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# SCENT ARTICLES

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Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado, Inc. P.O. Box 1036 Ft. Collins, CO 80522-1036

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November 99/February 00

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## **Sambuca** **March 1988-January 2000**

By Marie Cloughesy

I performed one of the most difficult tasks of my life the beginning of January—I had my almost 12-year-old Newfoundland, Sambuca, put to sleep. She had been failing quite a bit in the past year, and this fall she became a victim of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. She went from a weight of about 100 pounds last spring to only about 65 pounds upon her death. This, compounded with her age, arthritis and hip dysplasia forced my hand. In the past several weeks, Sam was unable to get herself up from the floor and I had to lift her to her feet. “If” she was able to remain standing, she was then able to get to her food, water or the front yard to relieve herself. She was a dog of great dignity and her time was up.

For those of you that knew Sambuca, you know that she and I were soul-mates and she taught me much about what it would take for me to be a successful dog handler. For that, and all the years of love and friendship we shared, I thank her!

Kiss and hug those that you love — those with two AND four legs!



**To request SARDOC Search Dogs:**

**Call (970)498-5141 and ask to  
have the SARDOC dispatcher paged**

The printing and distribution of  **Scent Articles** is supported by **HESKA**.

## **SARDOC South has new air scent team and SARDOC North team passes first test**

Congratulations to Ina Bernard and Lenzbe (**El Paso County SAR**) who completed their air scent wilderness certification tests in mid-December. Also, Estelle Purvis and Echo (**Larimer County SAR**) completed their large area test as a part of working towards their air scent wilderness certification. Good luck Estelle with your remaining tests!

Several handlers are in the midst of getting tests scheduled, and several support people are finishing up their testing. Thanks to all of the individuals involved in getting members through the testing procedure.

*For people wanting to take the support tests or handler tests, please remember to send in a copy of your **completed Member Requirements Form** to Jaynie Zmijewski when you ask for the written test and confidence forms. If you need the form, let Jaynie know.*

## **New year brings new Board of Directors**

With the new year comes some changes in both the Executive Board and the Standards Committee. Thanks to those who volunteered to fill the various positions it takes to run our organization.

### **2000 Executive Board**

President: Cheryl Kennedy  
Secretary: Ann-Marie Boness  
Treasurer: Jen Mackler  
Director at Large: Dennis McLaughlin  
SAR Dog Coordinator: Jaynie Zmijewski

### **2000 Standards Committee**

Ina Bernard  
Dan Fanning  
Sandy Phillips  
Sue Purvis  
Wendy Wampler  
Jaynie Zmijewski

Please contact the Board if you have ideas or suggestions regarding fundraising, presentations, or other things relating to the organization. Please contact the Standards Committee if you have ideas or suggestions regarding training.

### **2000 Area Directors**

Northern Colorado: John Shivik (970)224-4714  
Southern Colorado: Barbi Atkins (719)630-1573  
Mid-State: Ann-Marie Boness (970)476-4593  
Western Slope: Jim Vail (970) 879-8474

Please contact the Area Director in your region if you are interested in learning more about using dogs as a SAR resource or are interested in getting information about training a dog through SARDOC.

## **SARDOC South member and dog go into hibernation**

by Marie Cloughesy

Steve Cloughesy regretfully submitted his resignation to El Paso County Search and Rescue late last summer (1999). Steve has been experiencing continued problems with his lower back and is looking at either more surgery or an aggressive pain management treatment plan. After Trapper's recovery and rehabilitation from his knee surgeries several years ago, it's been a tough blow to the team to have Steve's injuries keep them out of the field! They hope to rejoin both EPCSAR and SARDOC as active members in the future, but Steve will devote his current energies toward raising two daughters, getting better and supporting Marie in her SAR activities. Trapper is enjoying his forced retirement and performs admirably as a "big pillow" for his two-legged buddies at home. Steve and Trapper will be missed, but hope to come back and recertify sometime before Trapper decides that retirement suits him just fine!

## Coordinator Corners

by Marie Cloughesy

Well, we're at the end of another year. It's been a relatively slow summer and fall, so our SAR teams and dogs must be doing a great job in PSAR. (*Editor's note: Marie sent this to me before our onslaught of missions in October and November!*)

The Wilderness Weekend was a hit in Steamboat Springs this year. Many thanks to Jim for pulling everything together! I think we all learned a great deal. The mock mission on Sunday gave us the opportunity to see how our support personnel and "almost ready to certify" dogs are doing. We're looking forward to seeing many of you at the Confidence Weekend.

When it comes to missions, please all be aware that there is a fine line between a wilderness mission and what could be considered a mission for a dog with specialty certification. The most obvious example of this is when a wilderness dog is called for assistance with a mission near a river, stream or body of water. A wilderness dog that is not certified in a specialty can seriously jeopardize the success of a mission if used inappropriately. If you are called out on one of these questionable situations, please be sure to call the coordinator for clarification and potential clearance or denial to field on the mission.

Administratively, due to the surprise arrival of my new daughter in September, some of the things that I had hoped to wrap-up before the end of this year may not get finished. Or they may be passed on to next year's Standards Committee. I've not taken the time to write to members that have not met the minimum attendance standards, but I'm sure you all know who you are. We have state-wide trainings four times a year for a reason, so please make every effort to join us all next year! The Committee also hopes to complete the new member package, even if it means mailing it out at the beginning of next year, so keep looking for that one.

