



SCENT ARTICLES

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

February 2001

Darren and Ranger retire as a dog team

by Julie Weibler

Darren Weibler has decided to retire working with Ranger. His work commitments have become such that his time is not as flexible during the day. Also he did not have the free time to maintain both his search and rescue and dog handler skills.

Darren joined SARDOC in 1995 after finishing his basic training with Larimer County SAR. He started Ranger when Ranger was all of 8-weeks-old. Ranger had his favorite purple monster as his reward while he was a puppy and gave that up for the much better Frisbee reward. When Ranger was still trailing, it was obvious when he had missed the turn or lost the scent—he would stand there and whine as he stared at Darren waiting for Darren to get him back to the scent. Before they became certified as an operational air scent team in the fall of 1997, Darren obtained extensive mission experience by going out as support for a number of different handlers. Darren and Ranger responded to many mission call-outs and gave numerous presentations at schools.

Darren is still serving as a SARDOC dispatcher and as operational support. He is also still interested in serving as a tester. The plans for Ranger are a little unsure—he may get trained as a water search dog. They will be missed as a dog team, but they will still be around to assist in SAR matters.

New Phone Number!!!!

To request SARDOC Search Dogs:

Call (970)416-1985 and ask to have the SARDOC dispatcher paged

Marie and Luke retire from SAR

by Cheryl Kennedy

Marie Cloughesy and Sam.....they entered our SARDOC lives almost a decade ago. Marie with her bright spirit, devilish twinkle in her eye and that long dark hair (some of us do remember those days, Marie) and Sam, the newfie with that long black hair always leaving loving reminders of her love of one and all with great slobbery goobers! Marie and Steve constantly with towels in their hands to waylay the goobers before they were slung to permanent homes.

Marie and Steve Cloughesy joined SARDOC in its early stages of growth. Marie and Sam had obtained certification through Black Paws and were looking to utilize their services in search and rescue in the Colorado Springs area. They connected with El Paso County SAR who directed them to SARDOC. With that connection came two dedicated SARDOC members. Marie persevered through training several dogs and certified with Luke, her shepherd, in air scent.

While remaining dedicated to reaching certification, Marie became an active member of El Paso County SAR, along with Steve, serving on their Executive Board and eventually moving into search management training. She also was a stabilizer in SARDOC, serving in multiple roles through the years, including a stint as SARDOC Coordinator. Always the consummate hosts, their home became known as sleepover central with Steve and Marie frequently opening their home to SARDOC members traveling through, and Marie providing guests with samplings of her wonderful culinary skills.

Alas, much to the great loss of SARDOC but to the great gain of two wonderful little girls, Marie found it necessary to retire from search and rescue. Steve and

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Trapper retired in the recent past due to health issues as well as needing the time to focus on the new little two-legged children coming into their household. The same commitment that was given to SARDOC by both Marie and Steve is now focused on the two little blessings that have come into their life in the past three years. We will miss them greatly but have been assured that they will not be strangers. They can't be! After all, who else could receive those selected black and white striped offerings from anonymous donors that appeared from time to time after certain encounters with the resident skink population! That wealth has to be shared with someone! :) Marie has found a wonderful home for Luke in a non-sar home close by where she can rub his ears from time to time, and Trapper is enjoying retirement and supervising two little munchkins who adore him.

Thank you both for assisting SARDOC, and search and rescue, by providing quality, professional services to those in need. We will miss your physical presence but know that your hearts are still with SAR and helping to guide the rest of us through our SAR careers.

Coordinator Corner

by Bill Young

Welcome to the new year. For those who do not know me, my name is William Young though most people call me Bill. I have been a member of SARDOC since 1986. During that time I have served as a support member and have never had a dog. Since I play with many dogs at dog practice, I have never needed my own. I served as SARDOC Coordinator for two years in the early 90's, and I believe that I bring an unbiased view to the position. I also firmly believe that my purpose is to support all the handlers and their dogs in their various search endeavors—training, testing and missions. I have been a member of LCSAR since 1985 and am currently a SAR Manager with the team.

I have several goals for this year. The first goal is to meet and work with each of you in person. With all of the high tech communication available today, I still like to talk in person, or at least talk to you on the telephone. Please be patient with me as I am still learning this computer stuff. Besides the SARDOC Weekends, I will try to come to each of the area practices to see you on your home turf, forest or mountain.

