercise and BBQ. Come help us brainstorm ideas on troubleshooting and setting up an emergency shelter.



**When:** July 26, 2014 from 10:30am to 2:30pm

**Where:** Point Defiance Park in Tacoma

See the intake process from the animal owner's perspective; get hands-on practice with WASART's intake forms and join us for a potluck BBQ while overlooking Commencement Bay. Hot dogs and Hamburgers will be provided but do bring a stuffed animal and a dish to share. By the end the afternoon, you'll reclaim your sheltered 'pet' (stuffed only; sorry, no live animals at this event) and leave knowing you're ready to help when needed.

RSVP: [washingtonsart.org/calendar.html](http://washingtonsart.org/calendar.html)

Questions: Contact Jo,  
[jobyemail@yahoo.com](mailto:jobyemail@yahoo.com) .

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## Animal Planet's TreeHouse Masters Honor Members



*The Benedettos volunteer as a family and spent the holidays volunteering with the ASPCA through WASART. Animal Planet took notice. Read the [ASPCA's post about the family here.](#)*

Heads Up, Animal Planet fans!!! Tune in to watch WASART's very own Benedetto Family make their television debut on the TreeHouse Masters program hosted by Pete Nelson. In order to acknowledge the Benedettos' outstanding volunteer service, not only

with WASART, but also with the ASPCA, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the family is being awarded a custom tree house which is being built on their property and will be showcased on Animal Planet on Friday, August 1. [Check your local television guide for the broadcast time.](#)

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