It has truly been a pleasure serving as your Coordinator over the past two years. I am proud to be associated with some of the finest search dog teams in this country. I will continue to work with my county team and with Luke. However, over the next couple of years, I need to spend time and commit some energy to raising my two little girls. This includes keeping a watchful eye over them so they don't get lost while we're out hiking and having fun!!! I trust that you will give next year's coordinator and board of directors your full support.

Please continue to train with gusto, search with care and love your partner!

by Jaynie Zmijeski

Happy New Year! I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as Coordinator. It will be an opportunity for me to represent SARDOC and to work with all of you to continue the excellence of SARDOC.

There are several things I would like to give my attention to this year. First of all, I need to learn the basics of the computer, and to learn what my job as Coordinator will be! Secondly, I want to review the training logs and help the certified handlers evaluate their status. This includes planning how to maintain training requirements, if necessary. I believe that only through practice will perfection be obtainable. Remember that we have one main goal, and that is to save lives. More later! The last thing I want to address this year, but by no means is it any less important, is the enforcement of the continued professional expectations of handlers, and trainees, when we are in the public eye...at any time we are representing SARDOC. At no time will personal appearance, poor judgment in actions, or presentations that cause negative impressions of SARDOC be tolerated. More later.

We are so talented, so blessed with our puppies, have so much to give to each other and to our communities. We have been kept safe in our searches and travels so we now have another opportunity to raise SARDOC to a higher level. We all can be interactive with training weekends—one individual commitment will benefit all members. Please be ready to step forward.

I now have been connected to email, so please contact me at [Calamityjaynie@aol.com](mailto:Calamityjaynie@aol.com) to communicate your desire to help, your concerns, or questions you have about training.

## Articles for scrapbooks

Please remember to send copies of newspaper, magazine articles, or letters to Wendy Wampler, Estelle Purvis, and Ina Bernard so we can have scrapbooks distributed around the state representing what is being done all around the state.

## Dispatch and vacations

If your dispatch protocol has changed, please get your new protocols to Jaynie so she can distribute them to the dispatchers.

Operational support and handlers, please let Jaynie Zmijewski know if you are unavailable to respond to missions outside of your county for a period of time due to vacation, illness, or injuries. She will then inform the dispatchers. Having this information saves invaluable time when dog teams need to be dispatched.

## SARDOC library/T-shirts

Jen Mackler is housing the books and video tapes purchased by SARDOC. If you are interested in checking out these educational resources, please call (970)613-9097. Jen also has T-shirts and window decals which are available for voting members.

The following books are currently in the SARDOC Library:

*Fire Weather*, by the Forest Service Department of Agriculture

*The Avalanche Book*, by Betsy Armstrong and Knox Williams

*Go Find*, by L. Wilson Davis

*Map & Compass*, by Bjorn Kjellstrom

*Search Dog Training*, by Sandy Bryson

*Scent and the Scenting Dog*, by William Syrotuck

*Wilderness Search and Rescue*, by Tim Setnicka

*Scent*, by Milo Pearsall

*Ready*, by Susan Bulanda

Three spiral notebooks Fran Lieser put together of the old *Search and Rescue Dog Training*, by Sandy Bryson

The newest addition to the library is *Ready to Serve, Ready to Save*, by Susan Bulanda. It is about strategies used on actual missions and contains chapters written by some SARDOC members.

The videotapes we have are:

*Cadaver Recovery Procedures*, hosted and narrated by Bill Tolhurst

PBS, *Spirit of Colorado* filmed at the Water Weekend 1998

### Lost and not yet found:

We should have a copy of *Search and Rescue Dogs* by the American Rescue Dog Association; however, it is not in the library. We also had a water search dog video by Marcia Koenig. **If anyone has either the book or the video that they have forgotten they borrowed from SARDOC, please get it back to Jen.**

## Wilderness EMT courses

Crested Butte Outdoors instructors Sue Purvis and Jeff Isaac will be offering a variety of wilderness medical courses on the following dates. We all know Sue as one of our operational dog handlers. Jeff has been teaching wilderness medicine for 20 yrs and is a P.A. SAR members and dog handlers should consider the following courses which are all being taught in Crested Butte. If you are interested in taking any of these courses, contact Sue Purvis at 970-349-6311.

EMT upgrade, October 23-28. For those who need "Wilderness" added to their EMT certification.

WFR (Wilderness First Responder), May 15-23, and Oct 9-17

Wafa (Wilderness Advanced First Aid), July 10-13, July 15-18, Aug 14-17

## Articles about dog behavior

My obedience instructor suggested I check out this website for a specific article related to dog aggression and the interpretation of what is really happening. In doing so, I found there were a number of different articles that people might find interesting; however, the articles are too long for me to include as a Feature Article in *Scent Articles*. You can find articles that may be of specific interest to you by going to [www.flyingdogpress.com](http://www.flyingdogpress.com). The author of the articles is Suzanne Clothier.

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## Training opportunities are numerous

### National Training

September 28-October 1, 2000, Response 2000, Sheraton, Colorado Springs, Colorado. More information is posted on the NASAR website. Several SARDOC members will be serving as instructors.

