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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

WASART Elects a New President

- [WASART Elects a New President](#)
- [Multiple Organizations Team Up To Rescue Horse & Rider](#)
- [\\$50k Grant to Feed Wildfire-Affected Animals](#)
- [For Second Year in a Row, WASART Provides Sheltering for Animals Displaced By Wildfire](#)
- [Upcoming Trainings](#)



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

December 9, 2015

Location TBD

The next General Membership Meeting will be held from **7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Incoming President Shawndra Michell stands next to outgoing President Bill Daugaard at the sheltering training in Omak this spring. It's a bittersweet moment: Bill's leadership has done much for WASART, and we look forward to Shawndra. Fortunately, Bill will continue to be involved with the board as Past President as well as in WASART in general.

This will be my last "From the President" column for the newsletter. It's been my privilege to serve as WASART's President for the past 4 years, and my second term has come to an end. During the time I've held this office, I've been thrilled to see WASART grow and prosper, and continue to gain respect and reputation across Washington State and nationally. We continue to build a remarkable organization of which I am extremely proud. We are building

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

September 20, 2015

[Field Response Training](#)

Foothills Veterinary Clinic
28512 112th Street East
Buckley, WA 98321

October 4, 2015

Emergency Sheltering
30609 SE 352nd Street
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Upcoming events

[P.A.W. \(Pet Appreciation Week\)](#)

Saturday, **September 19, 2015**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Del's Feed & Farm Supply
320 North Lewis
Monroe, WA 98272

Lake Forest Park
Emergency Prep. Day
Saturday, **September 26, 2015**

Lake Forest Town Centre
17171 Bothell Way N.E.
Lake Forest Park, WA
98155

[Auburn Barktoberfest](#)

Saturday, **October 10, 2015**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Roegner Park, 601 Oravetz
Rd SE
Auburn, WA 98092

something truly important and valuable here.

I'd like to review some of the highlights of what we've accomplished during these past four years:

- Our membership has grown by 36%, from 107 members in 2012 to 145 today, with several more memberships in the offing.
- Our bank balance has quadrupled, a good thing since our growth has also greatly increased our expenses. We continue to worry about whether we have enough to pay our bills, but we are more secure than we were four years ago. And our net assets have more than quadrupled.
- In 2012, our rescue equipment consisted of one utility trailer, adequately equipped but lacking in a lot of specialized equipment for large animal rescue. That trailer had to be towed by our members' personal trucks. Today we have a fully equipped rescue van; a ¾ ton pickup; our original trailer ("Trailer 1"), fully equipped for rescue; an additional utility trailer, now equipped to support large animal sheltering; and a trailer full of corral panels, a unique and frequently used asset. In addition, we are about to receive a new 16' animal sheltering trailer donated by the American Kennel Club, fully equipped to set up an emergency shelter to house 65 companion animals. The equipment carried by our rescue van and Trailer 1 represent the state of the art in large animal rescue, with equipment utilized by only a very few rescue organizations in the country. And our rescue team members know how to use it all, which also puts us in very select company throughout the country.
- We have established a national reputation; we have become a member of the ASPCA's partnering teams, and have deployed teams to various animal emergencies throughout the United States many times, performing in exemplary fashion each time – according to

[Gig Harbor Emergency Prep. Fair](#)

Saturday, **October 10, 2015**

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Chapel Hill Church, 7700

Skansie Ave

Gig Harbor, WA

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.



ASPCA.

- We have executed a Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, with RedRover, a national animal sheltering organization, to mutually assist each other if our (or their) resources are overwhelmed in a disaster situation. RedRover was prepared to come to our assistance had we needed it, for both last year's Carlton Complex Fire deployment, and this year's wildfire sheltering for the Okanogan Complex Fire. We have also been approached by American Humane Association about executing an MOU with them, as well, and that effort is now in progress.
- Pierce County presented WASART with a Special Achievement Award for our work in sheltering 39 horses seized in a cruelty seizure from deplorable conditions in Graham, Washington.
- WASART has been described as well-trained, professional and well-led by Search and Rescue leadership in the State Emergency Management Division and county Search and Rescue Coordinators.
- WASART was elected as a full voting member by the Washington State Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council, or SARVAC. We are the only non-county-specific, non-SAR organization on the Council.
- WASART has been asked to serve, and has served, on the Steering Committee for the annual Washington State Search and Rescue Conference for the past four years, and has been invited to be presenters, and have presented, at each of the last five conferences.