Secondly, I would like to see us spend more time in the classroom training the handlers and support in various subjects. Some suggestions would be training in public and media relations, and briefing and debriefing as a field team.

In closing, I would like to say "Thank you" to several long time members and friends who have moved on from SARDOC to go other directions and attain other goals. To Hanna and Casey Sparks, and especially Sadie, I will miss all of those "show-mes" you did on me in the early years. Good luck in whatever you do. To Marie and Steve Cloughesy, I will even miss those slobber rags of Sam and Trapper. Your girls are lucky to have such great parents.

Hope to see all of you soon. Search safely and successfully.

Congratulations

Anne Carpenter (**Larimer County SAR**) was voted into full membership status in November.

Congratulations to Jen Mackler and Chara (**Larimer County SAR**) who completed their tests for Wilderness Air Scent certification in November. Also, congratulations to Dan Fanning and Bear (**Larimer County SAR**) who passed their Wilderness Trailing certification in January. Celia Milligan (**El Paso County SAR**) and Marcia McMahon (**Park County SAR**) passed their Wilderness Support certifications in January as well.

Several handlers are in the midst of getting tests scheduled. 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 Bill Young when you ask for the written test and confidence forms. If you need the form, let Bill know.*

Standards Changes 1999-2000

Some changes were made by the 1999 Standards Committee regarding confidence forms. Additionally, the 2000 Standards Committee voted to update the manual to reflect a verbal standard regarding qualifications to become a tester and they added a new standard related to experienced handlers who wish to train an additional dog strictly for specialty work.

First of all, there has been some confusion regarding confidence forms for support and who was eligible to sign those forms. While there was some discussion regarding the signatures required on the support confidence forms, the signature requirements were NOT changed and are as follows—3 SARDOC operational handlers and then 3 signatures from either/or SARDOC operational handlers or operational support.

What the 1999 Standards Committee did change regarding confidence forms was how long the forms for either handler or support were valid once they were returned to the Coordinator. If the test(s) are not completed successfully within 3 months of the forms being turned in, the forms must be filled out again in order for tests to get set up. If a person is in the midst of testing and has successfully completed some of their tests, this does not apply. This was changed because when people were not passing their tests, it was sometimes taking a year or more before they re-tested and the forms were so out of date to be considered valid. If you are wanting to have people from outside your practice area observe you before you give them a form, try to not give out any of your forms until you have been observed by that person because the time of three months begins when the first confidence form has been returned to the Coordinator.

The first change the 2000 Standards Committee made was to put into writing what has been a verbal standard for over 10 years regarding qualifications to become a tester (**see point 5A below**). The standards manual now reads as follows (this is under the certification procedures of the Standards Manual):

5. The testing team will be made up of a minimum of 3 testers to a maximum of 5 testers. The following criteria will be used when establishing the testing team (the testers):

A. Prior to being considered as a tester, a person must have served as operational support or as an operational handler on at least five missions.

B. Testers must have participated in at least two other tests in whatever discipline/specialty is being tested.

C. The test team must consist of at least 2 operational handlers, one must be certified in the disci-

pline/specialty being tested. All must be approved by the Standards Committee. There may also be one or more tester trainees on the testing team.

Lastly, the 2000 Standards Committee adopted a standard, as follows, that allows handlers with five or more years of operational experience to train and test an additional dog in a specialty (avalanche, water, evidence, etc.) without first obtaining their wilderness certification. This standard went into effect the end of November, 2000.

Operational handlers may petition the SARDOC Standards Committee for permission to certify in specialty work without first meeting the wilderness air scent or trailing requirement IF they meet the following criteria:

1. Operational handler must have five years operational wilderness experience with previous dog and have operational status as either a handler or support in the specialty being requested.

2. Canine must be 18 months to two years of age minimum to be considered for specialty testing.

3. Team will be evaluated on airscent/trailing capabilities prior to consideration for specialty certification by successfully demonstrating their skills on the A1-A2 or T1-T2. Demonstration of skills by airscent or trailing will be at the handler's discretion. No combination will be allowed in meeting the criteria. An operational handler certified in the air scent or trailing discipline will observe the A1-2 or T1-2 tests and send written comments with a pass/fail recommendation to the coordinator.