### Statewide Training

SARDOC Weekends (dates may be subject to change)

Volunteers are still needed for the Water Weekend. Please let Jaynie know if you can host this weekend.

February 26-27, Avalanche Weekend, Steamboat Springs. Jim Vail will be hosting.

August 5-6, Wilderness Weekend, Crested Butte. Sue Purvis will be hosting.

October 28-29, Confidence Weekend, Colorado Springs. Barbi Atkins will be hosting

As a reminder, SARDOC members are expected to attend a minimum of **two** SARDOC Weekends each year. These weekends are excellent and fun opportunities to meet the other handlers from around the state.

If you are hosting a SARDOC Weekend or a special training, you can contact Ann-Marie Boness to send you mailing labels for sending information to the SARDOC membership.

### Local Training

El Paso County Practices: Call (719)495-8564 to get a recorded message for specific times and locations of practices. Training is generally on Sunday afternoons. Call Barbi, (719)630-1573, if you have questions or special requests.

Larimer County Practices: Call (970)498-5312 and activate the line for "Dog practices in Larimer County." Practices are held weekly on alternating Saturdays and Sundays. Sunday practices are usually near Estes Park and Saturday practices are usually in the northern part of the county.

Summit County Practices: Contact Ann-Marie Boness at (970)476-4593 for more information.

Western Slope Practices: Call Jim Vail at (970)879-8474 for times and locations of practices. They are trying to practice on the 2nd weekend of months without SARDOC Weekends.

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## Mission Reports

Handlers, please remember to send in mission reports for each mission whether you were fielded or not (you may not have even made it out the door before you got stood down). If you need a blank form from which to make copies, contact Jaynie Zmijewski. If you are sending reports via email, please send them to both Jaynie at [Calamityjaynie@aol.com](mailto:Calamityjaynie@aol.com) and Julie Cotton at [jcotton@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:jcotton@lamar.colostate.edu).

### July 18-19, 1999

Location: Gore Trail, Summit County

Subjects: a couple in their 50's

Dog team used on mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (Summit County Rescue Group)

Mission: The couple were hiking with their son and a friend when they got separated. The couple missed a turn in the dark and continued south off of the trail. They stayed put until the morning when it got lighter. Sandy

ended up trailing to them from where they left the trail, and the dog team helped walk the subjects out of the field.

### July 30, 1999

Location: Cimmaron Hills, El Paso County

Subject: 8-year-old female

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Barbi Atkins and Deegee (El Paso County) were stood down en route. The girl had been found by her family.

**August 2, 1999**

Location: Mt. Evans, Clear Creek County

Subject: 79-year-old female with history of heart problems

Dog team used on mission: Angela Eaton Snovak and Isis (Alpine Rescue Team)

Mission: Subject was mushroom hunting and had not returned to camp. Isis determined direction of travel and was working in to the subject when a foot team established voice contact with the subject and got to the subject ahead of the dog team. The subject was okay, but wet and cold. She was taken out of the field in a litter.

**August 7, 1999**

Location: Emerald Valley Ranch, El Paso County

Subjects: one 21-year-old male and two 16-year-old males

Mission: Barbi Atkins and Deeogee (EPCSAR) were stood down upon arrival. The subjects were recontacted on the cell phone they had used to report themselves lost. They described buildings they could see and said that they were on a rock face on the side of a mountain. It was determined they were near Emerald Valley Ranch from their descriptions. The search team used a signal mirror to get the boys' location by having them report when they could see the flash of the mirror, and then the searchers spotted the boys through binoculars. Two foot teams evacuated the subjects.

**August 12, 1999**

Location: Hay Park Trail, Capital Creek Road, Pitkin County

Subject: 12-year-old male, good health, but poor eyesight and deaf

Dog teams used on mission: Steve Howard and Odie (Basalt Fire) and Pitkin County dog team fielded on the mission. Wendy Wampler and Jazz (Garfield SAR) and Shannon Young and Klapatche (Mesa County SARC) were stood down.

Mission: Subject was part of a deaf camp hiking trip that was camped along the trail. The subject was unable to find his way back to camp after looking for wood for the campfire in a thick brushy area. He fell asleep under a log after dark. In the morning, he remembered he had a whistle and he blew on it, allowing the searchers in the area to find him. He was cold and wet. He was transported to an area hospital for evaluation and released.

**August 14, 1999**

Location: The Craggs, south of Divide, Teller County

Subject: 36-year-old female

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa and Barbi Atkins and Deeogee (EPCSAR) fielded on the mission. Allen Weaver and Rosie and Cathy Morgenstern and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah and John Shivik (all Larimer County SAR) were stood down en route.

Mission: The subject had hiked to the top of the Craggs and was not seen after approximately 1800 hours the previous afternoon. The dogs teams fielded did not have much interest in the areas they searched. The subject came out of the field on Pikes Peak Toll Road several miles away from where the dog teams were searching. She had gone down off the east side of The Craggs.

**August 18, 1999**

Location: southwest Loveland, Larimer County

Subject: 70-year-old male, diabetic

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler (LCSAR) were stood down upon arrival. The subject was not feeling well while driving so he pulled over to the side of the road and got out to "walk it off." He thought his wife would follow along behind him in the car to pick him up once he felt better. She instead had waited for him to return to the car. She got worried when he did not return that he'd had a diabetes-related problem and she called for help. A passing motorist picked up the subject four miles away and brought him back to his vehicle just prior to the dog team's arrival.

