

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 Year for Building Bridges and Capacity

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Getting 2015 off to a productive start, WASART had three rescues in one week. Above, Bossy the cow is getting wrapped in the green rescue glide for her trip up the 175 foot ravine she was trapped in.

In a large animal rescue, much of the more expensive equipment needs to be replaced for safety reasons.

It's only possible because of you.

[Donate](#)

[General Meetings](#)

April 8, 2015

Location to Be Determined

2014 is behind us. Though the last quarter was quiet, with few callouts, it was a remarkable year for us, all the same. With multiple dog rescues or searches for missing dogs in Whatcom and Snohomish Counties, and one callout for a downed horse in King County, all of which were technically difficult, our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) was challenged numerous times, and always performed in outstanding fashion. We undertook a particularly difficult mission searching for a missing dog lost at Wallace Falls in which we worked closely with Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR).

The next General Membership Meeting will be held a yet to be determined location 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.

Upcoming training

January 25, 2015

[WASART Orientation](#)
Eastside Fire Rescue
Headquarters
175 Newport Way
Issaquah, WA 98027

February 28, 2015

[Communications Workshop](#)
(Members only)
Marymoor Park
6046 W. Lake Sammamish
Pkwy NE
Redmond, WA 98052

March 7, 2015

[WASART Core](#)
Eastside Fire & Rescue
Headquarters
175 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, WA 98027

March 14, 2015

[Pet First Aid/CPR](#)
Cumberland Fire Station
35420 Veazie-Cumberland
Road
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Upcoming events

We enhanced our standing with emergency response authorities around the state when we were called out in July, first by the American Red Cross and then by Chelan and Okanogan Counties, to establish emergency animal shelters in both Chelan and Okanogan in response to the disastrous Carlton Complex Wildfires. A total of 32 different WASART members responded over a period of twelve days; four members deployed twice. All together WASART members expended nearly 2,600 hours and drove 13,000 miles. This was WASART's first emergency sheltering deployment in which we were the lead organization, and our first deployment in Eastern Washington. It was a very valuable experience with many lessons learned for the future.

Our work during the wildfires impressed more than just the authorities. As a result of our work, the Snoqualmie Tribe, Noah's Wish Foundation, Merrill Lynch, the Seattle Foundation and numerous individual donors gave us more than \$80,000 to enhance our capabilities and carry on our work. I'm still blown away by this generosity, and we're working hard to use the donations well. We've used some of the money to acquire a badly needed third rescue vehicle, a 12' 2010 Chevrolet box van. It's being outfitted as I write this to carry a full complement of rescue gear. It will significantly extend our rescue capabilities by reducing our response times and being drivable by members that are not Transport-certified for trailer towing.

In addition to the new van, I'm very excited by our purchase of "Rescue Randy," our new, articulated horse manikin that will greatly facilitate our training for large animal rescue. Randy is on his way to us from England now, and should be here by mid-month. He is one of only 13 such manikins in the U. S., and the first in the Pacific Northwest. He will further enhance our status as one of the foremost (perhaps the foremost) animal rescue training organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

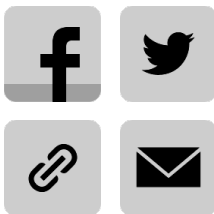
We have exciting new training news to begin the new

No scheduled events in the near future.

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.



year. Our Training Committee has been working hard to make our training curriculum more convenient, efficient, up-to-date, and cost-effective. Beginning this year our Core, Field Response and Emergency Animal Sheltering classes will all be streamlined and less expensive. All three of these had formerly been two-day, in-person classes; the Field Response and Sheltering classes were only offered once a year. But the new curriculum modifies all of these to one-day classes plus online segments that can be completed at the trainee's convenience, and reduces the fees for each class by 24%. And all three of the classes will now be offered twice yearly. We hope and expect these changes to be more convenient and less of a financial burden than before for our members. It's not often these days that something becomes less expensive than it was before – gasoline excepted!

The recent heavy rains and flooding have us on the alert for potential deployments in areas threatened by high water and/or potential landslides. While we always hope that callouts are not necessary, we know that the rainy season brings the risk of flooding and stranded animals, and we remain ready to respond if needed. We urge our readers to prepare for adverse events, with evacuation plans and routes, means for transporting pets safely, emergency supplies for 7 days for all the members of the family, both human and animal, and plans for livestock protection and feeding. If you do have to evacuate, please do take your pets with you. Remember, if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them. Preparation can prevent potential heartache; it's an old saying, but true all the same: failing to prepare is preparing for failure.

