

Washington State Animal Response Team
January 8th, 2025
19:00 – 21:00
Via Zoom
BOD Minutes

In attendance: Lynn Snow, Noah Bernays, Jeff Dahl, Bill Daugaard, Jenifer Clark, Angela Sorkin, Leo Notenboom, Lenore Marentette, Jeanette Whitmire, Greta Cook, Julie Shipman, Gretchen McCallum, Michaela Eaves, Diane Johnson

This meeting was called to order at 19:01.

Priority Discussion and Decision Items:

- Deployment PR parameters and timeline
 - Current guideline: 30-day pause on any posting post-deployment to decrease internet drama that causes negative feelings for the owners of the animals we are rescuing.
 - Divergence from this guideline can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the PIO, weighing what is best for the owner and what is best for WASART.
 - Michaela (PIO) is working on creating a WASART posting guideline (timing, keeping posts factual rather than sentimental, proper branding, etc.). This will be incorporated into training and sent out to General Membership.
 - The posting timeline can be added to the pre-deployment email sent by Leo.
 - A delayed post may not be picked up by news agencies, but WASART is prioritizing our subjects' owners' well-being.
 - Reminder: **all public posts should be sent to the PIO for review prior to publishing.**
- Deployment Owner Aftercare Letter revised
 - Website with owner resources linked to by QR code still needs updating
 - Leo will upload the updated resources list after review by Jeanette or Greta

Additional Unfinished Business:

None.

New business:

- Idea for future Board meetings: flip the agenda so the same Chairs are not always at the end when some Board members have already left the meeting.
- Archiving of GroupMe chats from 2015 - 2021
 - Leo will research how to archive chats (if GroupMe has an export function, who has permissions to export, where should the archived chats go).
- Proposed division of Membership Committee (which handles both Membership and Credentialing responsibilities)
 - Currently, Julie Shipman is handling Membership responsibilities, and Gretchen is training Camille Schaefer to take over Credentialing responsibilities. The responsibilities are completely divided, and the person in charge of Membership responsibilities should be on the Board (currently, Julie attends Board meetings as an advising specialist).
 - A motion was moved, seconded, and approved to restructure the current Membership Committee into two separate committees, a Membership Committee (with Julie as chair) and a Credentials Committee (with Gretchen as chair), and to remove Julie as an Advising Specialist. When Camille is fully trained, she will take over as Credentials Chair.
- Ad-hoc committee report on Revised WASART ICS Command Structure/Leadership Roles within TRT
 - To more accurately align WASART's command structure with that of ICS and flesh out each role's responsibilities, the ad-hoc committee presented proposed changes to the Board.
 - The ad-hoc committee will provide a break-down of the changes proposed

- Provide an example deployment under the current system vs. under the proposed system
 - How the proposed system expands and contracts, and which roles must be in place during any deployment
 - Comparison of previous vs. proposed terminology for the same role
- Concerns arose about the complexity of the new system, and the ability to teach it to new responders—concrete reasons for the changes will need to be highlighted
- If these changes are eventually accepted the following will need to happen:
 - Change the name of the “Base and Ops” training (since “base” would be “command post”), and incorporate into training any changes to the structure
 - Be explicit about the CC’s role of establishing a staging area vs. command post
 - Spell out an example deployment under the new system with 3 – 7 responders (or only a small number of responders who are qualified to assume the leadership roles)—*how* do the ICS roles collapse? It is more likely than not that on any given deployment, a responder that is skilled enough to take on the Rescue Supervisor role is also needed to go hands-on.
 - The IC will not always be the Sheriff’s Deputy/SAR Coordinator—it might be and has been a local Fire Chief, EOC, or other agency (the finalized structure needs to recognize the possibility of interagency deployments)
 - Update Policy 4 to reflect the proposed system
 - Decide where the presented document will be stored (likely Policy 4, but also copied to an Op. 6 Appendix, because newly invested members may be more likely to see it in Op. 6)
 - Add Large Animal Rigger and Safety roles to ICS diagram
 - Lynn will organize a Zoom meeting with all Team Leaders, and a Zoom meeting with the DO/CC group, to explain the proposed system (ideally before Base and Ops so the Team Leaders can help teach new responders)
 - Mock missions will be used to practice the proposed system
- As a side note, Sheltering Committee started out with all the appropriate ICS positions, but adopted/morphed new terminology over time because the official positions were not being filled and became too cumbersome on actual deployments.