**August 20, 1999**

Location: Security, El Paso County

Subject: 10-year-old female, deaf, severely mentally challenged

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Barbi Atkins and Deeogee, Gayle Humm and Aspen, and Marie Cloughesy and Luke (all EPCSAR)

Mission: The subject had essentially escaped from her babysitter's house. The dog teams were assigned to cover various streets in the neighborhood to look for the subject who was known to be elusive and oftentimes walked right into other homes uninvited if the doors were unlocked. A vehicle/ground team found her 3/4 mile north of the babysitter's home after finding tracks in a creek bed.

**August 20, 1999**

Location: Fountain, El Paso County

Subject: 7-year-old male

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Barbi Atkins and Deeogee, Gayle Humm and Aspen, and Marie Cloughesy and Luke (all EPCSAR) were stood down en route to look for a boy who had walked away from home.

**August 24, 1999**

Location: Falcon, El Paso County

Subject: 11-year-old male

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa (EPCSAR) were stood down en route. The subject had called his mother to let her know he was on his way to school, but he had not gone to school. When the mother got home from work, his books were at home, but he wasn't. He was found by a deputy uninjured.

**August 27, 1999**

Location: Security-Widefield, El Paso County

Subject: 8-year-old male

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Barbi Atkins and Deegee, and Gayle Humm and Aspen (all EPCSAR) were stood down upon arrival. The subject had not gone directly home from school, rather he had stopped at a friend's house.

**August 29, 1999**

Location: Eagle Lake Campground, Rampart Range Road, El Paso County

Subject: 27-year-old female

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Barbi Atkins and Deegee, and Gayle Humm and Aspen (all EPCSAR) were stood down en route. The subject became disoriented and got lost after a thunderstorm passed through while she was taking pictures during a hike. Subject self-recovered.

**September 3-6, 1999**

Location: Shield Mountain, Routt County

Subject: 36-year-old bow hunter from Louisiana

Dog teams used on mission: Jim Vail and Pepper and Sandy Phillips and Schwar (Routt County SAR), Patti Burnett and Sandy and Andrea Reller and Skadee (SCRG), Steve Howard and Odie (Basalt Fire), and Shannon Young and Klapatche (MCSARC)

Mission: The subject was out all day on September 2 hunting by himself. His friends had contact with him via radio. He radioed at 2200 hours that he was turned around, so his friends drove their four-wheelers down the road until he could see their lights. He told them to wait and he would be down to meet up with them. He did not show up. The terrain in the area was steep, and the rainy weather made it treacherous to search the area thoroughly. Dogs had some interest, but nothing that could be followed up until the fourth day. Schwar had a strong alert up a drainage, but he could not get any further up the drainage due to a cliff. Sandy radioed to Jim to work down the drainage and Pepper then alerted into the body. Sandy was able to work around the terrain and get Schwar into the body as well. While waiting for the evacuation, Schwar worked up the drainage alerting on the subject's belongings which had been scattered during the subject's 200-foot fall off of a cliff.

**September 5-6, 1999**

Location: Royal Gorge, Fremont County

Subject: 47-year-old female, diabetic

Mission: Marie Cloughesy and Luke (EPCSAR) were not used as a dog team as the subject had been located upon their arrival. However, Marie helped with the evacuation of the subject, who had fallen down a hill when she saw a snake and stumbled while trying to get away from it.

**September 11, 1999**

Location: Grey Rock, Larimer County

Subjects: five overdue hikers

Mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie and Cathy Morgenstern, Hanna Sparks and Sadie, and Rita Stern and Bounty (all LCSAR) were stood down before arrival at the mission as the parties self-recovered. However, at the same time as the stand down, a call came in for an additional search near Chambers Lake. The two young male fishermen self-recovered shortly after the teams were diverted.

**September 17, 1999**

Location: west of Fort Collins

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler and Cheryl Kennedy and Apache (LCSAR) were stood down for an evidence search related to a murder. Informants had described an area where some evidence had been discarded. The area had already been searched, but the investigator wanted wilderness-trained dogs to check the area again. While making arrangements to get someone to meet with us at the search area, it was decided by the police department that they did not want to utilize us at that point since the informants had already proven themselves to be unreliable. In fact, the evidence was found elsewhere by a passerby at a later time.

**September 18 and 19, 1999**

Location: Poudre Falls, Poudre Canyon, Larimer County

Subject: 32-year-old male kayaker

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler and Rita Stern on Saturday. Hanna Sparks and Sadie and John Shivik on Sunday. (all LCSAR)

Mission: The subject had planned on kayaking the upper two of three falls. He was supposed to be thrown a line to get him out prior to the last fall; however, the current was too strong and his boat went over the 20-foot fall. The subject and his kayak never resurfaced. Divers had searched to no avail. The dogs were requested to

search further downstream before another dive effort would be launched again on September 22. Both dogs, on the separate days with different weather, had no indications downstream of the falls but had good alerts at the lower fall. The dive team, during their first search, had determined that the water was 20-feet deep below the lower fall and that there was a cavern behind the fall. The dogs verified suspicions that the kayaker was in the cavern. The alerts provided justification to have the water flow diverted for the search on September 22. The body was recovered from the cavern.