4. Operational handlers desiring to seek such certification in specialty work shall petition the Standards Committee in writing, and receive such permission, prior to requesting A or T test evaluations. The Standards Committee shall provide a written response to the handler within 30 days of receiving the written request.

5. Handlers receiving permission from the Standards Committee for specialty certification have the option at any time to proceed with Wilderness Air Scent or Wilderness Trailing certifications as already outlined. A or T tests conducted prior to the handler revising their training shall be considered valid towards attaining the goal of whichever wilderness discipline they choose with the caveat that A tests shall only be valid for air scent certification while T tests shall only be valid for trailing certification.

6. Teams successfully completing their A1-2 or T1-2 may then petition the SARDOC Coordinator/Area Director for confidence forms for the specialty they wish to certify in. All current SARDOC policies and procedures regarding the Evaluation process shall be followed.

Winter dog care tips

by Jen Mackler

While only a few handlers will certify in avalanche, many of us are either called to work our dogs on missions in the snow or choose to take our dogs skiing with us. Or, you may even be adventuresome enough to spend the night in a snow cave with your dog. Here are a few quick tips to make sure your canine companion stays comfortable in the snow.

- **Calories.** Calorie requirements can increase 30-50% in the winter, depending on the type of work. Working and running through deep snow is exhausting. More calories are also required since metabolism is increased to maintain body temperature. Bring high calorie treats and/or switch to an “active” formula of food in the wintertime.
- **Water.** Some dogs will not drink ice-cold water, even if they are very thirsty. You may also not want to give your dog cold water if you have stopped for a while, since it will lower the core body temperature. Bring a thermos of warm water and share the warm, not hot, water with your dog! You can even make a nice broth with their dry dog food by adding warm water, which they appreciate before bedding down for the night.
- **Hypothermia.** Dogs can be quite wet and frosty at the end of the day and are subject to hypothermia when they stop moving, such as when settling into a snow cave for the night or when they are put back in the car. Signs of hypothermia and treatment are much the same as for humans. To prevent hypothermia, give your dog warm liquids and always use a sleeping pad and/or light sleeping bag if your dog must sleep on the snow. Be extremely careful when using hot water bottles and/or heating pads as they can cause severe burns! There is some debate over the utility of fleece vests or other “canine coats” on dogs with a fluffy undercoat. One theory is that the coat just compresses their natural insulation and the dog is colder with it on. In dogs without undercoats, canine clothing that covers the torso and limbs may provide some extra warmth, but also may inhibit movement.
- **Paws.** Some breeds with furry feet are especially susceptible to ice balls forming between their toes that can be painful. Trimming the fur is helpful along with using a lubricant such as petroleum jelly or a specialized treatment for sled dogs. Booties may also help, but are difficult to keep on.
- **Snow caves.** Always use a sleeping pad for your dog, give warm liquids and possibly provide a warm coat (even your parka or extra clothing). I’ve used a wool hat to warm up my German Shepherd who I’m convinced loses heat through her huge ears! Oh, and don’t forget your cyalume sticks — stuck in the side of the cave, they make for great nightlights!
- **Conditioning.** Perhaps the single most important thing for keeping your dog comfortable in the snow, is to get them used to the cold. Make sure your dogs spend some amount of time outside in the cold every day. Take them skiing or snowshoeing on the weekends, introducing them to it gradually. Most dogs will grow to love playing and working in the snow.

Dispatch and Vacations

When search teams and agencies need search dogs they can request SARDOC dogs by having SARDOC dispatchers paged through the Larimer County Sheriff’s Department. The dispatchers are on-call for a week at a time. While most of the dispatchers are SARDOC members, one dispatcher is a long-time Larimer County SAR team member who wanted to help us out. The current dispatchers are Bill Young, Dan Fanning, Darren Weibler, Jen Mackler, Mike Fink, Josh Brauer and Jaynie Zmijewski. Josh and Jaynie are just beginning as dispatchers, so please be patient and help them out. Julie Weibler and Cheryl Kennedy have come off the regular rotation but are still serving as back up dispatchers.

If your dispatch protocol has changed, please get your new protocols to Bill Young so he can distribute them to the dispatchers.

