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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

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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 14, 2017

[King County Office of Emergency Management](#)

3511 NE 2nd Street
Renton, WA 98056

September 13, 2017

[Shoreline Fire Department](#)

Station 61
17525 Aurora Avenue North

From The President

Expanding the meaning of "team"



Technical team member Chris B. watches Dr. Jeff Dahl, who is over the edge on the Penny deployment. (Story below.) Chris is also a member of King County Explorer Search and Rescue.

After celebrating our 10th anniversary, it makes me proud and happy to see how our organization has grown. We are fortunate to be seeing more and

Seattle, WA 98133

December 13, 2017
[King County Office of
Emergency Management](#)
3511 NE 2nd Street
Renton, WA 98056

The General 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 or discussion session on a subject of interest to members. And, of course, some social time, too. All General Meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Upcoming training
Register at
<http://bit.ly/WASART2017>

**Practical Communications
Workshop**
June 3, 2017
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Marymoor Park
Redmond, WA

**Technical Animal Rescue
(Awareness)**
June 24, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Grateful Pine Farm
13620 Old Snohomish Monroe
Road
Snohomish, WA 98290

Open House (repeat)
August 27, 2017
10:00 - noon
Tacoma, WA

Fundamentals (repeat)
September 17, 2017
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Redmond, WA

**Animal Handling &
Assessment
(repeat)**
October 1, 2017
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

more new members coming in from Pierce and King County ESAR's (Explorer Search and Rescue). These newer members bring with them strengths and skills that work so well with what we do – and the collaboration and cross training with WASART is beneficial to the ESAR community as well. We may be working with different species, but many of the techniques and requirements are similar and work well in the field. As we expand the partnering in our state, we are all gaining more knowledge, skills, and awareness.

WASART really is unique in the type of services offered, method of providing services, and work partnerships. In the end, this enables us to provide even more assistance to those who may need us.

Shawndra Michell
President

Bringing Penny home

Location TBD

**Practical Communications
Workshop (repeat)**

October 7, 2017

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

Fort Steilacoom Park
Lakewood, WA

Annual Exercise

October 14, 2017

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

Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Outreach Events

No registration required.
Stop by and say hello!

June 13, 2017

[Disaster Preparedness for Pets](#)

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Puyallup Central Library
324 S. Meridian
Puyallup, WA 98371

July 8, 2017

[11th Annual Poochpalooza](#)



Dr. Jeff Dahl (yellow) reviews the plan with team members Aaron C. (black) and Chris B. (red) just before beginning the 300 ft. descent.

(Editor's note: we don't generally report on deployments involving outcomes other than live animals. This is out of respect for grieving families. In this case, however, the owner agreed without hesitation and after careful consideration, this felt like a story that needed telling.)

We always hope for a happy ending when we receive a call for assistance. Sometimes, however, that's not the case.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Asbery Field
1605 7th Avenue
Marysville, WA

August 26, 2017

[Barktoberfest](#)

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Roegner Park
601 Oravetz Road SE
Auburn, WA

September 9, 2017

[Doggiestock](#)

Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Toll Gate Farm Park
1300 W. North Bend Way
North Bend, WA

September 30

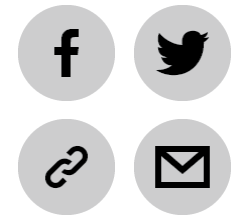
[Lake Forest Park
Preparedness Fair](#)

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Lake Forest Park Town Center
17171 Bothell Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

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.



On May 13th, WASART’s Duty Officer received a call from a private citizen asking for assistance in retrieving his beloved Springer Spaniel, Penny. Several days earlier he had been walking her on the path above the cliff at Mud Mountain Dam Recreation Area in Enumclaw, and she had gone over the cliff. He, his family, and even strangers had been unsuccessfully searching for her during that time. She had just been located.

Sadly, Penny was deceased. It was decided that, resources permitting, WASART would field a team to return Penny to her owner.

The follow day, Mother’s Day, a team of 12 qualified WASART volunteers, including members of WASART’s Technical Rescue Team, deployed to the staging area where they were met by Mud Mountain Dam’s Park Ranger, Laura Robinson. She opened the locked gate for WASART’s equipment truck to get closer to the trailhead and then remained for several hours at the gate keeping an eye on the team’s vehicles. Following a briefing at the staging area, all necessary rescue equipment including a litter and ropes were unloaded and the team carried the equipment about half a mile to the location where Penny was last seen.

After sizing up the scene and seeing Penny about 300 feet down the cliff face, the Technical Rescue Team members began the rigging necessary to safely lower a member down the cliff face with the litter on which Penny would be placed. Dr. Jeff Dahl, a veterinarian, was the Technical Rescue member selected to go down the cliff face to retrieve Penny. Other members, as well as several non-WASART responders, were assigned to a haul team. Dr. Jeff was lowered down to Penny. Once there, he carefully packaged Penny and strapped her to the litter. Under direction of the technical lead, Dr. Jeff and the litter were raised back up the cliff, with a few stops to negotiate some tricky spots. Once at the top, Penny and the litter were carried out to the staging area to be taken home by her

owner. Following a debrief, all the equipment and supplies were repacked into the equipment van and the team departed for home.

