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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](#)



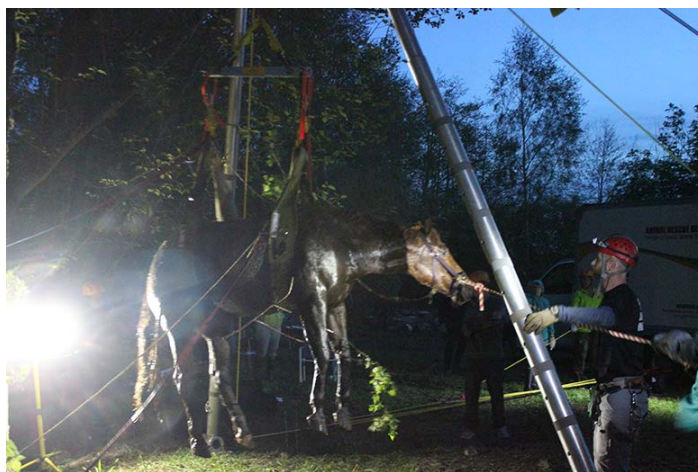
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Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

### From the President

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## Compassion at the Core of Rescue Work



*Honey the horse lands safely after an afternoon stuck in the mud.*

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**

Milton-Edgewater Public Library  
900 Meridian East  
Milton, WA 98354  
(entrance at rear of library)

**September 14, 2016**

King County Office of Emergency Management

Hi all,

As we gear up for summer, WASART continues on its very busy course. The majority of our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) members are working hard in a week-long advanced training course with instructors brought in from Colorado. This course will bring even more technical expertise and new skills to our team.

Recently our members were involved in a very technical rescue of a horse stuck in a slough. I love the fact that WASART members truly understand that the animal's well-being is a critical part of the

3511 NE 2nd  
Renton, WA 98156

**December 14, 2016**

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

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>

**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](#)

**Technical Animal Rescue**

June 18  
Info TBD  
[Register](#)

**Emergency Animal  
Sheltering**

**June 4, 2016**  
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
30609 SE 352nd  
Enumclaw, WA 98022  
[Register](#)

rescue. One of our TRT member's role was to keep the horse as calm as possible and mitigate the fear and stress involved in being lifted out of the slough. Imagine how you might feel being stuck, then having strangers approach with all kinds of unfamiliar, strange looking gear, and start hooking you up to it. You really don't have a clue what's going on, or if you can even trust these people with your safety. Our rescuers are aware of this situation and do everything they can to help the animal understand that we really are there to help. Our energy and emotions play a crucial role in that part of the process, and we remember that what we say and do and how we say and do it, can help calm the animal – or not. Happily, this rescue was another safe and successful one. More about this rescue follows later in this newsletter.

I say it again and again, because it's so true – I am incredibly proud of what WASART does, and how it's done. I really do believe that WASART has the most talented and most compassionate people  
*Helping Animals & Their Owners In Disasters.*

Shawndra Michell  
President

**Honey, A Sweet Horse Raise**



*Responders work to get webbing (red) under Honey so the wider sling straps can be attached and pulled*

### **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**

**May 21, 2016**

[Petpalooza](#)

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Game Farm, North Annex  
3030 R Street SE  
Auburn, WA

**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**

*through while another responder keeps her stress level down with comforting words and a softer place to put her head.*

As we wrapped up our recent Fundamentals Training, we received a call about a horse in a creek in Everett. Many of the technical responders were on site at the training, ready to go. We arrived on scene with an hour of daylight to spare and were directed to the horse, a Thoroughbred named Honey, who lay in a slackwater creek just to the side of a bridge.

The location's geography made this a difficult rescue. The creek cut deep, and the soft muck on the bottom made the situation dangerous. We had a quick discussion about the options and finally settled on placing one foot of the bipod on the bridge and one on the rescue side of the creek. We'd try to slip the supporting straps of the Becker sling under Honey and then lower the spreader bar to attach to the straps. After this we'd lift her vertically, pivot the bipod to solid ground and lower her.