Operational support and handlers, please let Bill Young know if you are unavailable to respond to missions outside of your county for a period of time due to vacation, illness, or injuries. He 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

Ready to Serve, Ready to Save, by Susan Bulanda

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

The videotapes we have are:

Cadaver Recovery Procedures, hosted and narrated by Bill Tolhurst

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

2001 Executive Board

President: Wendy Wampler

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Treasurer: Jim Vail

Director at Large: Dennis McLaughlin

SAR Dog Coordinator: Bill Young

2001 Standards Committee

Ina Bernard

Kitty Gardiner

Gayle Humm

Sandy Phillips

Sue Purvis

Bill Young

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.

2001 Area Directors

Northern Colorado: John Shivik (970)224-4714

Southern Colorado: Barbi Atkins (719)630-1573

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.

Feature Article

This issue of *Scent Articles* features an article submitted and written by Susan Purvis and it first appeared in the *Crested Butte Chronicle and Pilot* newspaper. It is printed with permission of the author. If you have any articles or other information which you think would be of interest, please forward those to the editor, Julie Weibler, at PMB #211, 749 S. Lemay Ave. #A3, Fort Collins, CO 80524. It also works well to send items to my e-mail address, jcotton@psnw.com.

Deadline for the May 2001 issue of *Scent Articles* is April 15.

A Star Pass Point of View

by Susan Purvis

“At midnight, for a brief moment on the radio, all I heard was the cheering and the gun go off as the racers left the starting line in the dark.”

In the predawn hours of Saturday morning, April 4th, 1998 four safety personnel and an avalanche search dog set out from the Friends Hut to climb Star Pass. We were a support team for the first ever Elk Mountain Grand Traverse, a forty mile back-country ski race from Crested Butte to Aspen, Colorado. The Friends Hut, located at 11,300 feet, is a backcountry ski cabin located one third of the way between the two towns. This was our home for the next several days. The Star Pass section of the Elk Mountain Traverse crosses through highly exposed avalanche terrain and is considered the most dangerous and remote portion of the course. Once the racers are beyond this pass, they still have to ski twenty plus more miles to the finish line. In this extreme endurance race, this is the point where the weak part from the strong.

It would take us about one hour to reach the 12,300-foot summit. The night was dark, windy and cold, yet full of anticipation of the ninety-six competitors about to ski through our perch on their way to Aspen. The responsibility of each team of two is to ski together and carry enough survival gear to support themselves for twenty-four hours. Our job on Star Pass was three fold: to ensure a safe passage off Star Pass into Taylor Basin and over to Taylor Pass; to check the mental status of every racer; and secure an 8:30 a.m. turn around time. Those racers not meeting the 8:30 a.m. turn around time or who had altered mental status at Star Pass would not be allowed to continue the race.

The crew stationed on Star Pass included three avalanche forecasters/route leaders and myself, who was medical leader/dog handler, and my little black lab Tasha. Setting the pace for our 1,000-foot climb to the top was Scott Swift, a young and energetic backcountry skier. His headlamp lit up the white, windswept mountain as he rapidly climbed to the ridgeline. Steadily following behind was Dan Ewert, a calm and quiet man and the chief avalanche forecaster for the race with over twenty years of experience. Dan has made similar decisions to open avalanche terrain to the public throughout his career as snow safety director for the local ski area. This morning he had only one thing on his mind and that was to ensure the safety of all the race participants and volunteers. I followed Dan without saying a word. The cold air pierced my throat and within ten minutes, I was overheated and out of breathe. My dog's red blinking light on her collar marked her position in the dark night as she ran between the lead man and me.

This was her first big job as a certified search dog and she knew it. Picking up the rear and yodeling as he climbed was Chris Myall, a burly mountain man-looking guy with rosy red cheeks and a smile to win any girl's heart. Chris was the second half of the avalanche team. He had spent many days traveling to Friends Hut and back this winter. His job this morning was to place glow sticks along the dark mountain course to light the way for the oncoming competitors.

The day before the race the avalanche team spent the day evaluating the snowpack, observing adjacent avalanche terrain, and setting the course towards Aspen. They felt good about the conditions they found. The snow was stable, temperatures remained constant, and the Star Pass cornice, created by eight feet of windblown snow, had an opening through it that would allow the skiers to pass.

