

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

***Minutes November 14, 2007  
General Membership Meeting***

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

New folks welcomed: Paula Bartoulus-Young, Linda Crusen, Tim Perciful, Stephanie Perciful, Pat Traub, and Laura Russell.

The meeting was called to order by President Gretchen McCallum at 6:41pm.

- **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written with the exception that Greta Cook was not a WSU Extension Agent but rather a WSU Livestock Coordinator. The change was ordered made in the minutes.

**President, Gretchen McCallum**

- **WASART's History.**

Gretchen gave a really brief overview of WASART's history and then everybody introduced themselves and told of how they became acquainted with WASART.

- **Lessons Learned from the recent CA wildfires.**

Gretchen reviewed what had happened in the California wildfires. The major livestock problems identified were animals that wouldn't load, insufficient trailer space for the number of animals to be evacuated, owners stopped from returning to retrieve animals left behind, horses and livestock not readily identifiable, evacuation plans not prepared in advance (one woman had failed to plan for evacuating her four Percheron stallions), and multiple road closures. She reported that there were multiple evacuation sites in several different locations, i.e., fairgrounds, race tracks, barns and stables, private acreages, some of which had treatment centers established by vets and vet techs. The Del Mar Racetrack housed over 2,000 horses, some double stalled, others on picket lines, tied to trailers, or placed in hastily erected pipe stalls. The

grandstands were turned over to displaced folks and the center of the race track was populated by trucks and horse trailers with horses tied to their trailers and owners sleeping under their trucks.

A rather large problem during the emergency was the lack of a database and appropriate documentation for identifying animals, keeping track of where they came from, and reuniting them with their owners. Photographing the livestock was one way of identifying a horse although owners had to provide more documentation to actually prove the animal was theirs. This sometimes proved difficult to do and some animals were released to dishonest non-owners.

Supplies of food, feed and water for horses and small animals were sometimes limited. Some AM radio stations broadcast requests for supplies at regular intervals.

Communications were sometimes disrupted and discussion ensued about the necessity of being ham radio trained in the event cell lines and land lines either become unavailable because they were being used by first responders or actually destroyed or out of order. Gretchen mentioned that a local ham radio operator has offered his services to help reunite animals with their owners in a disaster. It is a service he has provided often times in the past.

- **Training Curriculum, Orientation Meeting, and Training Dates**

The training curriculum is close to finalization and will probably be finalized at the next BOD meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. When it is finalized, it will be posted on WASART's website of [www.washingtonart.org](http://www.washingtonart.org).

On Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m., WASART's Annual Orientation Meeting will be held at the Key Bank Meeting Room in Enumclaw commencing at 9:30 a.m. The meeting is expected to last about three hours. A brief history of WASART and WASART's upcoming training sessions will be provided to all attendees who are interested in learning more about WASART's goals and in joining WASART and being trained to evacuate and shelter livestock and small animals.

Training will be held on two weekends in February, 2008: February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. These will be all-day sessions and commence at 9:00 a.m. each morning. Most of the classes will be in a classroom setting in Enumclaw although some will be hands-on and in other locations still to be determined.

- **501(c)(3) Application**

Gretchen mailed the 501(c)(3) Application to the IRS on October 19, 2007 in order to obtain tax exempt status that will allow donors to make tax deductible donations to WASART. She advised that even though WASART does not yet have that status, so long as prospective donors are advised that the application is under review donors can safely donate money or goods on WASART's Wish List and receive an acknowledgement from WASART suitable for tax purposes when tax exempt status is awarded to WASART.

- **United Way Donations**

Gretchen recently registered WASART with United Way. Donors can now stipulate to United Way that they wish their donations to be sent specifically to WASART. Some companies also match donation funding and folks encouraged to sign up for this option if it is available.