### **September 18, 1999**

Location: Security, El Paso County

Subject: 10-year-old female, deaf, severely mentally challenged

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Gayle Humm and Aspen (EPCSAR) were stood down en route. This was the second search for this child (see August 20, 1999). This time she had escaped from her own home.

### **October 2-6 and 15, 1999**

Location: Big South Trail, Larimer County

Subject: 3-year-old boy

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Cathy Morgenstern, Darren Weibler and Ranger and John Shivik, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache, Hanna Sparks and Sadie, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah, Rita Stern and Bounty, Allen Weaver and Rosie (all LCSAR), Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG), Sandy Phillips and Schwar and Jim Vail and Pepper (RCSAR), Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa and Barbi Atkins and Deegee (EPCSAR) fielded, some on multiple days. Bill Cotton and Dan Fanning participated in various roles. One dog team from Front Range Rescue Dogs participated.

Mission: The child had been hiking with a group of adults. The group had split into two groups and they thought the child was running back and forth between the groups. When they realized that he was not with either group, they began looking for him. When the search team arrived, he had been missing about five hours. The trailing dog worked a trail a short ways down the trail (less than 1/2 mile) and then got strong alerts to the NE which he tried to follow. The wind shifted and he was taken back to the trail. He continued to trail, but his trailing demeanor changed further along the trail (after the fact we found out the article was contaminated with the sister's scent and that the sister had gone about 3.5 miles down the trail searching for the subject). The next dog down the trail showed similar behavior in the same area. Over the next several days, all of the dogs seemed to indicate in two areas consistently, but nothing could be found. One team found what appeared to be a child's footprint and a lion print close by in the first area of interest. Aside from some tracks where the child was seen by the group of adults, no other clues were ever found despite the efforts of numerous trained volunteers and tracking experts. To add to the stress of the search, a helicopter assisting in the search on the second day crashed. The five occupants were injured, some seriously. All have since recovered.

### **October 7, 1999**

Location: Security, El Paso County

Subject: 82-year-old male, Alzheimer's patient

Dog team used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa (EPCSAR)

Mission: The subject had walked away from his home. The dog team was searching along a canal/drainage ditch area where the subject would not have been able to self-recover if

he had somehow ended up in the ditch. The subject was found a short time later by police about 2 miles from his home.

### **October 11-12, 1999**

Location: Crown Point, Larimer County

Subject: male hunter, inexperienced in the mountains and as a hunter

Mission: The subject had been lost a few days earlier in the same area. On this day he did not meet up with his hunting partners at any of the prearranged times and places. No dogs teams were available for the initial response, and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (LCSAR) were stood down en route for the second operational period. The hunter had found his way to Highway 14 in the Poudre Canyon.

### **October 11-12, 1999**

Location: Deadman Road, Killpecker Road, Larimer County

Subject: male hunter

Mission: Shortly after the previous mission was paged out, another page went out for another lost hunter. Again, no dog teams were available and resources were thin due to the week-long mission that ended a few days earlier. Bill Cotton responded with another Emergency Services person. They were able to triangulate the subject's position when the subject responded to their gunshots and sirens.

### **October 13-14, 1999**

Location: Coffee Pot Road, Flattops Wilderness Area, Garfield County

Subject: 62-year-old male hunter

Dog teams used on mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz (GSAR), Steve Howard and Odie (Basalt Fire), Sue Purvis and Tasha (Crested Butte SAR)



Mission: The subject was last seen at 0615 hours on October 12. He had complained of having a headache and was not feeling well when he left camp. He was from sea level, but had been in the area for two weeks. The dogs had some alerts to the northwest, but the subject was not found. The National Guard searched with a helicopter using infra-red and located the subject during the night of October 14. The subject was attempting to follow a drainage downhill until he came to a road or a familiar landmark. By doing so, he had walked out of the search area. As the subject was walking off of the helicopter after the evacuation, he experienced pain in his lower extremities and was reloaded onto the helicopter. He was flown to the local emergency center where he was treated for a burst appendix.

#### **October 15, 1999**

Location: Horsetooth Mountain Park, Larimer County

Subject: two 11-year-old girls

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr, Darren Weibler and Ranger, Allen Weaver and Rosie, and Hanna Sparks and Sadie (all LCSAR)

Mission: The two girls had told one of the mothers that they would be hiking up to Horsetooth Rock. One of the girls had been there before as she had just moved into a house across from the park recently. They were supposed to return home by a certain time. Julie was collecting scent articles and interviewing one of the reporting parties. During the interview she found out that the "responsible" girl for the hike did not have a watch and had no sense of time. The Emergency Services personnel were driving on the access road/hiking trail while the articles were being collected and they found the girls walking down the road back to the trailhead. No teams were fielded.

#### **October 20, 1999**

Location: Elk Mountains, Gunnison County

Subject: 53-year-old male hunter from Ohio

Mission: The subject had decided to traverse into a canyon and then could not climb back out. As the dog team arrived, a CAP airplane spotted the hunter about 6 miles down the Elk Creek drainage. Sue Purvis had responded with Tasha (CBSAR).