After listening to the final weather report at five o'clock Friday afternoon, Dan radioed to Jan Runge, Chief of Race, that the Elk Mountain Grand Traverse was on! The atmosphere inside the Friends Hut was warm, steamy, and full of excitement and anticipation. Volunteers and race organizers had been planning and waiting for this moment for several months. This was it! No one really knew how long it would take the first racers to reach the Friends Hut from the starting line. The faster men were expected to arrive in four hours but the actual arrival time was unknown. The thirteen mile ski trip to the Friends Hut took me took eight hours complete with blistered feet and a heavy pack full of support equipment, dog food, and survival gear.

At midnight, for a brief moment on the radio, as we all lay in silence in our sleeping bags, I heard all the cheering and the gun go off as the racers left the starting line. As I lay on the bunk, I envisioned the racers skiing the course in the dark. How would they negotiate the dreaded Deadman's Pass? This part of the course is a steep hillside with a narrow trail cut into it and in some places narrows to only twenty inches across. When I skied through several days before, I took my skis off and didn't dare look down to the river 100 feet below me. I slept restlessly from then on.

A few hours after the start of the race, an additional volunteer staff of ten woke up to prepare food and hot drinks for the racers. Over 100 burritos were rolled, stuffed with eggs, cheese, beans and rice. The medical crew was monitoring the radio and gathering oxygen bottles and blankets to bring to the aid tent in the event someone got hurt or could not go on.

The forerunner for the race entered the Friends Hut just as I was leaving for Star Pass. He left Crested Butte at 8:00 p.m. and the time was now 3:00 a.m. He spent a

lot of time placing glow sticks along the lower portion of the course for the competitors. He looked cold and tired. As I stopped to catch my breath during the climb, I looked down into East Brush Creek and saw two headlights quickly moving up the track. The racers were making their way to the Friends Hut. It was 3:35 a.m. and no one expected such an early arrival. The lights moved in and out of the timber as we continued our ascent. When we crested the ridgeline, we could see more lights further down the valley. Those lights were several miles behind the leaders. It was so odd to see headlights flashing up the drainage in the middle of the night. It reminded me of seeing car lights on the highway from inside an airplane.

The ridgeline to Star Pass is narrow. It drops over 800 feet into empty space in both directions. The ski tracks from the day before had vanished. The wind on the ridge exceeded 30 miles per hour and the night grew colder. We all stopped to put on more clothing. Just before we reached our four man tent outpost, I looked back and saw the headlights of the two racers on the ridge. They had almost caught us. It was time to

jump into the tent, put more clothes on and brave the elements until the last of the racers passed. By the time I got out of the tent with five layers of clothing on, the first team had reached us. Two men from Aspen in Lycra, cross country-racing gear and small backpacks with frozen camelbacks gave us a quick hello and asked which way to go. Chris Myall pointed to the flashing strobe light attached to a single ski staked in the snow and said, "Drop in right below the cornice, stay left and high." In an instant, the two skiers leapt over the edge and vanished into the dark night.

The second team was not far behind. They, too, were in Lycra and cross country-racing gear. They inquired how much further ahead the first team was and skied over the edge, vanishing into the night. Thirty minutes later, the first Crested Butte team came through. Their main concern was how far behind the first place team they were. I told them they were about 40 minutes behind. There was no time to chit chat and over the edge they went. It was still dark but dawn was coming fast.

The sunrise was spectacular. The ridge was lit up behind us and we could see the racers climbing the ridge. They appeared small and moved slowly from our vista. Some teams skied together and others waited for their partner at our checkpoint. Once they reached the pass, though, they didn't wait long. The biting wind still raged at 30 plus miles per hour. One racer showed up without his gloves or hat on. As he skied off the cornice, he shoved his bare fist into the snow. His partner told us that he has been skiing eight years without his gloves on. One team came through in costume. A handful of ladies passed by. They were all strong and smiling. By the 8:30 a.m. cut-off time, thirty-eight teams had passed through Starr Pass receiving no assistance from our crew. The winners skied across the finish line before the fans arrived and the ski area opened. Only one skier sat down in our tent to catch his breath and he skied the course in 16.5 hours.

It was truly an incredible group of athletes skiing across a spectacular landscape in Colorado that early April morning. Abruptly, our moment of excitement was over. We sat up on the ridge in silence listening to the howling wind.

Training

National Training

April 1-6, 2001, LaSAR Symposium, Pollack, Louisiana. Contact Cheryl Kennedy or Julie Weibler for more information.