The recovery was bittersweet. The team was pleased they could return Penny to her grieving owner but wished, as always in cases such as these, that this deployment could have had a happier ending.

We wish Penny's family the best in the days ahead.



Once over the edge, Dr. Jeff evaluates the terrain that couldn't be seen from above. The loose dirt embedded with large rocks presented a challenge – the rocks are easily dislodged and a danger to be watched.

**A tale of two events:
Raise the Hoof, GiveBIG**



Attendees enjoy themselves at the first annual Raise the Hoof fundraiser. As an all-volunteer nonprofit, WASART relies on donations and fundraising to pay the bills and purchase specialty and sometimes custom-made equipment. Our tenth year in existence got a boost with two fundraisers.

When we decided to launch our first annual fundraiser in March, we had no idea that we would receive the response we did. Without skipping a beat, we danced right into the annual GiveBIG event in May and received even greater support. Pairing these two events together in the first half of the year and our supporters donated over \$24,000. We were completely blown away by their performance!

The crowd for Raise the Hoof: Paws Up for WASART was the perfect complement of volunteers (much gratitude!), members, and guests. The guest speaker, Dr. Mary Schoenfeldt, provided all in attendance a great perspective on how we see our pets and why rescuing these animals in turn, helps rescue the human. We could not have been more thrilled to have her there. Then a beloved supporter of WASART, Bonnie Towne, and her trusty canine, Lager, flew in from a vacation out of state just for our event to speak on behalf of the work that we had done in rescuing Lager when he needed us most. She roused the crowd for the final ask and

aided in connecting the guests to the work that we do; lovable Lager played a big part in stirring that emotional connection. Our own Denise and Zoe emceed the event and kept us on time and on cue. Ken Cottle was auctioneer extraordinaire, tuxedo and all, who got bidders to surpass our expectations for the live auction. In the background, 26 volunteers worked to make the magic happen, from set up to tear down. Without the seamless blend of these key players, we could not have pulled off the night. The final number for this event was \$16,617.60.

Not two months later, we were busy at work putting together an email campaign for the Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG event. This is a one day, 24-hour event, where we can truly make every dollar count through both personal and corporate matching donations and the GiveBIG stretch pool. This year, we had 10 BOD members step up and pledge to match \$1,000 (you are all amazing). In addition, an anonymous donor pledged to match up to \$2,500 for which we could not be more appreciative. It's always a nail biter with GiveBIG as progress is tracked in real time and you are never quite sure how it is going to turn out. At about 11 p.m., the last donation came in and we had reached \$7,468! Although our goal had been \$11,000 to pay for our second bipod/tripod, we had maxed out our matching donations and we are still waiting to see what corporate matching and stretch pool funds we will receive at the end of this month.

It truly is a humbling experience to witness generosity in action. WASART does amazing things within the community and continues to build upon its experience and reputation. But WASART would not exist without your commitment. These events were successful because of that and we hope you are as proud as we are! WASART is well on its way to raising the money needed to meet its operating costs for 2017. We only hold four true fundraising events a year and you, our members and donors, never fail to show up and support this organization.

Every. Single. Time. Thank you!

Presenting at the WA Search and Rescue Conference



Attendees practice emergency muzzles on carousel horses.

The city of Republic, WA welcomed the Washington State Search and Rescue Conference this year, drawing responders from all over the state to take classes and get to know each other better. A number of WASART members attended and WASART, for the fourth year in a row, also presented to attendees about what we do and how we can assist, even when we are on the other side of the state.

After the presentation, we showed some quick and easy rescue techniques on the carousel horses housed on site at the Republic Fairgrounds. The horses stood in as both equine and canine subjects so attendees could practice emergency muzzles, lift harness, and a variety of drags.



A drone photo from the night before the beginning of the conference shows off scenic Republic.

2017 Training dates



2017 TRAINING

OPEN HOUSE
January 7, August 27th

FUNDAMENTALS
February 4, September 17

ANIMAL HANDLING & ASSESSMENT
March 25th, October 1

EMERGENCY SHELTERING
April 22

TRANSPORT
May 13

TECHNICAL ANIMAL RESCUE
TDB

ANNUAL EXERCISE
October 21 (tentative)

 Sign up at <http://bit.ly/WASART2017>

- Open House** – August 27th (no registration needed)
- Fundamentals** – September 17th (repeat)
- Animal Handling & Assessment** – October 1st (repeat)
- Communications Practice** – June 3, Oct 7
- Annual Exercise** – October 21st (tentative)
- Technical Rescue** – Monthly, contact the [Technical Rescue Chair](#) for info

Register for 2017

You can register for 2017's trainings at <http://bit.ly/WASART2017>. Questions? Check with [Training Director](#).

P.S. We have exemptions for veterinarians and search and rescue members. Check with the [Training Director](#) 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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