#### **October 20, 1999**

Location: Clark, Routt County

Subject: 46-year-old male hunter

Dog teams used on mission: Jim Vail and Pepper and Sandy Phillips and Schwar (RCSAR)

Mission: The subject got turned around while hunting and ended up walking in circles all night and day. He had a history of debilitating migraines and poor short-term memory. While Pepper was working and finding clues belonging to the subject, the hunter happened across another group of hunters who then helped him find his way out.

#### **October 24, 1999**

Location: Black Forest area, El Paso County

Subject: 55-year-old female thrown from her horse

Dog teams used on mission: Gayle Humm and Aspen, Ina Bernard and Lenzbe and Celia Milligan, and Marie Cloughesy and Helen Freeman as support (all EPCSAR)

Mission: The subject had been thrown from her horse and was unconscious. Her riding partner had gone for help, but could not quite remember where the accident had occurred. Gayle rode a horse that was

available at the stable and rode with the reporting party. Aspen gave a strong alert taking them up to the top of a ridge from where they could then see the subject. The subject was flown out by Flight for Life. She had a C4 fracture from which she is recovering.

#### **October 24-25, 1999**

Location: Greyrock Trail, Larimer County

Subject: 46-year-old female, recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer

Dog team used on mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie fielded on the mission. Julie Cotton and Zephyr were stood down for morning response. (LCSAR)

Mission: The subject had hiked the trail several times recently. On this occasion she was hiking with a group of teenagers and the group split up. Subject did not show up later at designated meeting spot. Subject got off of the trail in the dark. When a foot team got voice contact with her, they told her to wait while they worked their way up to her. Instead, she started down the hillside, twisted her ankle, and had to be taken out to the trailhead in a litter.

#### **October 30, 1999**

Location: Prairie Divide Road, Larimer County

Subjects: 57-year-old and 13-year-old male hunters

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr, Darren Weibler and Ranger, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah were put on standby and then stood down when the hunters were located.

#### **October 31, 1999**

Location: City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County

Subject: 25-year-old female with mental capacity of a young child

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Gayle Humm and Aspen, Marie Cloughesy and Luke, Barbi Atkins and Deegee and Helen Freeman (all EPCSAR)

Mission: Subject had been missing for three days. Dog teams searched in and around stores where she had reportedly been seen to no avail. She was found the next day walking on a street near one of the stores where she had last been seen. She had no idea where she had been during those four days, but it is surmised that she was taken by someone and then returned to the area of the store where she had disappeared.

#### **November 1, 1999**

Location: Fish Creek, Pingree Park Road, Larimer County

Subject: 48-year-old male hunter

Mission: No dog teams available to respond. Hunter was well-prepared and was found by a member of his own party who was participating in the search. The subject was walking slowly back to camp on the trail after experiencing leg cramps. The subject had wandered into a steep section, decided to spend the night, lit a fire to stay warm and started back out at dawn.

#### **November 3, 1999**

Location: Rock Creek, Summit County

Subject: 59-year-old male hunter

Dog team used on mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG)

Mission: The subject had intentionally separated from the group he was hunting with and then ran out of daylight. The dog team went to the area where the subject had left the rest of his group and began contouring. The dog team

established voice contact with the subject when he responded to their yells.

#### **November 4, 1999**

Location: Crystal Lakes, Larimer County

Subject: overdue male hunter

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler and Ranger, and Allen Weaver and Rosie (LCSAR) were stood down shortly after being paged out. A deputy found the subject in a local bar.

#### **November 5, 1999**

Location: Woodmen Valley, El Paso County

Subject: 7-year-old female

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Gayle Humm and Aspen, and Marie Cloughesy and Luke (EPCSAR) were stood down. The girl had disappeared from a slumber party when the girls had hiked to a ridge. She had gotten a ride to her father's house.

#### **November 21, 1999**

Location: Colorado Springs, El Paso County

Subject: 69-year-old female, mentally unstable, explosive personality

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Cilia Milligan, Gayle Humm and Aspen and Helen Freeman, Marie Cloughesy and Luke and Ina Bernard, and Barbi Atkins and Deegee (all EPCSAR) were stood down en route. The subject was last seen in the K Mart store and had not returned home. Witnesses reported that subject had left the store, but she was found inside the store.

#### **November 30, 1999**

Location: Monument, El Paso County

Subject: 11-year-old male

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa and Marie Cloughesy and Luke and Cilia Milligan (EPCSAR) responded but did not search. The boy walked away from the middle school after it closed. He was not supposed to walk far due to his bad asthma. The boy had called home while the initial phase of the search was underway. It was determined that he was at his tutor's home though the tutor was not there. A search team picked him up.

#### **December 14-15, 1999**

Location: Diamond Peaks, Larimer and Jackson County border

Subject: 21-year-old male skier

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr (LCSAR), Jim Vail and Pepper (RCSAR), Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG) and Ann-Marie Boness and Teal (Vail Mountain Rescue Group), and Darren Weibler and Allen Weaver (LCSAR) as support. Bill Cotton (LCSAR) was on-site commander.