May 24-27, 2001, NASAR's 28th Annual Conference and Exhibition, SAR 2001, Sheraton, Colorado Springs, CO. The conference was rescheduled from the original dates during Fall 2000. The conference will still be held at the Sheraton in Colorado Springs, and all scheduled events, room rates and registration fees remain the same. More information is posted on the NASAR website. Several SARDOC members will be serving as instructors.

June 3-5 and June 7-9, 2001, Jack Shuler Mantrailing Training Wilderness Challenge, Norwood, Colorado. The Wilderness Challenge will consist of both Mantrailing I and II courses. These courses will be customized by our staff to challenge the abilities of every participating dog/handler team regardless of prior training, skill, or previous experience.

The JSMT Wilderness Challenge will be held in San Miguel County, Colorado. Meals and lodging will be provided in the beautiful Eagle's Nest Lodge. Participants may elect to take one or both courses and course pricing, meals, and lodging will be a package deal. Please contact us via e-mail at info@jackshuler.com for additional details concerning this great training opportunity.

Jack Shuler Mantrailing Training Academy is offering our Mantrailing I and II courses that are open to all breeds, except Bloodhounds. These courses are being offered in Salem, Illinois and are available as follows:

Mantrailing I April 19 - 21, 2001

Mantrailing II May 24 - 26, 2001

Statewide Training

SARDOC Weekends (dates may be subject to change)

February 24-25, 2001, Avalanche Weekend, Steamboat Springs. Sandy Witte and Jim Vail are hosting.

If you are interested in hosting a weekend, please let Bill Young know.

If you are hosting a SARDOC Weekend or a special training, you can contact Julie Weibler to send you mailing labels for sending information to the SARDOC membership.

Local Training

El Paso County Practices: Training is generally on Sunday afternoons. Contact Barbi Atkins [Barbi.Atkins@oracle.com], (719)630-1573] for specific locations and times.

Larimer County Practices: 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. Contact John Shivik [John.Shivik@usda.gov, (970)266-6088] for specific locations and dates.

Western Slope Practices: Contact Jim Vail [jmvail@springsips.com, (970)879-8474] for times and locations of practices. They are trying to practice on the 2nd weekend of months without SARDOC weekends.

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 Bill Young. If you are sending reports via email, please send them to both Bill at wyoung@frii.com and Julie Weibler at jcotton@psnw.com.

October 22-23, 2000

Location: Twin Lakes Reservoir, Pingree Park, Larimer County

Subject: 20-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Jen Mackler and Chara and Kitty

Gardiner (Larimer County SAR) with Coordinator permission. Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah were stood down for a later response.

Mission: The subject and several others in his hunting party had been drinking at their camp during the afternoon when the subject left camp to use the bathroom and never returned. The subject had been missing about 12 hours when teams started in the field. It was wet and snowing during the afternoon so that there was snow on the ground in most areas during the search. A foot team got voice contact with the subject. He was cold and wet when he was found in the bottom of a drainage.

October 23, 2000

Location: Ripple Creek Lodge, Flattops Wilderness, Garfield/Rio Blanco counties

Subject: 42-year-old male, hunter

Dog team used on mission: Shannon Young and Klapatche (Mesa County SARC/Venture Crew 303) and Barry Sovern (Garfield SAR)

Mission: A guide dropped off the hunter about 1/8 mile from his other two hunting buddies. He had been missing over 24 hours when the dog team started searching. While getting ready to field, it was reported that the helicopter crew spotted a body so Shannon was put on standby; however, it was not the person

Shannon was assigned to look for—surprise! She then continued to the last seen point to meet up with her navigator so they could begin searching for the 42-year-old hunter. While enroute to the LSP, Klapatche had alerts and started working uphill into some blown down timber. Shannon called for assistance since she had no navigator or map yet. While waiting for assistance, the subject's body was located by another team. Klapatche was able to finish working into the subject. Coroner ruled that the subject died from an accidental gunshot wound to the head.

October 24-25, 2000

Location: Echo Lake, Mt. Evans, Clear Creek County

Subject: 38-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa, Barbi Atkins and Deegee, and Ina Bernard and Lenzbee (all El Paso County SAR) and Ann-Marie Boness and Teal (Vail Mountain Rescue Group) were stood down en route on October 24 due to poor weather conditions and nightfall. Dennis and Kiowa, Barbi and Deegee, and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (LCSAR) responded and fielded on October 25.