One of the big dangers we needed to work around was the deep muck at the bottom of the creek and the muddy water. We couldn't have a rescuer in the water with her. The water barely moved but unexpected flailing of the horse could suck a responder under the animal and into the mud. JC, one our best horse handlers, would be attendant to the horse, meaning he'd work closest to her and try to keep her as calm as possible. He stood on the steep bank, talking to Honey as we prepped. To keep JC safe, he put on a climbing harness and we attached a safety rope and had someone manage the rope so he wouldn't fall in.

We also had the good fortune to have a vet, Dr. Penny Lloyd of Cedarbrook Veterinary Care, on site with a sedative in case Honey needed a bit of help to stay calm, and advice should we need it.

[NW Citizen Corps Expo](#)

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Renton Technical College  
3000 NE Fourth  
Renton, WA 98056

**August 27, 2016**

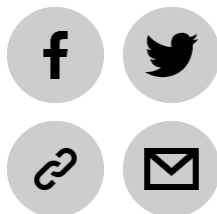
[Barktoberfest](#)

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 preparedness, education, and emergency response.



JC and a few others worked on getting the support straps under Honey with a strope guide, which is a long flat piece of metal with an opening at the end to slip straps through. The guide slides under the horse, the straps are threaded through the opening, and then the guide is pulled back through with the strap following like thread on a needle. Honey's continued attempts to self-rescue made this difficult.

We were ready to go just as dark descended.

Honey cleared out of the water fairly easily, and seemed calm. However, once in the air, she thrashed and we were very glad of the careful rigging which kept her and everyone safe. We pivoted the bipod to swing Honey onto the rescue side of the creek. Just before she touched down, she panicked and thrashed some more. As soon as she calmed a bit, Dr. Penny slipped in and gave her a sedative, which helped nearly immediately. We continued to lower her. The sedative kept her from noticing the ground right away, but as soon as she did, she stood and was able to bear weight on all four legs.

We unhooked her from the sling and she was led away to be examined more thoroughly by Dr. Penny. We took a deep breath, gathered our stuff, and headed home. We've heard Honey has a few scrapes and scratches but is doing well.

A big thanks to Honey's owner, the property owners, neighbors, Dr. Penny, everyone else who was on site to lend a hand, as well as the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office for giving us the gift of their trust. We're very appreciative of the support they gave us.

If you appreciate what we do, we can always use donations for gas money or to help replace our more specialized and expensive equipment as it gets stressed and taken out of service. We're an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are tax

deductible. <http://washingtontsart.org/donate> Thanks for your support!

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## Advanced Technical Training Increases Skills



*Responders work on the edge of a cliff as they set up rope systems for a practice lower and raise.*

In technical rescue, such as pulling a horse from the mud or rescuing a dog from the side of a cliff, risk cannot be eliminated, only minimized. Training is the best way to reduce risk to all involved and make sure everyone, including the animal we're rescuing, makes it home safely. For WASART's small technical rescue team, this means training often to keep skills fresh and finding opportunities to expand what we already know.

We had the opportunity to train with [Rigging for Rescue](#), a company based in Colorado that teaches

technical rescue to rescue groups. Our instructor, Kevin, taught a class tailored to heavy loads and use of the bipod/tripod so we can be more effective and protect our equipment, which can often see heavy strain during livestock rescues. Most technical rescues plan for weights of 400 lbs. (two humans and gear), but WASART prepares for 2000+ lbs. To simulate a large horse, we used a small tractor which we "rescued" from an embankment.

The class ran from May 11 to 15, 8 to 5 every day. Students and instructor met indoors for part of the time, learning the physics behind rope rescue, and outdoors for the practical application thereof. We were also able to review our current methods and refine them with better techniques and new skills.

We also had a couple of hikes in the great weather as we traveled to our training sites.

A big thank you to Rigging for Rescue for sharing their extensive skills and knowledge with us, and for fitting the training to our needs.

The tractor is expected to make a full recovery.



*Class participants pose with the tractor and the tripod.*

## 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.

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

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

### **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.**



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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