Treasurer – Gretchen McCallum

- Total donations deposited in December: \$11,280.90
- Status of establishment of brokerage account for stock donations
 - A donor wishes to donate stocks to WASART. The Board previously gave Gretchen authority to set up a brokerage account with Sound Credit Union to handle it. After many emails and meetings with SCU’s brokerage account financial advisor, it was made clear that the account must be set up by a 3rd party organization.
 - The donor has agreed to donate the stocks in 2025 since the process was not completed during 2024.
 - Ritz and Gretchen are checking with Russell Investments and Vanguard to inquire about setting up a brokerage account to handle the donated stocks (Schwab requires \$230k which we don’t have, and Fidelity charges a \$150 monthly maintenance fee)
 - Gretchen will draft a protocol for accepting future donated stocks.

YTD as of January 2025

Gross Profit: \$86,429.64

Expenses: \$83,988.52

Net Income

Total Liabilities and Equity

2024: \$2,441.12 2024: \$307,159.09
2023: \$-578.84 2023: \$309,996.61

Committee Reports

Merchandise – *Diane Johnson*

November Sales: \$0

November Expenses: \$0

No report.

Fundraising – *Vacant*

GivingTuesday 2024 donations:

- Goal of \$7k
- Received \$8,769.72 (best year so far)

Information & Communications Technology – *Leo Notenboom*

- See end of minutes for ICT report.
- Gretchen will continue to grab the email addresses for a complete list in case we restart the newsletter and use a different mailing system than Mailchimp (see December 2024 minutes).

Supply – *Greta Cook*

- T1: rear ramp has been repaired and painted (anti-skid will be applied tomorrow)
- A gear cleanup guide is in the works
 - Includes pros and cons for various locations where cleaning can be done (the drying railing at Greta's barn will not be available for a few months)
 - The call coordinator could coordinate gear cleaning after deployments
 - The search continues for a portable cleaning rack for use at others' residences
 - There is a possibility of monetary incentives for personal expenses incurred during gear-cleaning (car washes can get expensive quickly)
 - **If you have space that can be utilized for drying gear, please contact Greta (greta@wasart.org)**

Outreach – *Jenifer Clark*

- Battle of the Badges 12/14/24 was a big hit
- Upcoming - Horse Expo in Tacoma (Jeanette is leading)
 - Attendees: Bill Vogel, Tamie, Leo, Jennifer Lyne, Staci Atkins
- April 5 Mule Open house - Outreach, TRT demo opportunity and backcountry dog/horse safety
- Outreach is running events and content by Lynn and Michaela for PIO function
- 2nd pop-up tent ordered for delivery to Greta
- Brainstorming pictures for new business cards to run by PIO (current photo of dog with muzzle might send the wrong message)

See end of minutes for all recent past and upcoming events.

Membership – *Julie Shipman/Gretchen McCallum*

Membership Statistics

Membership: 142

Base/Ops Support deployment eligible: 72

Membership applications through website:

- 2024: 44, 27 of which became members (average for past years)

See end of minutes for spreadsheet of additional stats (to be added to the 2024 Annual Report).

Volunteer Management – *Jeanette Whitmire*

- Need to nominate Volunteers of the Quarter for Q4
 - Trying to get more interaction from General Membership (as opposed to only the Board nominating others), but not very successful so far
 - Committee Chairs—ask for nominations during Committee meetings
 - Jennifer Lyne, Jing Liu, and Andrea Scinkovec have been nominated

Mentor Program Update

- 7 Mentors and 19 Mentees
- Mentees have received 8 emails (introduction, deployment process x2, TRT training, safety hazards, volunteer opportunities, responder resiliency, program feedback form)
- Mentors have also been sent a program feedback form
- First 6-month round of the new Mentor Program is complete—the next round will begin in March 2025 with Base and Ops

Sheltering – *Vacant*

- No meeting last month, looking to schedule another ASAP
- Work party the weekend of 2/15 and 2/16, which coincides with the Open House and TRT training

Finance – *Gretchen McCallum*

No report.