Mission: The subject was last seen on Sunday, October 22. His car was found on Tuesday, October 24 near Echo Lake. Subject had extensive outdoor experience. He had signed in at Mt. Spaulding so it was known that he had made it to the top of that peak. The Chicago Lakes basin was the priority search area and the dog teams were assigned to search in that basin on October 25. Kiowa had strong alerts at the lower of the two lakes and Dennis requested a helicopter be sent to the area. The helicopter crew spotted the subject on a rugged talus slope above the lakes and his body was evacuated. He had apparently taken a fall. As a note,

all three dogs did have some alerts at various points while working up the valley.

October 24, 2000

Location: Chicago Creek, Mt. Evans, Clear Creek County

Subject: older female

Mission: While Alpine Rescue Team was en route to the search at Echo Lake, they were flagged down and told that a woman was overdue from a hike in the area. Julie Weibler and Zephyr (LCSAR) were stood down en route when the woman returned to her vehicle. Apparently there had been miscommunication between the reporting party and the subject as to her expected return time.

November 1, 2000

Location: Peyton, El Paso County

Subject: 41-year-old female, taking several medications

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa fielded and Gayle Humm and Aspen were stood down (EPCSAR)

Mission: The reporting party searched for his wife in the early morning hours when he woke up and she was not in bed. The dog teams were called in to assist after the husband and a deputy had no success in finding the subject. Dennis had some alerts near two trailer homes but nowhere else. The woman returned home mid-morning. Apparently she called a friend to come get her in the middle of the night.

November 4-6, 2000

Location: Mesa County

Subject: 32-year-old male cowboy

Dog teams used on mission: Shannon Young and Klapatche (MCSARC), Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR), Jim Vail and Pepper and Sandy Phillips and Schwar (both Routt County SAR)

Mission: The cowboy was rounding up bulls on Friday, November 3. His dogs returned home in the afternoon without him. The dog teams searched the mesa from last known point where there were some tracks. The subject was on horseback and was assisted by two dogs. While searching, one of the dog teams ran into a bull in their search area and left the area for safety reasons. On November 6, a helicopter spotted a horse tied up on the mesa. The subject was located at the base of a 90-foot cliff by fellow cowboys. Apparently the cowboy had tied up the green-broke horse to follow the dogs herding the bull. The bull then pushed the subject off the cliff. The subject was over a mile down-canyon from where the dog teams searched.

November 10-11, 2000

Location: Crown Point Road, Pingree Park, Larimer County

Subject: 40-year-old male hunter

Dog teams used on mission: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache and Dan Fanning fielded. Allen Weaver and Rosie were stood down. All were LCSAR.

Mission: Subject wandered off from camp just at dusk not intending to go very far from camp. He had an excellent survival pack...in his car. The weather was cold and snowy. The dog team had some interest but could not pinpoint the direction. In the morning, the hunter followed a drainage and hit a road. He was found by search management while he was walking on the road. He had used a rock outcropping for shelter during the night.

November 12, 2000

Location: Big Thompson Canyon, Larimer County

Dog team used on mission: Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (Division of Wildlife)

Mission: The dog team searched for evidence related to an illegal deer kill.

November 22, 2000

Location: Monument, El Paso County

Subject: 19-year-old male

Mission: The subject had threatened suicide then walked away from home. Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Gayle Humm and Aspen (EPCSAR) responded to the search but were not fielded due to safety concerns. The subject called from a friend's house a short time later.

November 26-27, 2000

Location: Montgomery Pass, Poudre Canyon, Larimer County

Subject: 30-year-old male snowshoer

Dog team used on mission: Julie Weibler and Zephyr fielded. Darren Weibler and Ranger and Allen Weaver and Rosie responded but did not field their dogs. All LCSAR.

Mission: The subject and two friends separated near Montgomery Pass when the friends wanted to go ski a hill and the subject wanted to take pictures from the pass. They had designated a meeting place and time, but the subject never showed up. There had been whiteout conditions off and on throughout the day. Zephyr worked the trail for two miles from the parking lot and was working north along the ridgeline when worsening weather conditions forced the team to turn around. Teams further north along the ridge

found more tracks in the morning and continued to follow them. A foot team sent in on one of the ski trails further down canyon found the subject in good condition mid-day. He had walked north along the ridgeline from the pass and then dropped down into the trees and went down the wrong drainage during the whiteout.

