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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

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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

#### June 8, 2016

Location TBD - South Sound  
Location

#### September 14, 2016

King County Office of  
Emergency Management  
3511 NE 2nd

### From the President

## ASPCA, Our First Swift Water Rescue, and a Sad Goodbye



*We lost a great volunteer this month. This photo is representative of everything Larry was: kind and compassionate to animals, and always ready with a smile and a story for his fellow humans. We'll miss you, Larry, and your family is in our thoughts.*

Happy Spring, Everyone,

WASART members have been busy helping animals here in Washington, and also with the ASPCA in North Carolina. To date, we've sent 15 members to volunteer their time and talent in North Carolina, helping care for the nearly 700 animals seized from an unlicensed animal shelter after the owners were charged with animal cruelty. Our members have given their hearts and souls to not only restore these animals physically, but also help

Renton, WA 98156

**December 14, 2016**

Location TBD

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.

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### Upcoming training

Register at

<http://bit.ly/WASART2016>

#### **Fundamentals (f/k/a Core)**

**April 16, 2016** and **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)**

**April 17, 2016** and **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**

**April 30, 2016**

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

Marymoor Park (near off-leash Dog Park)  
6046 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE  
Redmond, WA 98052

[Contact the Registrar to register](#)

#### **Technical Animal Rescue**

June 18

Info TBD

[Register](#)

them regain their trust in humans again. Hearing these volunteers share their experiences of helping a dog or horse go from fear and complete avoidance of humans, to *actually seeking their attention in less than a week*, is amazing. This kind of work is long and hard, but so very nourishing to our souls. We have three volunteers who have actually gone back for a second deployment, and one volunteer who stayed for over a month! Truly amazing! (Note: as of press time, more than 500 of the animals have been adopted! The rest will be placed with shelters across the country for adoption.)

We've also had a successful rescue involving our Technical Rescue Team working in cooperation with Summit to Sound Search and Rescue, to rescue a dog stranded on the shore of the Nooksack River in Bellingham, Whatcom County, WA. See the full story later in this issue. Happily, Cliff (as he was later named) was rescued, and all humans remained safe. And we just recently learned that he was adopted very promptly by a volunteer from the Whatcom Humane Society in Bellingham, WA.

I'm sorry to say though, a WASART volunteer has passed away. The WASART family lost Larry J. in February. Larry was a valued member and an outstanding instructor. The last time I saw Larry was in January, and we had a great discussion about how animals seem to choose us, coming into our lives at just the right time, and we are powerless to say no to them – not that we ever would! Larry had great trust, respect and compassion for animals, and he passed that on to everyone he taught. We will definitely miss Larry, but always will remember his smile, his patience and his love for animals. Our deepest sympathies are with his wife Diane, his family, and his friends.

Shawndra Michell

President

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### Emergency Animal Sheltering

**June 4, 2016**

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

30609 SE 352nd

Enumclaw, WA 98022

[Register](#)

### Transport

**June 5, 2016**

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

Enumclaw Expo Center

South Parking Lot

45224 284th Ave SE

Enumclaw, WA 98022

[Register](#)

### Open House (repeat)

**August 27, 2016**

Location TBD

[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](#)

### Upcoming events

**March 26, 2016**

[Peninsula All Breed Dog Show](#)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Kitsap County Fairgrounds

1200 NW Fairgrounds

Bremerton, WA 98311

**May 21, 2016**

[Petpalooza](#)

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Game Farm, North Annex

3030 R Street SE

Auburn, WA

## Nooksack River Swift Water Rescue



*Cliff the dog lands on the rescue side of the river. He's shaking the water off his coat and is then immediately taken to the Animal Control Officer, who took him to the emergency vet to get checked out. [Check out more photos on our Facebook page.](#)*

Late last week, a woman staying in a cabin on the Nooksack River in Whatcom County noticed a dog barking for her attention on the other side of the rushing river. The slope the dog was on angled steeply up, and it didn't seem like the dog could easily leave. WASART received two calls; one from a Whatcom County Animal Control Officer (ACO), and one from the woman reporting the dog. One of our members in Whatcom County scouted the situation and determined the need for swift water and technical rescue teams along with extra hands. [Summit to Sound Search & Rescue \(STS\)](#) agreed to help, and on Saturday morning, we



**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 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 preparedness, education, and emergency response.



assembled to scout and work on a plan.

We ran through practice for securing the dog and for throw bag safety. Throw bags are used in swift water rescue to give anyone swept off their feet in the water (always a real danger) a couple of chances to save themselves. We split everyone up into teams: a lookout for kayakers, the swift water team who would travel to the other side of the river and attempt to secure the dog, observers above the operation, and the throw bag team set at intervals downstream.

As soon as the dog saw us, he started barking. He wanted our attention. His tail wagged low and slowly. The swift water team set up the lines and Ed and Marcia, in their dry suits, got into place. Marcia went first with a paracord messenger line tied to her. After some strong swimming, Marcia landed safely on the other side. She approached the dog slowly, who barked at her and then turned and ran. Once nearly out of sight, he sat and waited. Meanwhile, the team got a small inflatable raft attached to a pulley and Ed crossed the river to join Marcia.

