

Big Bend DART Meeting- September 24, 2007 LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library

Fourteen members were in attendance: Stuart Abbey, Joanie Batten, Russell Batten, Jan Collier, Haven Cook, Nancy Gabrielsen, Cavell Kyser, Nicole Lilly, Leslie Long, Laura Morse, Barbara Sullivan, Tracy Tesdall, Darla Wolak, and Richard Ziegler.

Pet Oxygen Mask Project

Lieutenant Cody Reese and Chief Brian Hunter from the Tallahassee Fire Department attended the meeting to discuss the pet oxygen mask project. Thus far, Big Bend DART has purchased 10 pet oxygen mask kits. Nine were provided to the firemen at the end of the discussion. One kit will be kept by Big Bend DART for display and demonstration. Our goal is to provide a minimum of 27 masks to the Tallahassee Fire Department. Various fundraisers will be held to purchase additional kits and are addressed below. The fire department will prioritize the distribution of the masks, first placing them on the vehicles more likely to respond to incidents with pets. The oxygen masks are reusable, and are expected to last many years. Parts may simply have to be replaced if damaged.

Shirley Roux with the Delta Society brought her golden retriever, Maggie, to demonstrate the use of the mask. Maggie allowed both Shirley and a fireman to put a mask on her. Haven took pictures, which will be used to publicize Big Bend DART's fundraising efforts.

More details about the pet oxygen masks are available at the following websites: <http://www.helpanimalsinc.org/index.php> and <http://www.surgivet.com/index.asp>. Additionally, up-to-date details about the fundraisers that Big Bend DART will hold for the masks can be obtained at <http://www.bigbenddart.org/>.

Car Wash

A car wash is planned for October 6th to help raise funds for the pet oxygen masks. It will take place at the BP Station located at 2550 North Monroe from 8 am to 2 pm. A media event will occur the day before the fundraiser. Haven will coordinate this event with the Fire Department.

Blessing of Animals at Mission San Luis

The Blessing of Animals will take place from 10 am to 2 pm on October 6th at Mission San Luis. Big Bend DART will have a display during the event. Darla will set up the display and work from 9 am to 12 pm. Russell is available to assist throughout the event. Additionally, Cavell and Leslie may help with the event. Further information about the Blessing of Animals can be found at http://www.missionsanluis.org/_docs/2007_blessing_handout.pdf.

Blessing of Animals at St Luke's Angelican Church

Blessing of Animals at St. Luke's Anglican Church will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Sunday, October 7th. St. Luke's is located at 3725 Apalachee Parkway. Haven, Leslie, and Laura volunteered to staff the Big Bend DART display at this event.

Pampered Chef

A Pampered Chef fundraiser will be held on October 26th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Leon County Agriculture Center. The money raised will go towards purchasing pet oxygen masks for the Tallahassee Fire Department. Laura passed out flyers, catalogs, and order forms for the event.

Yard Sale

The Big Bend DART yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd. Money raised at this event will also go towards purchasing pet oxygen mask kits. It will be held in the parking lot of American HomePatient on the corner of Monroe Street and 7th Avenue. Items can be dropped off at Haven's house beginning the last week in October. Susan Goodhope has given permission to use her horse trailer again, which will be parked in Haven's driveway.

HazMat Awareness Training

The University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine is offering a 2-hour HazMat training on Friday, October 26th from 3 to 5 pm. According to a previous email sent by Bill Schmitt, anyone interested must RSVP by contacting John Haven by email at havenj@vetmed.ufl.edu. Seating is limited. Haven said she planned to attend.

Personal Preparedness Kit

Haven showed us items that would be useful in personal preparedness kits: an N95 mask and nitrile gloves.

Laptop Purchase

Nicole provided an update on the purchase of a laptop. She had previously emailed information comparing two computers, Dell Vostro 1000 and Dell Inspiron 1501, to the Board. The key to selecting a computer is determining specifically, such as the amount of memory and the processor speed, what is needed. Both Stuart and Haven stated that Big Bend DART did not need a lot of fancy additions to the computer. Haven said that a DVD burner is essential. Haven and Nicole will discuss the choice of the computer further and email the selection to the Board for a simple majority. They will try to keep the purchase at about \$1,000. The laptop may be bought by the next meeting.

Pet First Aid Kits

Barbara is looking at various containers to be used for the first aid kits.

Miscellaneous

Nancy mentioned that Florida Wild Mammal Association will have a yard sale from 8 am to 2 pm on September 28 and 29. Donations of items will be accepted after 5 pm on Thursday, September 27. Because of the recent fire at Florida Wild Mammal Association, donations are essential. Additional information about this organization can be found at <http://www.wakullawildlife.org/index.html>.

Nancy also informed us that the Wakulla County Animal Shelter is currently hiring a new shelter manager. She encouraged qualified people to apply. Interested applicants should contact Captain Ganey with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Department.

Next Big Bend DART Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 29th, at 7 pm. The tentative location is Leon County Animal Control. Check the Big Bend DART website for the selected time and location (<http://www.bigbenddart.org/>).