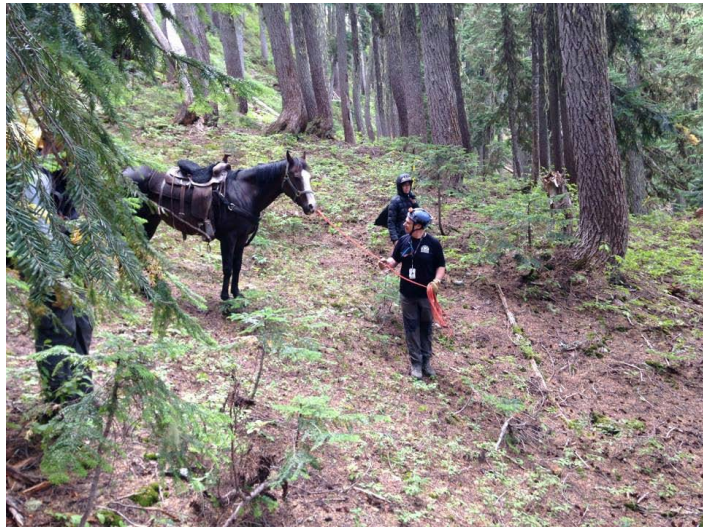
I could list more accomplishments and accolades, but these serve to show what a strong and respected organization WASART has become. We have accomplished these things not because I was President, but because our members have all worked hard together, donating tens of thousands of hours and hundreds of thousands of miles to serve

communities throughout the state and the nation. We've succeeded because we have remained true to our core values of Integrity – we do what we say we'll do; Education – maintaining one of the most rigorous and thorough training programs in the animal welfare world; Professionalism – acquitting ourselves with responsibility, thoroughness and recognizable skill; Teamwork – demonstrating mutual respect and a willingness to work effectively with other organizations; and Volunteerism – those tens of thousands of hours and hundreds of thousands of miles speak for themselves.

So as I leave the Presidency, I do so filled with pride for what we've accomplished together, and filled with hope for our continued growth and even greater accomplishments. That hope is bolstered by the knowledge that I'm being succeeded by a truly dedicated animal rescuer. Our new President will be Shawndra Michell, a veteran rescuer from Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav and the Chilean earthquake. I have deployed with Shawndra on national animal rescue and sheltering deployments and know what a truly dedicated professional she is. She is also a close friend, and I can think of no one to whom I'd rather turn over WASART's leadership. Even better days are ahead for WASART.

Bill Dugaard
Outgoing President

**Multiple Organizations Team Up To
Rescue Horse & Rider**



WASART volunteer Juan Carlos B. coaxes Tia down an incline.

On August 28th, we deployed very early in the morning to help with a horse down an embankment. The call originally came to search and rescue as a 'rider injured/down', so Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) and Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) deployed in the dark the previous evening to head up the 4.5+ miles up the beginning of Section J of the Pacific Crest Trail at Snoqualmie Pass. The teams went to check on the owner who was shaken but uninjured, evaluate the horse's situation, as well as escort the rider's friend up with overnight supplies for the owner who was reluctant to leave her horse.

The horse, named Tia, appeared to be uninjured and in good health, and the rider seemed alright as well, so for safety reasons they determined they'd try early in the morning to try to extract the horse via Plan A and call for more help if this plan was unsuccessful. The ESAR and SMR responders and the owner spent a cold and damp night camped near the horse.

Plan A is almost always to try to walk the horse out through a shallower route. Plan B was to help the horse descend 20 feet down the steep slope to level ground with the help of a rear assist. Plan C, if neither A nor B were successful, was to sedate the horse, wrap her in our rescue glide, set up a rope system, and haul her up the embankment.

Although Tia had no obvious injuries, she was unwilling to move in the morning and the deployment's Incident Commander issued the order to call us in. We'd been made aware of the

situation the night before and had members ready for the call at 5 a.m.

Nine WASART members headed out and all met at the trailhead about 9:30 a.m. Already on site were other SAR units including the [Incident Support Team](#), which handle radios and paperwork, and Dana Westerman, DVM, who was just setting out to attend the horse. (As an aside, if you have a vet who is willing to hike over nine miles round trip to attend a patient, you know you have someone amazing.)

We took all the equipment we thought we'd need from our equipment truck in case it came to Plan C, which included heavy rope bags and the even heavier and awkward Rescue Glide (see the green item in the photos) that is one of our number one tools in rescuing livestock.

As we left we were advised that Northwest Horseback Search and Rescue Team (NWSAR) was being deployed as well, which meant additional equipment that may be needed could be packed in, and out, on the horses.

The hike up meant finding a way to make the awkward Glide less awkward, which ended up being to bend and strap it into a taco shape and have one or two people pulling from the front and another in the rear holding onto a tag line to keep it from drifting down hill. The hike itself was always at an incline or a decline and the section we traveled was about 2500 elevation gain.