Bill Dugaard
President

Sabbath Response: ASPCA Enriches

Lives of Responders As Well As Rescued Dogs



ASPCA responders remove one of dozens of dogs from Sabbath Memorial Dog Rescue Center in Okeechobee, Fla. who will be transported and made available for adoption with Second Chance Rescue in New York, N.Y. Photo courtesy of the ASPCA.

As it has several times in the past, the [American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(ASPCA\)](#) reached out in December to WASART and other partner organizations to ascertain if any trained members would be willing to provide care for dogs removed from the Sabbath Memorial Dog Rescue Center, a no-kill rescue group in Okeechobee, FL. The dogs had been surrendered to the ASPCA in October after a lack of sufficient resources and proper care led to the deterioration of the Center and the condition of the dogs. After receiving months of medical care and behavioral enrichment at the ASPCA's temporary shelter, the dogs are now ready to be made available for adoption.

WASART's Volunteer Manager, Lucinda Y., a multiple-times responder for the ASPCA, deployed during the latter part of December and worked with the Sabbath dogs on her deployment. She said that the ASPCA personnel did a great job of sharing the dog's surrender story from Sabbath and then made themselves available to answer questions or concerns a responder might have afterwards.

Lucinda went on to say that the ASPCA also made being away from home during the holidays very special. The group Lucinda was assigned to was prepping holiday treats for the dogs for Christmas and that all the responders had a wonderful time watching the dogs open their treats on Christmas morning.

As with every WASART member who has deployed at the ASPCA's request, Lucinda stated that she always learns a lot on ASPCA deployments and always meets awesome people. She is thankful that WASART provided her with the deployment opportunities to help the ASPCA.

As a follow-up to that story, the ASPCA is beginning a month-long journey to transport the dogs to shelters in 12 states to be made available for adoption in the local communities.

Griffey: Chocolate Lab Rescued at Franklin Falls



Chocolate lab Griffey made it up a steep cliff with the help of Seattle Mountain Rescue. Photo courtesy Seattle Mountain Rescue.

To the world at large, six year old Griffey might only be another Chocolate Labrador Retriever. But to his owner, Griffey was his best buddy. And his best buddy had disappeared about 15' down a very steep cliff at Franklin Falls in the Snoqualmie National Forest.

It was mid-afternoon on January 14th when WASART received the call that assistance was needed to get a 110 lb dog back up a cliff. WASART's Technical Rescue Team was immediately activated and arrangements made to get its rescue equipment trailer on-site. Because of the terrain and the need to rescue the dog before nightfall, riggers from partner SAR units, [Seattle Mountain Rescue \(SMR\)](#) and [King County Explorer Search and Rescue \(ESAR\)](#), were asked to also respond to expedite the rescue.

With their usual calm efficiency, members of Seattle Mountain Rescue were able to bring Griffey to the

surface that evening by about 6:00 p.m. Griffey was unhurt and was very happy to be reunited with his grateful owner.

This deployment could not have been as successful as it was without the assistance of volunteers from several other SAR units. In particular, besides the six volunteers from WASART, six responders were from SMR, six from [King County 4x4](#), two from [Ski Patrol Rescue Team \(SPART\)](#), six from ESAR, and two from [Northwest Horseback SAR](#). In addition, an animal control officer from the [Regional Animal Services of King County](#) and a [King County Sheriff's Deputy](#) were on site.

As always, WASART is grateful for the assistance and expertise so graciously extended by our partner SAR units.

Bossy & Plan B: Cow Rescued From 175 Foot Ravine



Dr. Pete Sathre (left) and Greta C (right) work on pulling the yellow strap under the cow who is steaming from the rain and her body heat. Behind the her is Zoe C., making sure the strap is sliding under her body as smoothly as possible. [Here's a video](#) on moving her with the glide.

WASART was asked to rescue a 2,000 lb beef cow who was stranded for three days about 175 feet down at the bottom of a steep ravine in Auburn, WA. Informally named Bossy, she had somehow found her way to the bottom of the ravine and couldn't get back to the top. She was cranky and had already charged her owner at least once.

After spending a couple of hours reconnoitering the site on January 15th, WASART's Operations Leader Greta C. determined that two options were available. Plan A was to cut a path up the hill side to see if Bossy would self-rescue. If Bossy did not cooperate, Plan B was to tranquilize her, strap her to a Rescue Glide which is an animal-sized backboard, and haul her to the top.

As it was late in the day, Plan A wasn't put into effect until the next day when six WASART members who were experienced in chain saw use as well as five members from the [Tahoma Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen](#) spent most of January 16th clearing a path of trees, branches and shrubs. Two additional member of the Backcountry Horsemen returned for part of the next day to assist in any extra brush clearing that needed to be done.