Mission: The subject had been out with two other friends who were snowboarding on Tuesday. While they were making a jump for snowboarding, the subject traversed up the mountainside to take some ski runs. An avalanche then went past the two friends and they tried to locate the subject. The State Parks and other EMS personnel from Jackson County responded and were on scene quickly. They probed likely areas but could not locate the subject. When Julie arrived, it was just after dark and no teams were fielded due to uncertainty of hazard. Jim was en route for Tuesday, but stayed in Walden when the search was suspended for the evening. The next day a hasty team went into the area to determine stability and do a beacon search. The dog teams went in behind the hasty team to search before additional people were on the

slide. The dog teams entered the slide a bit above the toe and spread out with Jim and Patti dropping down and Julie and Ann-Marie going up. Within minutes, Jim yelled that he had a boot and Patti had a glove. Julie dropped down to see Zephyr's reaction and Ann-Marie brought Teal down. All four dogs dug excitedly to the buried subject (first exposure to an avalanche victim for all of the dogs). The subject was just inches below the snow, and the debris was surprisingly soft. The slide was about 75 yards wide by 100 yards long, and the subject was at the very toe. It was determined that he had died almost instantly in the slide as his spinal cord was severed at the base of the skull. It was very cold and windy on both days.

#### **December 18-29, 1999**

Location: South Arapahoe Peak, Boulder County

Subject: 23-year-old male hiker

Dog teams used on mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG), Sue Purvis and Tasha (CBSAR), Julie Cotton and Zephyr (LCSAR) and John Reller and Skadee (SCRG) over various days. Also, a number of dogs from Front Range Rescue Dogs and a dog from Breckenridge Ski Patrol.

Mission: While descending South Arapahoe Peak, the subject and a companion took a short cut down to the trailhead when they got caught in a whiteout snowstorm. In doing so, they set off an avalanche. The companion was partially buried and got himself out. He could not find the subject. Search teams set off an avalanche themselves while they went into the site Saturday afternoon. SARDOC resources were stood down for Sunday since the conditions were deemed unsafe and visibility was poor. Patti responded on Monday, December 20. With the windchill factor, the temperature was sub-zero. Only the lower portion of the slide could be searched since the upper

portion was still deemed unsafe. The slide ran about 500 vertical feet with a deposition zone of 250 feet long by 250 feet wide in an hourglass shape. Deposition in the bottom half of the slide was about 5 feet deep. Sue responded on December 23<sup>rd</sup> when they were able to do explosive work to make the upper portion safer to search. The weather was much nicer on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, though there was still a lot of wind. Julie and John responded on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Again, it was a nice day. Much of the snow had melted so that in the lower portion of the slide, blades of grass were sticking up through the snow. However, the teams probing in the neck of the hourglass were hitting rock at shallow depths or were pushing through 12 feet of snow. The slope was also very steep in the "neck." Overall, the dogs had very few alerts, with the strongest being at some rocks where the neck of the slide opens up to the lower portion of the deposition. No significant alerts on the 29<sup>th</sup>. As of the end of January, the subject has not been located.

#### **December 19, 1999**

Location: Canon City, Fremont County

Subject: 25-year-old male

Mission: Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (LCSAR) were stood down. A car had gone into the Arkansas River at 0500 hours. The car and three occupants who got out of the car okay were found at 0636. A fourth occupant was missing. The local dive team located the missing subject's body about an hour after requesting dog resources, or about 3.5 hours after the initial accident had occurred.

#### **December 23, 1999**

Location: Welch Reservoir, Larimer County

Subject: 62-year-old male goose hunter

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler and Dan Fanning, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah, Hanna Sparks and Sadie, and Allen Weaver and Rosie (all LCSAR). Ranger was also on scene, but Darren went out as support since it became fairly obvious this was a water search and there was only one field assignment for a wilderness dog.

Mission: The subject did not return home from a hunting trip the day before. His car was found and resources sent to the reservoir late Thursday night. His car and blind were on the north side of the reservoir while his boat and a decoy were found up against the dam on the south shore. The winds had been strong out of the NW on Wednesday. While the dogs were working around the reservoir and had alerts back to the north shore from the south, the dive team was out on the water in their boat. Using a flashlight to shine down into the water, they spotted the body in about 6 feet of water about 40 feet off shore from his vehicle. The wind was out of the north, so the dogs working the north shore could not get direct alerts to the subject. They did have strong residual scent along the shoreline, however, and Apache went out onto the ice where the scent had pooled in one corner of the reservoir. He fell through the ice and it took several days for him to recover from the stresses his body underwent as a result of the cold and near-drowning.

#### **December 24, 1999**

Location: Lower Gold Camp Road, El Paso County

Subject: 18-year-old male from Louisiana

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa (EPCSAR) were stood down as they were getting ready to field. The subject, who was missing after separating from the rest of his

relatives during a hike, walked out on his own.

### **December 28, 1999**

Location: Falcon/Elbert area, El Paso County

Subject: 6-year-old female and 4-year-old male, brother and sister

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Marie Cloughesy and Luke (EPCSAR) were stood down upon arrival. Subjects were riding their bikes following their sister who was on horseback. They kept riding their bikes after their sister had turned around. A man and his son found the children, about 2-3 miles from their home, standing on a rural road screaming. The children were taken to a nearby ranch where they called home.