- **2008 Livestock ID Clinic**

We are in the very early stages of planning another Livestock ID clinic in time for the show season. We are looking at **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. It will be held at Crystal Carter's barn - home of Triple C Pleasure Horses - on 244<sup>th</sup> in Enumclaw. We are tentatively planning on having Dr. Richard Vetter, equine dentist, on hand, as well as Bronwyn Mayo for freeze marking, a vet on-site for micro-chipping, vaccinations, sedation for the freeze marking, etc., an equine massage therapist, an equine chiropractor, an equine nutritionist, perhaps a hoof trimmer, vendors, etc. Crystal Carter may also sponsor a horse sale, both of her own horses, those consigned to her for sale, or private sellers. We want to make this an even bigger event than our previously very successful Clinic on September 30, 2007.

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training**

Gretchen mentioned that the majority of the BOD were already CERT trained or signed up for training in February and emphasized the importance of being prepared to effectively deal with emergencies and disasters on the familial, neighborhood, and local level. CERT training provides that degree of competence and assurance.

Tim Perciful, who works for the Maple Valley Fire Department, spoke briefly from the floor about the

connections he has in arranging, scheduling or teaching such training sessions and offered his assistance in finding leads on training that might be of interest to WASART members. For more information, Tim can be contacted at [tperciful@kcf44.org](mailto:tperciful@kcf44.org).

- **Membership Forms**

WASART membership forms are now available on-line. Membership dues are \$15 per year per household or \$35.00 per organization. Dues paid now will be valid through 2008.

- **Committee Members Needed**

Gretchen spoke of the need for more folks to become committee members. Those committees needing attention are:

- Community Outreach;
- Membership/Recruiting;
- Grants and Fundraising;
- Training;
- Communications;
- Equipment; and
- Information/Newsletter

Anyone wishing to be considered for a position on one of the above committees should contact Gretchen at [animalresponseteam@gmail.com](mailto:animalresponseteam@gmail.com).

### **Vice-President, Greta Cook**

- **Radio Interview on October 28, 2007**

Greta spoke about her 26 uninterrupted radio interview with Martha Norwalk last October 28<sup>th</sup>. She believes Martha Norwalk will be a very beneficial contact because of her very extensive connections with the animal community.

- **Map Your Neighborhood**

Greta is working on drafting an addendum to this urban-focused program so that rural communities will receive instruction that is unique to rural inhabitants. She went on to talk about the MYN program. For instance, who is in your neighborhood? Who could help and then who would need help? What sources are available? This course fits in very nicely with CERT training and WASART's goal of being prepared for a disaster and is highly recommended. Any BOD member or Tim Perciful can help find MYN courses for those folks interested in being trained. Other contact information is through 206-296-3830 or the website at <http://emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml>.

- **Livestock Identification Forms and Lost/Stolen Forms**

Greta has prepared both types of ID forms for horses but now needs other types of animals to have their own ID forms. When finalized, these forms will be available to download from our website of [www.washingtonsart.org](http://www.washingtonsart.org). Mary Ann suggested that her artist friend, Sharon Bartlett, might be willing to draw animals for the forms.

- **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

A Calendar of Upcoming Events is being prepared for posting to the website. It will reflect the dates of all WASART's BOD and General Meetings as well as other activities or events that are either being sponsored by WASART or of interest to WASART's members or the general public.

- **Monthly Topics**

Greta suggested that we have a topic of interest each month so that our meetings are educational as well as informational. For instance, September is designated in the U.S. as Disaster Preparedness Month. She welcomed receiving ideas and articles on suitable topics. She can be contacted through the WASART website.

- **Lending Library**

Greta has several books and magazines available for loan that correlate directly with WASART's goals of disaster preparedness and closely related subjects. She is willing to maintain a lending library for WASART members and hopes others will donate informative written material to the library for the benefit of other members.

- **Fire Hose Acquisition**

A large amount of used fire hose was generously donated by Captain Don Brassard of the Enumclaw Fire Department that will be turned into rescue straps for extricating downed horses. Gretchen and Greta both successfully completed this two day training course in large animal rescue techniques in August, 2007. These wide and relatively soft straps make pulling and moving the livestock easier for the workers and less harmful to the animals.