As expected, on Saturday, January 17th, Bossy was still down in the ravine and more fractious than ever. A veterinarian, Peter Sathre, DVM, of Plateau Veterinary, was called in to administer a sedative via a dart gun. When Bossy was calm and relaxed, members of WASART's Technical Rescue Team began the process of rolling her onto a rescue glide and strapping her down into a burrito shape. A head protector was fastened to her head to protect her head and eyes from debris, dust and other dangers.

With the assistance of two trucks and a tractor pulling in dog-sled style, trussed up Bossy was hauled to the top of the ravine and released from the rescue glide inside a corral. After a few minutes she rose groggily to her feet and a check by Dr. Sathre revealed one

minor scrape on a hind leg. Other than that, she was none the worse for wear. All were relieved at the outcome, including the 16 WASART responders.

The rain was falling heavily on the Saturday and the ground quickly became soaked and slick with mud which made the rescue all the more difficult. However, training, expertise, cool heads and expert leadership prevailed and Bossy is now reunited with her owner with no further thoughts, we hope, of spending any more time in the ravine.

Many photographs were taken by WASART's PIO, Michaela E., and [can be viewed on WASART's Facebook page](#).

This was a difficult and challenging rescue but the results – an unhurt animal reunited with a grateful owner – made it all worthwhile. The 31 folks who responded to this rescue were very, very pleased with the results.

Yellow Lab: Senior Dog Retrieved from Ravine



Rory K. (left) and members from the Seattle Mountain Rescue Team unstrap the arthritic yellow lab who got stuck in a ravine. Photo courtesy Seattle Mountain Rescue.

On Tuesday Jan. 20, WASART, along with [Seattle Mountain Rescue](#), [Northwest Horseback Search and Rescue](#), and [Regional Animal Services of King County](#), spent the late afternoon rescuing a 12 year old female yellow lab. The rescue occurred in a rural neighborhood that backs up against a steep ravine. Our arthritic senior lab had escaped from her fenced yard and tumbled down about 60 feet of a muddy steep ravine. She was unable to self-rescue. When responders reached her she was tired and frustrated but uninjured from her fall. Her owner was on scene to reassure.

We had plenty of light, it wasn't terribly cold, it wasn't raining, and we were among friends. It doesn't get any better than this.

One Down, One to Go: Learn About WASART at Orientation

LEARN ABOUT WASART • WHY ANIMALS NEED YOU NOW • HOW YOU CAN HELP

ANIMALS IN TROUBLE NEED YOUR HELP



Animals on the side of a cliff, in a well, in the path of a fire, could use your help. Find out what you can do at the Washington State Animal Response Team's annual Orientation.

- Field rescue
- Fundraising
- Community education & outreach
- Emergency sheltering

10:00-12:00
Free for everyone

Issaquah Fire & Rescue Headquarters
175 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, WA 98027



Jan 10 OR Jan 25

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

The first of WASART's two Annual Orientation Meetings took place on January 10th at Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters in Issaquah, WA. The event was very well attended and most of the curious attendees joined WASART that day with more planning to join shortly. The presentation consisted of a discussion of the volunteer opportunities available to WASART members as well as an in-depth review of the various types of rescues in which WASART has been involved in the past several years and for which training by WASART is required.

The next and final Annual Orientation Meeting is scheduled for January 25th at the same location, from 10:00 a.m - noon. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Learn about the organization and the many volunteer opportunities available. This is a no obligation free event.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Sat Jan 25, 2015 10am – 12pm Pacific Time

Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters,
175 Newport Way NW, Issaquah, WA 98027

For more information, contact
info@washingtonsart.org.

If you're interested in being part of the solution and aiding our animal friends in difficult and often life-threatening situations, we look forward to meeting you on January 25th.

Core Training



Core is the main class you need to deploy on a response. Once your other requirements are out of the way (online self-study FEMA classes, CPR/First Aid, Tetanus vaccination, etc.), you are ready to go.

What you'll learn: Core training is designed to give students the basic skills and knowledge to deploy with WASART in a non-animal-handling support capacity, and is a mandatory requirement to be able to deploy in other fields. The training consists of on-line classes and in-classroom training. Registrants must complete the online segments and the in-classroom training to be credentialed in Core. Links to the online segments will be provided after we receive registration and payment for the in-classroom training; there will not be an additional cost for the online instruction.

[Register online](#) for Core. Questions about the training program? Check out the [training curriculum](#) or contact the [registrar](#). Core is currently offered twice annually, and the next training date is August 30, 2015.

Class: 9-5, with sign-in at 8:30 a.m.

Cost: \$65.00 members

\$32.50 for recertifying WASART members
\$95.00 for non-members

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.

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