### **December 29-31, 1999**

Location: Sturgis, South Dakota, Meade County

Subject: 27-year-old male mountain biker/hiker

Dog teams used on mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie and Dan Fanning, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache and Jen Mackler (all LCSAR)

Mission: Allen and Dan left on December 28 to search on December 29 for the subject who was last seen at the end of the day on December 27 after mountain biking with friends. He had motioned for them to go ahead in their vehicles and that he was going to meet up with them. He never showed up. His vehicle was found with his bike still on it, but the vehicle was in a different location from where he was last seen. Rosie gave strong alerts in the search area which included moderate hills with some deep drainages, but she could not follow through on them. Cheryl and Jen searched on December 30 to see if they could follow up Rosie's alerts. They found what appeared to be bicycle shoe tracks on a road that led to the interstate, but could not confirm if these were the subject's. Apache indicated there was scent in the search area, but did not have any strong alerts. They searched again early December 31 since the winds were supposed to be coming out of a different direction and could help eliminate areas. While they were searching, the subject was found in Torrington, Wyoming at a hotel. He had a different bike with him. Interestingly, he had reported a few months earlier that two of his bikes had been stolen. While it has not been confirmed, it is believed that he was eluding the search teams on December 29 and had left the area by the 30<sup>th</sup>. The subject told the Torrington Sheriff that he was riding his bike to Grand Junction. According to the subject, his wife had told him that she no longer wanted

him, so he left. The wife vehemently denied they had a fight, though her mother said the couple fought often.

### **December 31, 1999**

Location: Livermore, Larimer County

Subject: 3-year-old male

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler and Ranger (LCSAR) were stood down en route. The boy was missing from his home which backed up to National Forest property. Child was located and back at home. Unsure if the child was found in the home or outside.

## **1999 Mission Statistics**

The statistics for 1999 bear a striking resemblance to those from 1998. The days of the week when missions occurred changed somewhat as did the number of callouts per month, but total requests, number and gender of subjects, and subject profile stayed remarkably the same. The only exception in subject profile would be that we had fewer hikers and more children as subjects in 1999. Probably what was most notable this past year was that we had three large missions across the state that took either many days to resolve, or have yet to be resolved. The efforts of all of those involved in the various searches this past year are appreciated.

In summary, nearly three-fourths of the missions handlers responded to were at the request of their own county. The remaining missions were to assist teams which needed additional resources or did not have dog resources of their own. Callouts occurred most often on Friday and Saturday with 22 and 21 calls each. Sunday was close behind with 16 calls, Tuesday had 14, Wednesday had 11, and Monday and Thursday had 10 and 8 calls apiece. For comparison, in 1998 the most callouts were recorded on Monday.

The dog teams participated in wilderness, water, avalanche, and evidence searches. The El Paso dog teams are increasingly called for searches that take place in the urban environment.

And while clearing a search area is what we do best and most often when searching, the dogs were responsible for three saves and two recoveries. One of the recoveries brought to closure a several-days-long mission in Routt County.

### 1999 SARDOC statistics by month, number of subjects, and activity

Month	Missions	Month	Missions	SARDOC	
January	7 (4)	July	9 (10)	CSR	7
February	6 (3)	August	10 (21)	TOTAL	27/102
March	3 (6)	September	6 (5)	Male	78
April	8 (6)	October	12 (15)	Female	32
May	11 (14)	November	6 (5)	Unknown	15
June	16 (4)	December	8 (4)	Dog	1
		TOTAL	102 (97)	Total subjects	126

  

Activity	Number
Hiker	18
Child	22
Hunter	11
Water-related	8
Snow-related	7
Missing Person	19
Suicide	5
Evidence	4
Miscellaneous	8

### County Utilization of Dog Resources in 1999

County	Dogs Fielded	Stood down	No dogs available	Total Requests
Alpine Rescue Team	1	0	0	1
Boulder	3	1	0	4
Colorado Nat'l Mon.	1	0	0	1
Copper Mtn Ski Patrol	1	0	0	1
Delta	0	1	0	1
Douglas	1	2	0	3
Eagle	0	0	0	0
El Paso	10	22	0	32
Fremont	4	4	0	8
Garfield	2	0	0	2
Grand	2	0	0	2
Gunnison	0	2	0	2
Hinsdale	0	1	0	1
Kansas	0	1	0	1
Larimer	7	15	3	25
Meade Co. (SD)	1	0	0	1
Mesa	2	0	0	2
Mineral	1	0	0	1
Pennington Co. (SD)	0	1	0	1
Pitkin	2	1	0	3
Platte Co. (WY)	1	0	0	1
Private request-denied	0	0	1	1
Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park	1	0	0	1
Routt	2	0	0	2
Scottsbluff Co. (NE)	1	0	0	1
Summit	2	1	0	3
Teller	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	46	52	4	102
Dog Finds	5			
Dog Assists	2			

### Newsletter Deadlines

Newsletter deadlines for 2000 will be April 20, June 20, and October 20. Submissions are welcomed and encouraged. Please send them to the *Scent Articles* Editor, Julie Cotton, at PMB 211, 749 S Lemay Ave. #A3 or to [jcotton@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:jcotton@lamar.colostate.edu).



***Search & Rescue Dogs of Colorado***  
***P.O. Box 1036***  
***Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1036***