

Big Bend DART Meeting- February 4, 2008 LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library

Eight people attended: Stuart Abbey, Haven Cook, Nicole Lilly, Vanessa Morales, Laura Morse, Rasmus Praestholm, Pat Simmons, and Darla Wolak.

Pet Oxygen Mask Project

Haven summarized the number of masks received by the various fire departments in the area:

<u>FIRE DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PET O₂ MASK KITS PROVIDED</u>
Tallahassee Fire Department	27
Miccosukee Volunteer Fire Department	4
Chaires Volunteer Fire Department	5
Gadsden County Fire Department	10
Franklin County Fire Department	3
Taylor County Fire Department	2
City of Madison Fire Department	2
Blountstown Fire Department	1
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	<hr/> 54

Every fire department that requested masks were provided with the numbers requested. We have additional money, which can be used to buy masks for other local departments or replace masks that have worn out.

Cody Reese with Tallahassee Fire Department contacted Haven to inform her about the successful use of the masks during a house fire. An article about the incident was in the Tallahassee Democrat: <http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200880124009>.

Tallahassee Volunteer of the Year

Haven would like to nominate Big Bend DART for Tallahassee's volunteer agency of the year, emphasizing the work we did to obtain pet oxygen masks for the local fire departments. Stuart suggested that she mention Big Bend DART has no paid staff and its volunteers are highly trained. For example, volunteers take 22 hours of DART training as well as other training. Stuart also suggested listing that our organization partners with the American Red Cross, has been extremely active since Katrina, and is involved with public education about disaster preparedness.

Agreement and Pet Shelter with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital

Big Bend DART members met at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) last Tuesday to sign the agreement with the Hospital and identify a location for the pet shelter. All of the necessary signatures were obtained from DART members. Mark O'Bryant, who is the President and Chief Executive Officer of TMH, will sign the agreement for the Hospital. We looked at three locations for the shelter with Debbie Carver, who is the Manager for Emergency Planning. A storage area located off of the employee parking structure was selected. The TMH staff will donate items to stock the pet shelter.

Upcoming Events

The Ochlockonee River Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show will be held on February 23rd and 24th. Bill Schmitt will send out emails requesting volunteers to staff the Big Bend DART display.

Laura Bevan's estate sale benefiting Big Bend DART will be held on Saturday, March 8th. Items for the sale should be brought to her townhome in Arbor Hills on Friday evening, February 29th.

We will also price all of the items that evening. Volunteers are requested for both the pricing event and estate sale. Members will receive an email with additional details.

A State Agriculture Response Team (SART) disaster exercise will be held in Ocala on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Bill Schmitt will send an email out to members with further information.

Upcoming Trainings

Debbie Carver at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital will hold a CPR/First Aid Training that will be limited to 15 DART members. This course will be held for eight hours on March 29th.

Animal Decontamination Training will be held in Apalachicola. Franklin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will provide gear. Hazardous waste specialist, Don McLean, will help with the training. It may be opened up to EMS and Animal Control Officers as well as Big Bend DART members. For further details, see http://www.bigbenddart.org/upcoming_events.htm.

State Agriculture Response Team (SART) will offer ICS300 training in June. This is a free training. The details and registration form are available at <http://www.fldart.org/events.htm>.

Ham radio training tailored for DART will be held in either April or May. Members who are ham radio operators will lead the class.

Trailer hitching and pulling practice will be offered in May.

Catch pole training will be held in June at Leon County Animal Control.

A training may be held in June on how to complete the electronic check-in forms on the laptop.

We may offer pet first aid training, possibly coordinating with the local American Red Cross (ARC) in this endeavor. Stuart mentioned that with the changes in management at ARC this would be a good way to establish a working relationship with the organization.

Website

Rasmus talked about the role he could play in managing the Big Bend DART website. He would include the website under his domain. This would eliminate our current technology fee of \$17.39. Rasmus will meet with the technology committee to further discuss managing the website. This committee includes Nicole, Karla Brandt and Bill Schmitt. The information will be presented during the March meeting.

Annual Report and Financial Statement

Haven distributed the 2007 Annual Report and Financial Statement. She said that the most significant achievement for our organization during this past year was raising the funds, purchasing, and distributing pet oxygen masks to the local fire departments. Haven includes the Annual Report in the application package for grants.

The financial statement showed that our income totaled \$9,162.05 (including a beginning balance of \$757.74), expenses totaled \$7,413.91, and ending bank balance for 2007 was \$1,748.14. Of the ending balance, a total of \$605.25 is earmarked for pet oxygen masks. Stuart mentioned that he would like to see the pet oxygen mask money kept in an interest-earning account.

Goals for 2008

Stuart would like to see the Board set up a budget. We should determine how much to spend for equipment, and establish a rainy day fund.

We plan to purchase the following items: walkie talkies, printer, microchip scanner, and digital camera with photo printer.

The Big Bend DART display needs to be refurbished. Haven mentioned that we will likely change some of the items to Gatorboard.

The pet first aid kits will be made. We will spend a DART meeting putting those together.

We would like to increase membership. Currently, we only have 24 paying members.

Future fundraisers include a car wash in Havana and Christmas wrapping. Joanie Batten had suggested working with Tallahassee Mall to set up a booth at Christmas for wrapping gifts. Haven will check with the Mall office. Stuart recommended recruiting people outside of Big Bend DART, such as senior citizens and Key Club members, to help with the fundraisers, particularly the Christmas wrapping. Haven suggested approaching WalMart for donating wrapping paper.

Haven would like to see more partnership agreements developed. Stuart mentioned that we need to particularly address the memorandum of agreement that we have with ARC because of the recent change in this organization's management.

Laura suggested increasing grant requests. Pat mentioned that we might be able to coordinate with HSUS to get grants.

Miscellaneous

Darla mentioned that she works with the organization Animal Rescue New Orleans (<http://animalrescueneworleans.org/>). Every month she returns to New Orleans to work with the group. Darla suggested that DART members come with her to see the aftermath there. We may try to organize a trip with her.

Haven suggested that DART members should ride along with Leon County Animal Control. We need to call Richard to arrange. Haven wrote an article for the SART Sentinel about her ride-along.

Pat talked about Southeast K-9 Search and Rescue. She mentioned that they do weekly training, and we are welcome to come out and observe. Bill Schmitt can notify Big Bend DART members with the dates, times, and locations. This K-9 Search and Rescue organization receives approximately 25 call outs every year. They have been working with fire departments to use canines for rubble pile rescue. Haven mentioned that Big Bend DART and Southeast K-9 Search and Rescue have discussed possibly setting up a partnership.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 16th at 4 pm. Haven will check with Richard Ziegler to see whether it can be held at the Leon County Animal Control Office located on Appleyard Drive. This meeting will include Board member elections.