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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

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

From the President

A Mannikin and a Vehicle in the Near Future

- [A Mannikin and a Vehicle in the Near Future](#)
- [The Key Essentials for Winter Hiking](#)
- [More Members Ready to Deploy Thanks to Core](#)
- [Annual Exercise Tests Skills, Teamwork](#)

Did you know rescuing a dog from a cliff can cost almost \$5000?

It's only possible because of you.

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General Meetings

December 10, 2014

Milton/Edgewood Library
900 Meridian E. Suite 29
Milton, WA 98354

The next General Membership Meeting will be held in Milton, WA from **7 pm - 9 pm**. The first hour is spent on WASART business and the final hour is a mini-



Roads End Llamas graciously let us use four llamas for the Annual Exercise, held this month. (See story on the Annual Exercise.)

WASART conducted our 2014 Annual Exercise, in which we practice our response to a simulated wide area disaster, this past weekend, as discussed in the story below. It came off very well, thanks to the extremely hard work of the Annual Exercise Committee, headed by Jo Becker. And special thanks go, too, to Greta Cook for her organizing and leadership efforts.

We are beginning to put to use the funds so generously donated to us by several organizations and individuals in the aftermath of our work last summer at the Carlton Complex wildfires in Eastern Washington. We have ordered an

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.

Upcoming training

November 1 - [Intro to Technical Rope Team](#)
Golden Gardens Park,
Seattle, WA

November 8 - [Technical Animal Rescue Training](#)
Foothills Veterinary Clinic,
Buckley, WA

Visit our booth at these upcoming events

There are no upcoming events

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.

articulated horse to greatly aid our Technical Animal Rescue training activities. The accurately-jointed, 400-pound horse (named "Rescue Randy") realistically simulates a real animal and is a much more effective training aid than the rigid static horses we've had to use in the past. Rescue Randy was beyond our means until we received the donations from the wildfires. Because of these generous donations, the previous one-day Awareness-level Technical Animal Rescue training will be expanded in 2015 to a two-day Operations-level training.

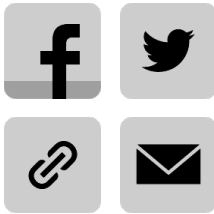
So, too, was another rescue vehicle, badly needed to tow our rescue trailers. (One truck to tow three trailers doesn't work out well.) Our vehicle selection committee is planning to bring its recommendation for another vehicle to our next Board meeting, and we're excited at the prospect of being able to make this very important addition to our capabilities, thanks again to the generosity of our donors.

Bill Dugaard
President
president@washingtontart.org

The Key Essentials for Winter Hiking



Pack the right gear for all your companions if you decide to go hiking. [Photo by Bruce McKay](#), under



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Just recently, the [Snohomish County Helicopter Search and Rescue Team](#) assisted King County's mission to find a young woman, Paula Reuter, and her two dogs in a rugged area near Snoqualmie Pass. Thanks to the contributing teams and Snohawk 10, she was found and airlifted, with her dogs, to safety. This rescue had a happy ending but what started as a day hike turned into 3 cold nights and a nightmare of worry for the parents of the hiker. One major concern raised during her disappearance had to do with whether or not Paula had packed sufficient survival gear in order to survive the seasonal nightly dip in temperature. Paula did not pack survival gear but, as it turned out, Paula had the survival sense to identify forest edibles to feed herself so that she could feed her dogs her own beef jerky and, most importantly, Paula packed materials that enabled her to build fires to fend off hypothermia. Other than some minor scratches and bruises Paula and her dogs were found in good condition.

So what to pack in the event you get lost in the mountains, the sun is setting, and temperature is dropping? The [Seattle-based Mountaineers](#), is an outdoor education non-profit group that originated in Seattle over a hundred years ago for the purpose of promoting safety, exploration, and preservation of our wild backcountry. In the 1930's they published a list known to all well-informed hikers as the Ten Essentials. According to The Mountaineers, "The purpose of the list answers two basic questions: First, can you respond positively to an accident or an emergency? Second, can you safely spend a night – or more- out?" Though carrying all the items on this list may seem burdensome and slow you down on your hike having these items can save your life.

1. Navigation: Carry a detailed map and have the ability to read and to use a compass or other navigational aids.
2. Sun Protection: Sunglasses and sunscreen

particularly in Alpine regions.