At the top, we found all the agencies working together to make a plan that would be safest and best for everyone involved. Tia was about 100 feet down a 45 degree slope. Plan C was determined to not be safe, as the trail was too narrow for the horse to be removed from the Rescue Glide. Fortunately, it looked like Plan A combined with Plan B would work best, where the horse could be walked out at the route with the least incline after being helped down the first 20 feet with the rear assist.

Crews began to find that path and mark it with grid tape, which is a florescent ribbon used for marking trees. Other responders cleared logs and other obstacles with chainsaws, tools, or brawn while WASART responder Juan Carlos B. earned Tia's trust and coaxed her forward a tiny step at a time.

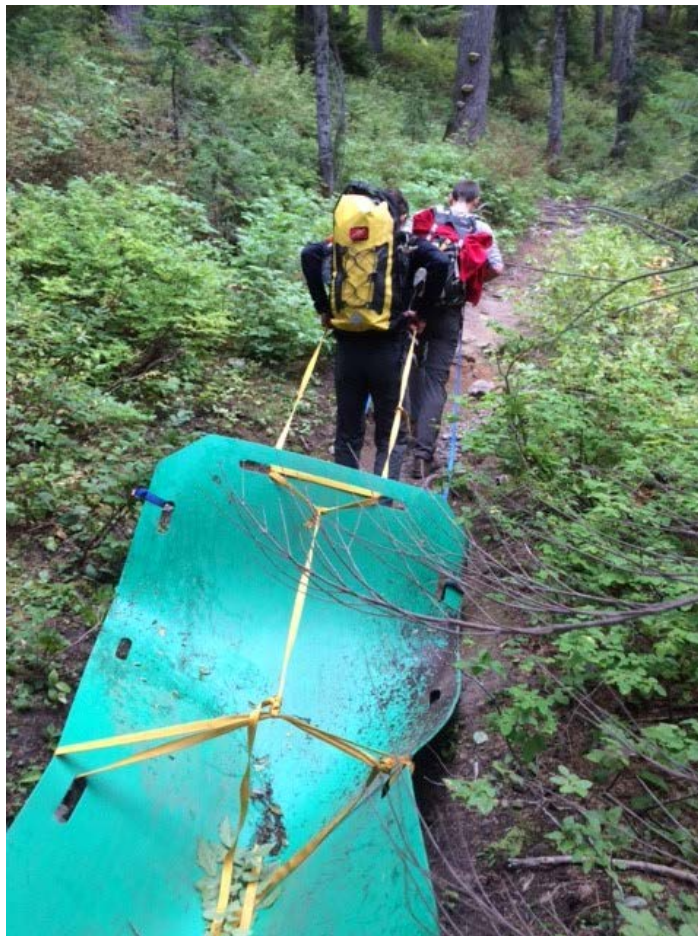
She was hesitant and shook with each step but gradually became more confident as she moved forward.

Much of the team followed at a distance to not spook Tia but to be on hand in case they were needed as well as collect the grid tape markers. Tia and the responders walked through the woods and clearings and eventually met up with the trail about a mile downhill of where they started.

Tia, her owner, handlers, and Dr. Westerman continued back to the parking lot, and the rest of the team hiked back up the trail to help carry out the remaining gear. Most was loaded onto the pack-horses, for which we were very grateful – we were all very tired at that point. The one piece we had to carry down was the Rescue Glide. It was too large and made too much noise and would likely spook the patient pack-horses, so we took turns wrestling the glide back down the hill.

At the bottom, we were met by [The Soup Ladies](#), a non-profit volunteer organization which is often called in to serve amazing home cooked soups and meals to responders. While we recovered with soup and bread, Tia munched on hay and looked to be doing well.

This deployment took the combined efforts of over 65+ responders from the expert leadership of King County SAR Coordinators, Deputy Joe Merclich and Deputy Ed Christian, to members of King County SAR units: [ESAR](#), [SMR](#), IST, [NWHSAR](#), [4x4](#) and [King County Search Dogs](#) as well as the WASART members, [Dr. Dana Westerman](#), and Tia's owners. It is heart-warming that so many people are willing to give of their time and effort to come to the aid of a possibly injured rider and a possibly injured horse. WASART is proud to partner with these units and to lend our expertise where and when needed.



Volunteers haul the rescue glide up the trail. We didn't end up using it, but we were glad to have the option.

