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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](#)



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Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

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From The President

Prepare for the Worst, Hope for the Best

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

September 14, 2016

King County Office of
Emergency Management
3511 NE 2nd
Renton, WA 98156

December 14, 2016

Shoreline Fire Department,
Station 61
17525 Aurora Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98133



WASART members practice carrying a litter.

Happy Summer Solstice all (and happy Winter Solstice to our friends in the Southern Hemisphere),

The General Membership Meetings are held 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 invited to attend.

Upcoming training

Register at

<http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

Open House (repeat)

August 27, 2016

Location TBD

[Register](#)

Fundamentals (f/k/a Core)

September 17, 2016 (repeat)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Foothills Veterinary Hospital

28512 112th Street East

Buckley, WA 98321

[Register](#)

Animal Handling & Assessment (f/k/a Field Response)

September 18, 2016 (repeat)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Foothills Veterinary Hospital

28512 112th Street East

Buckley, WA 98321

[Register](#)

Communications Workshop

October 1, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fort Steilacoom Park

8714 87th Ave SW

Lakewood, WA 98498

[Register](#)

Annual Exercise

October 15, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Enumclaw Expo Center

45224 284th Ave SE

Enumclaw, WA 98022

[Register](#)

Summer is upon us and brings with it lots of fun and also unique challenges during our busiest season. WASART has been preparing for what may be in store: fires, droughts, mountain and trail rescues, criminal cases, and other unpredictable disasters. Safety is always our first concern, and our teams are well-prepared for what the responses ahead may require.

We've had great trainings recently for all levels of our members, and have also been doing thorough maintenance on our equipment. We've got strict guidelines for all our gear, since lives depend on it, so we take it very seriously. As many of you know, training, maintenance, and preparation are critical for success.

In addition to our own training and ongoing education we take part in community preparedness efforts. Read more below about our involvement with the Cascadia Rising events. Now is a great time to review and update your own plans/supplies in the event of a disaster – including animals, of course. You may also want to consider practicing getting your animals in and out of crates, trailers, etc. Getting them accustomed to new environments now could make things much easier in the event of an emergency evacuation, especially with unfamiliar people.

Here's to a very happy and safe Summer!

Shawndra Michell, President

Teamwork Brings Balta Out Safely

Upcoming events

July 9, 2016

[Poochpalooza](#)

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Asbery Field, Totem Middle School

4th and Alder
Marysville, WA

July 23, 2016

[Tacoma Humane Dog-A-Thon](#)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fort Steilacoom Park
8714 87th Ave SW
Lakewood, WA 98498

August 13, 2016

[NW Citizen Corps Expo](#)

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Renton Technical College
3000 NE Fourth
Renton, WA 98056

August 27, 2016

[Barktoberfest](#)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Roegner Park
601 Oravetz Road SE
Auburn, 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

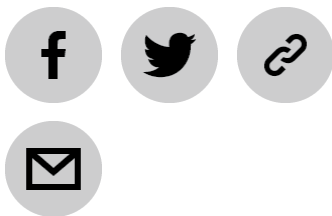


The teams take a break to give Balta some water on the way down.

During our Emergency Animal Sheltering Training, we had a call out for a dog in a ravine near the Denny Creek Trail. We joined Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR), Tacoma Mountain Rescue (TMR), and Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) at the base of the trail. The original information said it was a mile and a quarter hike up Denny Creek with some scramble at the end. The scramble at the end ended up being some of the more difficult terrain we've gone on. It was a slow three hour climb to the spot — up a creek bed, then up to follow the ridge to where the dog had slipped over the edge and down about a hundred feet. A couple of SMR members were already nearby when the call came in, reached the dog and owner quickly, and had the dog rigged. The dog was up shortly after we arrived.

We helped the dog down by belaying her first for a bit until we were sure she could walk okay. Then

preparedness, education, and emergency response.



she was taken off belay and she and her owner made their careful way back down.

We don't currently have further info on how the dog is doing, but we're hoping for the best for everyone involved.

Thanks as always to the great groups we get to work with -- [ESAR](#), [SMR](#), and [TMR](#). Of course, we are also very appreciative of the King County Sheriff's Office which makes it all possible.