While Ed and Marcia waited for the dog to approach them, a backup plan was made to trap the dog with a crate and wet dog food in case it remained too wary of Marcia and Ed. The crate arrived and the team sent it over. While Ed worked on rigging an impromptu trap out of the crate, Marcia made her way up the hill. Much of the steep hillside was covered with the Devil's club (*Oplopanax horridus*), which is covered in spikes. The dog was wary, but allowed her approach. Marcia finally reached him and carefully secured him by the collar and tied an emergency muzzle. The dog did not want to come down with her.

Once finished with the crate, Ed headed up to see if he could assist Marcia. They carefully picked the dog up and began the descent. Because of the steep and difficult terrain, the two passed the dog back and forth so they could safely make it down with the dog. It was a bit of a challenge to figure out how to secure the dog on the raft for the trip over. The trip on the raft was short-lived. Marcia and the dog ended up on the water as the responder side team hauled on the ropes as fast as they could to get the pair over. Marcia held on to the raft with one hand and kept the dog's head above the water with the other. On the other side, the dog stood and shook himself off. Meanwhile, the team got Ed safely back to the responder side, cleaned up

equipment and headed back.

The dog was taken immediately to the ACO, who, along with another responder, went back to the vehicles and took the dog to the vet for an emergency checkup.

This is a first for WASART: we've never had a swift water rescue before! We're fortunate to have the friendship, professionalism, and assistance of fellow volunteer organization STS. If you appreciate what we do, we can always use donations for gas and to replace rescue equipment retired from service because it is too stressed to safely reuse. We're an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible, and the same goes for Summit to Sound Search & Rescue.

WASART: <http://washingtontart.org/donate>  
STS: <http://www.summittosound.org/> (donate button is on the first page).

*[Check out more photos on our Facebook page.](#)*

UPDATE ON THE DOG: A Whatcom Humane Society volunteer has adopted the dog, now christened Cliff!



*Marcia and Ed figure out how best to put the dog on the float to make it across. The dog is muzzled, as per*

*WASART policy, but the swift water team reported he never growled or tried to bite.*



*Cliff being taken by Rory up the hill to the Animal Control Officer. Photo courtesy of Summit to Sound Search and Rescue/Jess Curry.*

## AKC Donation Helps With Disaster Prep



The American Kennel Club (AKC) Pet Disaster Relief Trailer was officially donated and dedicated to Washington State Animal Response Team at the annual Seattle Dog Show on March 12-13, 2016! This trailer is fully stocked with the supplies and equipment needed to set up emergency animal shelters and to support and reunite pets after disasters such as floods and earthquakes. This is the first trailer of its kind in the greater Puget Sound area and the Seattle Kennel Club is delighted to have spearheaded the purchase of this trailer with support from many local breed groups! A second trailer is in the works, and tax deductible donations to the [Seattle Kennel Club](#) are greatly appreciated.





*Some of the contributing clubs met up with us so we could thank them.*

## Training Schedule, Class Names Changed



*What better way to give a pig a ride home than in a Prius! Honey the pig was kindly loaned to us so we could train with pigs. We're always looking for animals to for hands-on training. If you have an animal you'd like to volunteer for training, we'd love to hear from you. Pigs and other livestock are always scarcer than companion animals. Please [contact the Training Committee](#) if you are interested. As you can see, we'll make sure your animals are home in time for curfew.*

In the last few issues we have been highlighting some of the behind-the-scenes work that goes on in WASART. This time the hard-working Training Committee will be in the spotlight.

And it's just in time to talk about recent changes made to the curriculum that make it possible for our members to qualify at various levels with less time out of their busy lives!

The job of the Training Committee is to provide members with the skills and qualifications they need to participate in WASART's varied activities. The classes are also available to non-members who wish to learn these skills.

This year it will be possible for members to be qualified to deploy on rescues after a single classroom day combined with online classes. The same will be true for animal handling and assessment, as well as for transport. Our number one priority at WASART is safety, and all of these classes emphasize that, so that we can do our work without either responders, owners, bystanders, or animals being hurt.

**Here is a brief summary of some of our training offerings for 2016:**

**Fundamentals** – Once you've fulfilled your basic requirements (FEMA, first aid, CPR, etc.) successful completion of this one class will qualify you to deploy on WASART missions. The in-person portion includes such things as legal issues, how WASART works, and safety/GAR. Offered April 16 and September 17.

**Animal Handling and Assessment** – This course will qualify you to handle animals safely during deployments and includes small & large animal handling, assessment, and more. Offered April 17 and September 18.

**Emergency Animal Sheltering** – You will set up a mock shelter, learn about documentation, assessment, daily care, and other aspects of a sheltering operation. Successful completion will qualify you to participate in local and remote sheltering operations run by WASART or our partner agencies. Offered June 4.

For more information go to <http://washingtontsart.org/training>  
To skip right to the registration part, go here: <http://bit.ly/WASART2016>



## 2016 Training Dates



**2016 TRAINING**

- 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 are TBD.

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@washingtontsart.org](mailto:trtmanager@washingtontsart.org) for details on those.

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

**Fundamentals and Animal Handling & Assessment (Formerly Core & Field Response)**  
April 16-17, 2016  
Foothills Veterinary

28512 - 112th St E  
Buckley, WA 98321

**Communications Workshop**

Free!  
April 30, 2016  
Marymoor Park  
Redmond, WA

**Emergency Sheltering & Transport**

June 4-5, 2016  
Two Enumclaw, WA locations

**Technical Animal Rescue**

June 18, 2016  
Location TBD

**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.**

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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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