3. Insulation: Pack for the season but consider what you'll need in the event you encounter the worst conditions possible on your hike. Always have a rain shell.
4. Illumination: Headlamps, flashlights, and extra batteries.
5. First Aid Kit: These can be purchased already assembled but carry enough bandages and gauze to absorb a significant amount of blood. Take a first aid class so you'll know how to use these items.
6. Fire: Butane lighters are great but also pack firestarters in the event you have to light a fire with wet wood.
7. Knife & Repair Kit: This can be an all in one pocket tool such as a Leatherman but include a roll of duct tape, all purpose cord, and whatever you might need to repair whatever equipment, crampons, snowshoes, etc. might require.
8. Nutrition: Carry food that does not require cooking such as nuts, dried fruit, dried meats.
9. Hydration: Carry sufficient water and have the skills and tools required for obtaining and purifying additional water. Two liters daily is the bare minimum requirement.
10. Emergency Shelter: This need not be a tent and can be improvised using a jumbo plastic trash bag or an emergency blanket

Though WASART does not recommend hiking with dogs in rugged territory we recommend that if you decide to take your dog on a hike be sure to pack with their welfare in mind. Mountaineer Books author, Ellen Morris Bishop, recommends the following Ten Essentials for hiking with your dog:

1. Obedience Training: Any dog unable to behave or handle the stimulation of a back- country environment is better left at home.
2. Doggie Backpack: Teach your dog to carry his/her own gear without overloading. This includes food and water. Figure one pound of load for every 20 pounds of dog. Pack in plastic

- baggies if your dog likes to get wet.
3. First Aid Kit: These supplies can be included in the human kit.
4. Dog Food and Trail Treats.
5. Water and Water Bowl.
6. Leash, Collar, Harness: Have a 6 ft. leash and consider lashing it to your belt for a hands free alternative.
7. Insect Repellant: Make sure your dog is not reactive to repellant before you leave on your hike.
8. ID, Microchip, and Photo of your dog: Dogs get lost on hikes.
9. Dog Booties: Protect your dog's feet and train your dog to wear booties before the hike. Booties can also be used to protect your dog's feet. Dogs sweat through their paw pads so don't overheat by leaving booties on too long.
10. Trowel or Plastic Bags: Be prepared to bury or carry dog waste.

Pay particular attention to the care of your dog's feet. Not long ago, WASART responders carried dogs out of the backcountry because the dogs' paws were rendered raw by rough terrain. Don't overestimate the ability of your dog. Dogs get dehydrated and they tire. Dogs fall over cliffs and dogs drown. A little awareness and planning go a long way in preventing a heartbreaking situation.

The above lists comprise the bare minimum of essentials. Packing extra equipment depends on weather and seasonal conditions. The Mountaineers developed The Ten Essentials long before the invention of the cell phone but unless you plan to hike under the umbrella of a cell phone tower and have access to the voltage you'll need to charge the battery on your smart phone don't rely on it. WASART recommends you also carry a whistle and that you notify loved ones of your plans, where you intend to hike and when you plan to return.

[References for this article](#)

More Members Ready to Deploy Thanks to Core



Above, members get practice using a fire extinguisher. Once a member has completed Core Training, he or she is ready to deploy.

For the second time in 2014, WASART held another successful Core training on September 27-28th. This class is mandatory for all WASART members who wish to deploy into the field to rescue animals in life threatening situations.

The six WASART members and seven non-WASART members (all of whom joined WASART at the completion of training), were supported by 12 WASART instructors and helpers who ensured that the attendees learned the basics of Biosecurity, Disaster Stress Management, Ways to be involved in WASART, Communications, Legalities, Deployment Requirements, etc. Through the on-going generosity of the Woodinville Fire Department, the class was held in the comfort of the classroom at its headquarters in Woodinville, WA. The Fire Safety and Suppression class in which hands-on fire extinguisher training was involved, was taught by two members of the Woodinville Fire Department and, yet again, was determined to be the most popular of all the

segments offered.

