

**Washington State
Animal Response Team
(WASART)**

**Minutes February 13, 2008
General Membership Meeting**

Present were BOD members: Gretchen McCallum, Greta Cook, Lanette Knapp, Mary Ann Bentley, Patty Vanassa, and Lynn Henke.

The meeting was called to order by President Gretchen McCallum at 6:35pm.

• **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

President, Gretchen McCallum

• **New BOD Members.**

The following people have agreed to join the WASART Board of Directors. Patricia A. Vanassa will become the Membership Officer. And Dr. Heather Stewart, VMD, Ms. Kristin Malone, Veterinary Assistant, Captain Darrin Pratt of the Enumclaw Fire Department, and King County Animal Control Officer Jenee Westberg will join the Board as Advising Specialists.

• **King County Office of Emergency Management.**

Timothy Doyle is the Director of Public Education for the King County OEM and will be the contact person for WASART regarding coverage for volunteers during call-outs, etc. He advised that coverage for immunity from liability while on call-outs would be extended to WASART volunteers during training and actual missions/callouts provided a DEM # was first obtained. If circumstances dictated that a DEM # could not be obtained prior to the call-out/mission, it could be issued immediately after the activity and would be retroactive for two weeks. The same training number would be used throughout the year, provided OEM was advised in advance of upcoming training opportunities. A different DEM # was to be used for presentations being given by WASART volunteers.

• **Amateur Radio.**

Gretchen, and husband and WASART member, Ken Cottle, successfully passed the Technician level of amateur radio and have received their call signs.

• **General Meeting Locations.**

Commencing with the March 12th meeting, the location for the General Meetings will return to the Community Meeting Room of the Key Bank, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022. The meetings will start at 6:30 p.m.

• **Bumper Stickers.**

The WASART bumper stickers were received from the distributor and will be available for sale at upcoming trainings, presentations, etc.

• **Post Office Box.**

WASART's new mailing address for all correspondence, etc., is now P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

• **Burien/White Center Rotary.**

An invitation has been extended for WASART to give a brief presentation at one of their upcoming monthly meetings. The club will also consider making a donation to WASART. Gretchen will contact the Rotary president to schedule the presentation.

• **Yellow, Waterproof Tool Bags.**

McLendon's is having a 20% off sale on the weekend and, after discussion, Gretchen was authorized to purchase 3 large and 3 small totes from McLendon's. They will be used as "Go Bags" for the Field Response Teams and will contain the ropes, webbing, etc., needed for extraction of downed animals.

Vice-President, Greta Cook

• **WA Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (WAVOAD).**

Both Greta and Gretchen attended the January 8th meeting and, besides the US Humane Society, were the only animal-focused member organization present. This is a good organization for networking and putting names to the organizations' representatives with whom WASART would be working in an emergency or disaster. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12th.

- **Presentation at Pierce Conservation District.**

About 20+ people attended Greta's presentation on January 19th, most of whom were property and/or animal owners. It was a good networking opportunity for the attendees.

- **The 2nd Annual 4-H Equine Extravaganza on January 26th.**

WASART put up a booth at this event and made a presentation on disaster preparedness for livestock. It was not well-attended due to insurance and advertising difficulties. Lynn Henke's life-sized model of a horse, black and white Titan, was used as a demonstration model for a vet's presentation on equine first aid and as an advertisement by the WASART booth.

- **Horse ID Livestock Clinic on March 15th.**

The location for WASART's second annual horse ID Clinic has been changed from Crystal Carter's Triple C Pleasure Horses location on 244th in Enumclaw to Havilah Equestrian Center on 400th in Enumclaw. The date remains the same: March 15th. It will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A flyer has been posted on WASART's website of www.washingtonsart.org and more information will be provided on the website as it becomes known.

- **South King County Regional COAD Meeting.**

This COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) meeting in Black Diamond was attended by Greta on January 29th. Representatives from over 20 south King County organizations attended, many of them faith-based, non-profits, schools, agencies, etc. This COAD is striving to be the umbrella organization for all the local COADS from the various south King County communities such as Renton, Auburn, etc.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., perhaps in Tukwila.

- **WASART Promotional Gear.**

After much discussion, it was decided that WASART members would be able to purchase the green WASART T-shirts with "Animal Rescue" on the back while white T-shirts with the WASART logo on the left chest would be available for purchase by the general public. This was to ensure that trained WASART personnel would not be confused with the general public when on a mission or callout.