Department of Emergency Management Recognizes WASART



Did you know that, during an emergency, Citizen Corps can provide more volunteer responders than there are paid responders? The list of volunteer organizations is long and includes such groups as The Red Cross, church groups, Search and Rescue, chain saw teams, teams of people to get water and other supplies to those in need, Amateur Radio groups, and many more. They all give generously of their time to help others.

Pierce County invited all of these groups to a celebration of Citizen Corps at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) operations center, and many were able to send a representative. The groups were all mentioned during the introduction and their representatives

stood and identified themselves. The representatives were then called up individually to receive their certificates and stand for group photos.

WASART is proud to be one of those groups, and pleased to receive this Certificate of Appreciation from the DEM "in recognition for the support you have provided in helping build disaster-ready communities in Pierce County". WASART is equipped and ready to provide sheltering for both companion animals and livestock in a disaster.

Volunteer of the Quarter

Joe Cruikshank



Joe exemplifies the qualities that make a great volunteer. He's ready to pitch in when needed, has a big heart, an abundance of common sense, and is

generous with his knowledge and kind words. He has been instrumental in increasing WASART's technical skill set with great ideas and by sharing his extensive experience through patient teaching. Joe also volunteers for Explorer Search and Rescue, and we're certain they appreciate him as much as we do.

Preparing with Cascadia Rising



As many of you may know, WASART participated in the Cascadia Rising training exercise. Cascadia Rising was a simulation of a 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Multiple agencies joined in the practice to test coordination and integration in the area. The training provided some valuable reminders for us all.

First and foremost, remember take care of yourself and your own families. If we aren't prepared to handle our own needs (or our animals'), we can't help others who may need our help. Some of us have 72-hour go-bags with food, water, and basic supplies. Remember that depending on the situation, you may be required to shelter in place or evacuate. As you go about your daily business, note alternative routes and resources around you. Build flexibility into your plan, and make sure that the people who care about you know your plan.

In the event of “the Big One”, your local community has a plan in place. Familiarize yourself with the plans for both humans and animals, and where emergency services may be available in your neighborhood. If you and your family are safe and secure, check on your neighbors, and then find first responders (usually fire fighters) in your area. Show them your Emergency Worker badge, if you have one, and assist as you are able (always within your scope of experience and expertise).

As we know from previous events, communication is often very limited in these situations. Make sure to have an out-of-state emergency contact. Alternative group communications like GroupMe (a free app you can find [here](#)) may prove helpful when other communications networks are overloaded. Let your loved ones know where to find you during the day, at night, on the weekends, or at work, and tell them what your plan is in each case.

Further information on the Cascadia Rising scenario will be available after Monday’s meeting with King County, and we will share that with you as soon as possible. Until then, happy planning, and stay safe!

2016 Training Dates



The poster features a close-up photograph of a brown horse's head on the left side. The right side has a green background with white text listing training events. At the bottom right is the WASART logo and a sign-up link.

Event	Date
FUNDAMENTALS & ANIMAL HANDLING & ASSESSMENT	April 16-17
EMERGENCY SHELTERING & TRANSPORT	June 4-5
TECHNICAL ANIMAL RESCUE	June 18
OPEN HOUSE	August 27
FUNDAMENTALS & ANIMAL HANDLING & ASSESSMENT	September 17-18
ANNUAL EXERCISE	Oct 15

WASART
Washington State
Animal Response Team

Sign up at <http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

Here's an overview of the training dates. You can register at <http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

2016 will see some updates to the approach the training committee takes. The goal is to have one weekend of training and then the volunteer is ready to deploy. That weekend is the Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment weekend (listed below).

Location and date are still being determined for the Annual Exercise.

Questions? Check with Training Director [Lucinda](#).

There is also a monthly training for those wishing to be training on the technical rescue team. Contact Aaron at trtmanager@washingtontart.org for details on those.

NOTE: The names of trainings have changed for clarity, but the trainings are still the same.

Open House (Formerly Orientation)

Free!

August 27, 2016

Location TBD, will be south of Seattle

Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment (Formerly Core & Field Response)

September 17-18, 2016

Locations TBD

PS: We have exemptions for veterinarians and search and rescue members. Check with [Lucinda](#) for details.

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) nonprofit organization. Mail us at: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

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