WASART's Training Curriculum is currently undergoing revision so that all two-day courses, such as Core which is offered once annually, effective January 1, 2015 will be offered twice annually and be a combination of on-line classes and one-day in-classroom instruction. The next Core classes are scheduled for March 1, 2015 and August 30, 2015. More information on the 2015 training regimen can be found on the Calendar on WASART's website and in upcoming monthly newsletters, the WASART NEWS.

Annual Exercise Tests Skills, Teamwork



The Annual Exercise, formerly known as the Sheltering Exercise, is a full-scale event that allows members to put the skill they work on during the year to the test.

This year we had the largest group of people EVER to participate in WASART's Annual Exercise. It was particularly timely because it occurred in just the right amount of time for us to apply lessons learned from the Chelan and Okanogan Counties' wildfire deployments. Those fires raged in July and WASART was able to deploy a total of 31 members to open concurrent shelters and assist with donation management in Chelan and Okanogan Counties for a total of 10 days. Some members deployed several

times to help.

The volunteers who participated in the wildfire deployments played an integral role in the Annual Exercise and they generously applied and shared that information within the mock sheltering context. Applying these lessons learned offers us a strong tangible sense of progress. In addition to our sheltering component we included a large animal technical rescue demonstration. Because our volunteers work in diverse roles, this aspect of the exercise gave us an opportunity to demonstrate to our team members how the Technical Rope Team uses the specialized equipment we carry in our WASART trailers.

Thanks to those mentioned below we had a diverse group of animal species in which to practice our handling skills and our sheltering knowledge. This year we handled pigs, cattle, horses, llamas, alpacas, goats, lambs, ducks, chickens, reptiles, and dogs. Thank you Gary Kaufman, Amber Otosky, Patti at Valhalla Rescue, Sheila Haynes, Diane and Larry Johnson, Tracy Kim, Brenda Huber, Irene Murakami, Sheila Haynes, Kate Tegeler, and Nancy Edow.

Many thanks, hugs and kisses to our outstanding Annual Exercise Committee for making this happen. Thank you, Jo, Irene, Lucinda for making this happen.

Getting Started with the Technical Rescue Team



Are you interested in joining the Technical Rescue Team (TRT) but don't know where to start? Do you wonder what the heck we TRT folks do and would like to learn more? Have you joined the TRT recently and would like a plan to get up to speed on skills and

knowledge?

We are always recruiting for volunteers who have an interest in helping animals and their owners. If you are comfortable outdoors no matter what the weather, if you are reasonably fit and have a passion for search and rescue this might interest you. The Technical Rescue Team is recruiting and training for all levels of participation. If you are a beginner and would like an opportunity to get more information about this aspect of animal rescue, please come and check this out. If you are already an active member who is looking for an opportunity to refresh perishable skills this will be an opportunity to do that as well as to mentor new and prospective volunteers. We are all beginners at some point. We need volunteers who are willing to put safety first but who are also enthusiastic enough to spend some time in the woods even if it's bad weather and maybe even late at night.

WHEN: Saturday Nov 1st 10am-12pm

WHERE: Golden Gardens in Seattle (details to come)

[Register for Intro to TRT here](#), or contact Zoe at vice-president@washingtonsart.org.

Technical Animal Rescue Training



Technical Animal Rescue (Awareness) training will introduce the concepts and techniques of rescuing large and companion animals in distress. Hands on practice with live animals 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.

[Register online here.](#)

WHEN: Saturday Nov 8th 9am-5pm

WHERE: [Foothills Veterinary Clinic](#), 112th Street East, Buckley, WA, 98321

Tuition: \$30 WASART members (\$15 for repeat WASART members)
\$55 non-members (but \$25.00 would become annual membership dues if the registrant joins WASART within 90 days of completing the class)



TECHNICAL ANIMAL RESCUE TRAINING

SECURING & RESCUING ANIMALS

Nov 8, 2014
9am-5pm

LEARN AND PRACTICE

Learn the techniques and equipment used to rescue animals in emergency situations. Live animals and manikins will be used at this hands-on training. Open to members and the public.

LOCATION

Foothills Veterinary Clinic
112th Street East
Buckley, WA 98321

TUITION

\$30 for members
\$55 non-members

REGISTER & INFO

registrar@washingtontart.org
<http://bit.ly/TARsignup2014>
www.washingtontart.org/calendar.html



WASART is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on animal-related disaster response needs in the State of Washington.

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