Technical Rescue – *Jeff Dahl*

- Found new training sites at Issaquah Rock, working on how to bring W2 to the sites
- Next 4 Heavy Systems sites are set, but we still do not have a single central location
 - **Contact Jeff (jeff@WASART.org) with ideas of new training sites (I-90/405 interchange area, various terrain features—hills, trees, ravines)**
- SAFE will give their 2-hr horsemanship presentation in February during Heavy Systems training
- **Mock mission April 6—save the date!**
 - Will incorporate the proposed ICS changes—see New Business above
- TR Committee in the process of replacing an outgoing Committee member (update: Jing Liu and Andrea Scinkovec have been nominated and accepted positions on the TR Committee)

Upcoming Trainings:

- 1/5: Light Systems—Issaquah Rock
- 1/25: Heavy Systems—tripod scenario in Sammamish area

See end of meeting minutes and TR Committee minutes for additional TRT-related events.

Technical Water Rescue (on hold) – *Rory Kelleher*

No report.

Board Member Reports

President – *Lynn Snow*

Answering Service Activity

December = 7

Vice President – Angela Sorkin

- Save the date: March 12 @ 7pm—General Meeting (remote only).
- Angela will send out a save-the-date to everyone@wasart.org, the FB Water Cooler, and the Social TRT GroupMe chat
- Committee Chairs: prepare to present on general updates over the last 6 months
- Send ideas to Angela about the General Meeting (presentation ideas, scheduling, etc.)

Secretary – Noah Bernays

December minutes have been published after being approved via email by a majority BOD vote.

Training Director – Lenore Marentette

- Open House 2/15 – please share the WASART FB page post (Instagram post coming soon)
- Lenore will be away from March 17 – end of May

Past President – Bill Daugaard

YTD number of deployments

2024: 19

2023: 16

Public Relations – Michaela Eaves

No report.

FB likes: 15,903

Instagram: 774

YouTube Subscribers: 286

Advising Specialists

Julie Shipman

No report.

Good of the Order

None.

Moved to adjourn at 21:23.

Recent Past Events:

1/13/24: Tacoma Equine Hospital Horse Health Expo

2/24/24: NW Region US Pony Club Horse Management Seminar at Miracle Ranch

3/6/24: Tahoma Chapter Back Country Horseman of Washington, Maple Valley

3/11/24: Kitsap Lady Trail Riders

3/22/24: ACO Academy presentation in Burien (attendees: Noah Bernays, Gabe Benedetto, Shawndra Michell)

3/23/24: Social Impact Fundraising at Insight Climbing (attendees: Sara Price, Jenifer Clark, Gabe Benedetto, Kristie Olarti, Joy Waugh)

4/21/24: Supplemental TR Training - dog handling, first aid, exam, rigging (attendees: Outreach and TRT—see AAR)

5/1/24: Community resource fair in Enumclaw (attendees: Kimberly Taylor)

5/11/24: Equine First Aid Seminar in Port Orchard with the Kitsap Saddle Club (attendees: Diane Johnson, Greta Cook, Jeanette Whitmire)

5/16/24: King County Regional Summer Hazards Seminar at KCOEM (attendees: Greta Cook, Jeanette Whitmire)

5/25/24: TR training dog mock packout and Outreach event (attendees: see AAR)

5/29-30/24: AWR-328: All-Hazards Preparedness in Animals in Disasters

- FEMA-funded 8-hour course providing tools to protect, respond to, and recover from the consequences of disasters and catastrophic disease exposure involving animals in rural communities.
- Attendees: Jeanette Whitmire, Bill Vogel, Betsey Mullen, Jeff Dahl, Andrea Scinkovec, Joie Mette, Kristie Olarti, Kristi Boucher

6/8/24: REI Presentation - Hiking with Dogs (Michaela Eaves and Jeff Dahl)