Greta also mentioned that Captain Brassard was interested in his fire crew being trained in large animal rescue techniques and might also be willing

to put on a simulated barn fire demonstration for WASART's members.

### **Secretary, Lanette Knapp**

- **Enumclaw Christmas Parade**

Lanette obtained the application to participate in the Christmas Parade in Enumclaw scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion followed and we decided we were not in a position to participate this year but might be able to do so next year.

- **WASART Letterhead**

She also reported that Ted had e-mailed a revised letterhead to Gretchen and Greta to review and revise or approve.

### **Treasurer, Mary Ann Bentley**

- **Bank Account**

Mary Ann reported that our checking balance has started to go up a bit and that we were solvent.

- **EARS Workshop, Spokane, WA on November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Mary Ann attended this one day workshop given by United Animal Nations' trainers and sponsored by HEART (Humane Emergency Animal Rescue Team), our colleagues in Spokane. She volunteered to assist in signing up the approximately 50 attendees. She said the training well prepared her for a disaster and discussed the procedures used by EARS volunteers to establish and staff shelters. The organization uses the Incident Command Structure (ICS) now utilized by all first responders and search and rescue agencies and members in the United States. She said she would be willing to deploy as an EARS volunteer and obtain OJT that would be beneficial to WASART.

She checked with HEART personnel about whether they were actually going to sponsor DART (Disaster Animal Response Team) training through the US Humane Society in spring, 2008. That option was still being considered and WASART would be notified if the training went ahead so that interested WASART members could attend.

**Lynn Henke**

- **Publicity**

Lynn Henke was able to get a small item in the local Enumclaw Courier Herald notifying the public about our meeting place and time.

She also mentioned that KUOW, a local public radio station, might be another way to inform the public about WASART's existence and its goals.

### **Around the Room**

**Tim Perciful** advised everybody that he and his wife, Stephanie, were going to be teaching a Pet First Aid Class in the near future but the dates and locations had not yet been determined. He would advise WASART of this information when known.

**Pat Traub** is the President of EFFRA (Enumclaw Forested Foothills Recreation Association), a nonprofit organization dedicated to permanently conserving hiking, biking, and horse-riding trails on 10,000 acres of land in the Enumclaw plateau.

She said that EFFRA is preparing a DVD about EFFRA's goals that would be replete with music, artists and singers that she hoped would be ready for distribution in time for the County Artist Awards. The music would be country and the DVD would be used to solicit donations for EFFRA. She offered to include a segment on WASART on the DVD, a generous offer that was accepted.

Pat also said that she had a friend who provides instruction in barn safety who might be willing to work with WASART if WASART was able to persuade the Enumclaw Fire Department to go ahead with putting on a simulated barn fire.

**Laura Russell** is a member of The Soup Ladies, a nonprofit organization comprised of women who donate their time and services, free of charge, to fly to disaster sites and cook for the first responders, search and rescue personnel, and displaced citizens. The Soup Ladies was started by Ginger Senecal, a/k/a Mama Passarelli, who owns The Dinner House in Black Diamond. Laura offered the services of The Soup Ladies at any event that WASART thought their efforts could be utilized.

With no further business on hand, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:26pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Lanette Knapp, Secretary

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

**December 10th** - Newsletter Deadline – for copy to be in January's issue of the "WASART NEWS". Send submissions to Gretchen McCallum for consideration on [animalresponseteam@gmail.com](mailto:animalresponseteam@gmail.com).

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30pm at Key Bank, Enumclaw – General Membership meeting.

## **2008**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Orientation Meeting – Key Bank, 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA at 9:30am.

**February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** – WASART training in Enumclaw commencing 9:00 a.m. Initial location at Key Bank in Enumclaw - Other locations TBD.

**February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>** – WASART training in Enumclaw commencing at 9 a.m. Initial location at Key Bank in Enumclaw - Other locations TBD.