

Big Bend DART Meeting- July 30, 2008 Forest Service Center

A total of nine people attended: Haven Cook, Nicole Lilly, Leslie Long, Laura Morse, Charlie O'Connors, Bill Schmitt, Darla Wolak, Richard Ziegler, and Mary Ellen Zydell.

Introduction

Haven introduced Charlie who worked at the pet friendly shelter during Hurricane Francis as a Humane Society volunteer.

Fundraising Events for 2008-2009

A Big Bend DART Board meeting was held last Thursday that focused on fundraising events for the next year. Board members chose three events to hold: 1) a dart tournament, 2) Christmas wrapping, and 3) a poker run. An additional fundraiser that we may host is the "no come event".

Barbara Barnett suggested the dart tournament, and is working with dart players to organize the event. They will determine the date for the event in August. The group of dart players does most of the setup. Big Bend DART is responsible for advertising.

We will host Christmas wrapping in one of the malls. If we are unable to set up a table in the common area of a mall, we will participate in wrapping at the bookstores as we have done in the past. We may tap into the senior citizen center for volunteers. We may also set up a tree of remembrance for pets.

The poker run will be held in the spring. Nicole said she is talking with the Chrome Divas about participating. We will also want to involve Harley Davidson. A small committee may be organized with one contact person. We will need to have an idea about the route for the poker run as we talk with others. Mary Ellen will contact someone who has been involved with a past run.

Haven said she is interested in Big Bend DART doing a "no come event" because it will not require a lot of organization time or cost. People simply purchase tickets to an event that they will not attend. Darla suggested holding it on April Fools Day.

Blessing of the Animals

This annual event will be held on October 11. Big Bend DART will have a display. We can set up the canopy to ensure our volunteers are not sitting directly in the sun. Big Bend DART does between 20-30 events like this every year, i.e. setting up a table for education and donations.

VolunteerLEON

Richard and Mary Ellen attended the recent VolunteerLEON meeting. Richard offered Big Bend DART's assistance as a resource, and VolunteerLEON offered its organization as a source for volunteers. Volunteers have to complete a VolunteerLEON form or they can be sent through American Red Cross. If Big Bend DART has a

representative at the volunteer reception, we will be able to more easily obtain volunteers. Haven asked whether we could call the organization to request people, and Richard said yes.

Mary Ellen said that VolunteerLEON is really on top of training. The organization has a "Point of Distribution" training. Volunteers are required to do two American Red Cross trainings: Mass Care Sheltering and Fulfilling Your Mission, plus they must take the Incident Command System (ICS) trainings; i.e. ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800. When providing services, all volunteers will report to a central location called the Volunteer Resource Center. VolunteerLEON wants to receive situational reports, which lists the hours of service for the volunteers. The organization will hold a test exercise on August 1st from 10 am to 1:30 pm. Its next meeting will be October 1st from 10 am to 12 pm. Further information about VolunteerLEON is available at <http://www.volunteerleon.org/>.

Training

The CPR/1st Aid/AED training was held on July 19, with about 15 people attending. Mary Ellen brought one of the new First Aid/CPR Manuals, which will stay with the team.

Richard will provide a catch pole training during one weekend at the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Shelter. The training will be held within a fenced-in area. Multiple dogs will be used. Richard will set the time and date for training and let us know.

A ham radio class starts August 19th. More information is available at the following: <http://www.bigbenddart.org/meeting%20flyers/AmateurRadio08.pdf>. Bill said that, if you are unable to attend a ham radio class, a good way to obtain your license is to read the book and listen to the training on 5 CDs and then take the test when it is offered. The test is offered every other month at Tallahassee, Thomasville, or Wakulla. Big Bend DART members are encouraged to become ham radio trained and licensed.

A DART training will be held in Gainesville from September 12th to the 14th. For more information and to register, please see the following: http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/disaster_training_dates_2007.html#Disaster_Animal_Response_Team_DART_Train.

Darla asked about swift water rescue training. Haven said that Laura Bevan would likely know when and where the next training will be offered. Haven said she would try to obtain further information.

Mary Ellen asked about a training session on handling wild animals. Barbara Barnett, who also volunteers with St. Frances Wildlife Association, will be contacted about this.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

For the September meeting, Richard will try to arrange a tour of the County Emergency Operations Center that is located at Appleyard.

Leslie and Tanya Patton went to Iowa after the floods. They assisted with setting up an animal shelter at a farm. They will talk about their experiences at the October meeting.

We may hold a meeting at the American Red Cross (ARC) to be introduced to the new staff, particularly the Disaster Coordinator. Haven will discuss this with Joanie who is the liaison between Big Bend DART and ARC. When ARC would like to have a pet-friendly shelter set up, the organization contacts Joanie as the DART liaison and she sends out an email notifying DART members. Joanie would staff DART desk at the Emergency Operations Center located at ARC. An update will be given at the next meeting with regards to meeting the ARC staff.

Darla goes to New Orleans monthly to continue to help the animal rescue groups after Hurricane Katrina. She suggested that Big Bend DART members go with her to experience what is working and not working. Haven suggested that we set up a trip in November for the group.

Membership Dues

Bill asked about people paying their Big Bend DART membership dues. Haven said that she will draft a letter to be emailed requesting volunteers to pay dues and become members.

Next Big Bend DART Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27th, at 7 pm. It will be located at Leon County Animal Control. Danielle Stanek, who is a veterinarian and epidemiologist with the Florida Department of Health, will talk about zoonotic diseases. See the Big Bend DART website for further information: <http://www.bigbenddart.org/>.