6/10/24: Bark at the Park (Jenifer Clark, Kristie Olarti, Jeanette Whitmire)

6/12/24, 9am: Conference call with Northwest Trek re: Emergency Resource Guide (Bill)

6/16/24: W2-specific Transport Training (attendees—see AAR)

6/18/24: W2-specific Transport Training (attendees—see AAR)

6/20-23/24: NW Overland Rally (attendees: Outreach and TRT—see AAR)

6/23/24: Full-day Transport Training (attendees—see AAR)

7/10/24, Purple Sage Riders Zoom presentation (Michaela and Julie Shipman)

7/20/24: TRT training at Lake Sammamish State Park prior to the picnic

7/20/24, 1-4pm: Picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park

7/28/24: Bill Gillespie (SARVAC President) Celebration of Life Event, Lacy Community Center, Olympia

8/10/24: WASART Open House

8/11/24: 10:30-noon: Hiking with Dogs at REI Issaquah

8/24-25/24: overnight WASART Field Training in Cle Elum

8/31/24, 11am-3pm: Ken Hasbargen’s Celebration of Life in Kent

9/7/24: SAFE Presentation & Demo (TRT & Outreach)

9/28/24: Base and Operations Training

11/9/24, 1-3pm: Presentation to an emergency medical group at Pierce County EOC (Michaela Eaves, Rory Kelleher, and Lenore Marentette)

12/14/24: Battle of the Badges in Renton (Outreach)

Upcoming Events:

1/11/25: Tacoma Horse Expo

Action #	Description	Assigned to	Last update
21.11.06	Write up a succession planning document for the Fundraising Committee	Michaela & Gretchen	In work 11/2/22
21.11.07	Write up a succession planning document for the Supply Committee	Greta	In work 11/2/22
24.12.01	Update the succession planning document for the Training Director role	Lenore	Assigned 12/4/24
25.01.01	Research options for archiving or exporting GroupMe chats	Leo	Assigned 1/8/25

WASART Information and Communications Technology Committee

Status 2025-01

Radios

- In-vehicle radio docs need to be reviewed and updated

- Mic in WASART2 needs to be repaired, next time I'm out there
- Have yet to fully inventory large radio collection donated a couple of months. Unclear if usable, though.
 - "Unboxed" – still investigating which, if any, will be usable. (Photos at bottom of doc.)
 - 55 Motorola CP185 hand-held radios ... with 3 batteries.
 - 3 MIB (Mint In Box) Motorola CM200 mobile radios
 - An assortment of other radios and accessories – some in good condition, some ... not.
 - Biggest problem (besides batteries) might well end up being practical ability to program

Training

Every training and (almost) every deployment should be considered an opportunity to use, practice, and become more comfortable with radios.

Tech training videos: what would be most useful to prioritize?

- Email me.

InReach

- Standing To-Do: Update software at every B&O
- Still reviewing implications of new subscription plan (no activation step?)

IT

- Website (and @wasart.org email) migrated to new server.
 - Small hiccups along the way, as expected
 - "Done" (until someone points out an issue)
 - FWIW: mostly a cost-saving issue. Slightly longer story, if anyone cares just ask.
- Tablets for supply arrived
 - One has broken touch screen (sigh)
 - Replacement on order

Website Stats

12/1/2024 – 12/31/2024

1	/	377
2	/donate/	99
3	/my-account/	97
4	/training-events/	86
5	/about-wasart/	53
6	/policies/	38
7	/wasart-stories/	37
8	/volunteer/	35
9	/members-only-pages/	32
10	/volunteer-member-forms/	31

Appendix – Radios



MEMBERSHIP INFO FOR 2024 REPORT (PRELIMINARY)

Number of Deployments in 2024:	19			
Number of members as of 12/31/2024	142			
Number of miles travelled:	35,885.0			
Number of hours:	7,116.00			
Value of non-professional volunteers' hours (at WA rate of \$40.28/hr [from 2023, most recent rate available from independentsector.org]):	\$290,167.39			
Value of volunteers' hours when completing tasks for WASART in their professional capacity and at their professional hourly rate.	89 hours @ \$111/hour = \$9,879			