\$50k Grant to Feed Wildfire-Affected Animals



Thanks to a very generous gift, WASART will be able to provide both domestic and wild animals with feed for the winter in areas devastated by the wildfires in Washington State. The project is being called Feed

After Fire and will be in force as long as the funds and needs are there.

The donation, from a source who wishes to remain anonymous, totals \$50,000.00, and will be earmarked for purchasing feed, arranging transportation, and distributing the feed. In the case of domestic animals, many have been left without food as fires destroyed winter stores of hay and other feed. For wild animals, much of the habitat they rely on has been disrupted and many face a hungry winter.

WASART, an all-volunteer nonprofit, has been involved in the emergency animal sheltering for evacuees for the last two years in Eastern Washington. The contacts made within the state and county governments during those deployments will assist in making sure the aid gets to people and animals who need it.

Not all details have been settled but volunteers are working hard to make the most of the donor's generosity. Find out more on www.feedafterfire.com.

For Second Year in a Row, WASART Provides Sheltering for Animals Displaced By Wildfire



Julie S. spends a bit of time with a stray dog who was brought in to the emergency animal shelter set up in Brewster, WA during the recent evacuations caused

by the wildfires.

On Thursday, August 20th, WASART was asked to establish emergency companion animal shelters in Brewster and Tonasket that were safely away from the areas that had been devastated by the Okanogan Complex Fires. However, by Friday Tonasket had been evacuated under a Level 3 evacuation order, so WASART was directed to set up a single companion animal shelter in Brewster.

By Friday night, WASART's Task Force Leader, Rory K, was on-site and coordinating closely with Deputy Dave Yarnell, Okanogan County Animal Control Officer, and the Okanogan Emergency Operations Center. Deputy Yarnell had already set up large animal sheltering at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds, north of our location, with the assistance of rescue groups that we had trained in April of this year.

At about 6:00 p.m. WASART's sheltering trailer arrived with cages/crates, feed, cleaning supplies, food and water bowls, paperwork, litter and trays, and all the other materials needed to set up a safe and well organized shelter. The shelter setup was completed late Friday evening.

A horse-trailer load of large animal supplies had been donated to WASART, so on Saturday a group of us took those up to the large animal shelter at the Fairgrounds where they were gratefully accepted. A few more critters arrived at our shelter and were checked in, examined, and photographed. More WASART volunteers arrived during the day, some had to leave. We had more than an adequate number of personnel on-site.

With a low animal population leaving us some downtime, we were able to do some on-site training and develop new methods to deal with anxious animals. By about 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, the population was down to one stray dog and we were advised to be ready to demobilize the next morning.

On Monday morning we started to break down the shelter, clean the rooms that we used in the school, decontaminate all the animal supplies that we used, and repack everything into the trailer. (Yes, it was like getting a VCR back in the box once you take it out.)

Deputy Yarnell took custody of a stray puppy (who was later adopted by WASART volunteer, Julie S.)

The remaining team members left for home early afternoon and all were safely home by 8:30 p.m. that evening.

14 WASART members deployed from Western Washington locations to Okanogan County between August 20th and August 24th to assist with the animals displaced by the wildland fires and donated over 750 hours and 4,766 miles to help our animal friends and their owners in Eastern Washington.

Upcoming Trainings



How to Register

Register online: <http://bit.ly/WASART2015> If you prefer to download, print, and send via email or mail, click the following link and follow instructions on the form: <http://bit.ly/Download-n-Print-RegistrationForm> For more information, contact registrar@washingtonsart.org. For general information about the course, contact training@washingtonsart.org.

Field Response
Sept 20 • Buckley, WA

Field Response is the class you need to deploy in the field and handle animals. The best part of this class is you work with live animals of all kinds, and learn how to handle and interact with them. Even if you aren't planning to deploy with WASART, it's pretty fun to spend a good part of the day with a large assortment of companion animals and livestock.

Tuition: \$65.00 for WASART members
\$32.50 for recertifying WASART members
\$95.00 for non-members

Emergency Sheltering
Oct 4 • Enumclaw, WA

This training is geared towards setting up and running an emergency shelter, as well as working with large and small animals in an emergency sheltering situation. The on-site training provides a considerable amount of large and small live animal-handling.

Tuition: \$65.00 for WASART members
\$32.50 for recertifying WASART members
\$95.00 for non-members

Annual Exercise
Oct 17-18 • Enumclaw, WA

The WASART Annual Exercise is a free, two-day full-scale animal shelter set up and operation exercise with live animals. Participants will be exposed to all aspects of a large and small animal shelter operation. Participants are encouraged to spend the night onsite to gain the full benefit of an overnight deployment experience in addition to getting to know other responders in the organization and having more fun.

Tuition: Free and open to the public

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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