Lanyards bearing the WASART acronym and website will be ordered and soon be available for purchase by members and/or the general public. A quote for the purchase of these items was detailed in the minutes of a previous meeting.

The initial order of WASART jackets in gold/charcoal will be ready for pickup from the embroiderers tomorrow. Another order for jackets will be made next week by Gretchen.

- **WASART Badges.**

Discuss ensued as to how best to reflect on WASART ID badges the various levels of training obtained by the members. After reviewing an example prepared by Greta, it was decided that the various levels would be assigned a particular color and that color would surround the picture of the member.

The colors designated for each Level were: green for Level 1; yellow for Level 2; red for Level 3; blue for the 4x4/Transportation Unit. It was also suggested that to avoid confusion, the number of the appropriate Level be placed inside the corresponding color.

If a member obtains further appropriate training and therefore is eligible for other colors to be added to his/her WASART ID badge, a new card would be issued.

Also discussed were methods for identifying on the WASART ID badge a member's particular skills, such as reptile handler, nurse, vet assistant. Further discussion is required on this issue.

- **Upcoming Presentations.**

Greta will give presentations on disaster preparedness for pets and/or livestock on February 20th to the CERT class in Auburn; to the Raging River Riders on March 20th; and to the Pierce County Backcountry Horsemen General Meeting on April 23rd.

She is also scheduled to give a presentation on Sheltering at the annual Partners in Preparedness Conference in Tacoma on April 2nd.

- **Red Cross Shelter Training.**

Greta graduated from the intensive Red Cross Shelter training course on February 8th and is now eligible to be deployed by the American Red Cross in an emergency or disaster.

- **Issaquah Hobby & Volunteer Expo.**

WASART has received an invitation to staff a booth at the above Expo on March 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- **Animal Care Alliance Meeting.**

WASART was invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Pierce County Animal Care Alliance (ACA) meetings held in Tacoma, WA on the second Wednesday of each month. Greta and Gretchen attended their first meeting on February 13th.

About 30 people were in attendance most of whom were from various governmental agencies such as the Pierce County Humane Society, City of Tacoma Animal Control, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, FEMA, the City of Lakewood, the City of Auburn Office of Emergency Management, etc., while the remainder were from various private agencies such as the American Red Cross, or nonprofits such as Muttsack, Pasado's Safe Haven, Friends of Lewis County Animal Shelter, etc.

Some of the goals of the ACA are to locate suitable locations in Pierce County for livestock and/or companion animal shelters, prepare Memoranda of Understanding with the owners donating the use of their property or pastures, equip the shelters, train volunteers to staff them, etc.

Gretchen and/or Greta will attend both the General Meetings on the second meeting of the month and the next ACA Operations meeting scheduled for March 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Secretary, Lanette Knapp

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer, Mary Ann Bentley

- **Bank Account.**

Mary Ann reported that we were solvent.

Lynn Henke, Training Director

- **Orientation Meeting and Training Weekends**

WASART's Orientation Meeting on January 12th attracted over 41 attendees, 26 of whom signed up for membership and training that day. Since January 12th, another 12 membership applications have been received.

The first training weekends of February 9th-10th attracted approximately 16-17 trainees on each of the days while another 26-27 people are anticipated attending training on February 16th-17th. The latter weekend's training schedule is a duplicate of the former weekend's classes. Some trainees came from as far away as Kettle Falls near Colville for the training and many travelled from Thurston and Pierce Counties as well as from closer-in communities.

Continuing education classes will be scheduled in the near future, after comments are received from all the trainees of both weekends.

- **Orange Vests.**

Lynn found some bargains on fleece-type orange vests and donated six of them to WASART.

- **Imprinting of WASART Logo on Tool Bags.**

Lynn said that TPI couldn't print the logo on the tool bags because such imprinting required heat and they didn't have heat machines. RL Graphics couldn't do it. Glenco said they might be able to purchase the bags wholesale and put the logo on them but they would need to check and would let Lynn know the status. They did not call back.

Patty Vanassa, Membership Officer.

While Patty's fire department brother, or Darrin Pratt, could provide training in water rescue for animals, a course offering for Level 3s, he suggested contacting Brian Whitley from Fire Department 44 or 46. Brian Whitley trained both Darrin Pratt and Patty's brother and if Brian Whitley would train WASART volunteers, they would become certified to do animal water rescues whereas they would not be certified if trained by Patty's brother or Darrin Pratt.

With no further business on hand, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 7:53 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Gretchen McCallum, President

- **Dates to keep an eye on ~**

General Meetings - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Key Bank Community Meeting Room, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022.