December 5, 2000

Location: Black Forest, El Paso County

Subject: 17-year-old female

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa (EPCSAR) were stood down en route. The subject had wandered off without a coat in a snowstorm and was found by deputies.

December 10, 2000

Location: Buckhorn Canyon, Larimer County

Subject: 43-year-old male hunter

Mission: Mission was stood down immediately after being paged out.

December 11, 2000

Location: Widefield, El Paso County

Subject: 11-year-old female, deaf and severely mentally challenged

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa (EPCSAR) were stood down. The subject escaped from her home in frigid weather. Her father located her. This is the fourth time EPCSAR has been called to look for this subject.

December 27-28, 2000

Location: Long's Peak Trail, Rocky Mountain National Park

Subject: 77-year-old male hiker

Dog teams used on mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie and James Mackler and Estelle Purvis and Echo (LCSAR). Julie Weibler and Zephyr were on standby.

Mission: The subject was a park volunteer who has hiked the Long's Peak Trail thousands of times over twelve years. The subject was last seen above timberline before noon. He was in fair health with prior history of minor strokes. Witnesses reported ground blizzards in the area when they had last seen the subject. Foot teams found the subject's pack and snowshoes. The subject had crawled about 100 feet further from his gear and the rangers found him disoriented and suffering from hypothermia. Shortly after being located by the foot team, Rosie did have some strong alerts towards the subject. Subject was found just a few minutes after Echo was fielded. The dog teams assisted with the evacuation of the subject.

December 28, 2000

Location: Glen Haven, Larimer County

Subjects: two male bodies

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Weibler and Zephyr, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah and Dan Fanning, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache and Josh Brauer, and Estelle Purvis and Echo.

Mission: A man arrested in Denver reported that he and a couple of accomplices had dumped two bodies, on two separate occasions, in the Glen Haven area. He described the area in detail and the dogs were called to assist in the search. Authorities were suspicious of the story as his "facts" changed from time to time. While teams were searching the steep mountainside, one of the "accomplices" was interviewed elsewhere and said there were no murders and allowed the vehicle "involved" to be searched.

December 29, 2000

Location: Diamond Peaks, Cameron Pass, Larimer/Jackson counties

Subject: 40-year-old male snowboarder caught in avalanche

Mission: Shortly before dog teams arrived, bystanders located the subject's body. Jim Vail and Pepper (RCSAR) and Julie Weibler and Zephyr and Darren Weibler and Allen Weaver and Rosie (LCSAR) were responding. Jim was stood down and did not get on scene. Rosie was to search the treed area in case the subject got out of the slide. The subject was seen going straight up a gully to the ridgeline by other snowshoers. The witnesses had turned around and were in the trees when the avalanche occurred. It was a large slide, 250+ feet wide across the fracture line and 400 feet across at the toe. The subject was carried 500 vertical feet down a 37-degree slope. Bystanders searched for nearly three hours before seeing his snowboard sticking up out of the snow about 75 yards above the very toe of the slide. The subject was buried under 1 foot of snow, face down and head down the slope. Zephyr was allowed to work the slide while an evacuation team was brought in. The skies were clear and the winds were light during the evacuation. Cause of death was a broken neck. Though this slide was much larger than the one in the same area last year, the subject was found very close to the same location as last year's victim. This was the first avalanche fatality in Colorado this season.

2000 SARDOC Statistics by Month, Number of Subjects, and Activity

() indicates stats from 1999

Month	Missions	Month	Missions
January	4 (7)	July	9 (9)
February	2 (6)	August	6 (10)
March	6 (3)	September	9 (6)
April	7 (8)	October	9 (12)
May	6 (11)	November	6 (6)
June	9 (16)	December	6 (8)
		TOTAL	79 (102)

Activity	Number	SARDOC	
Hiker	14	CSR	10
Child	12	CSRB	8
Hunter	9	TOTAL	18/79
Water-related	10	Male	54
Snow-related	6	Female	20
Missing Person	17	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>16</u>
Suicide	3	Total subjects	90
Evidence	4		
Miscellaneous	4		

County utilization of dog resources in 2000

County	Dogs Fielded	Stood down	No dogs available	Total Requests
Alpine Rescue Team	2	2	0	4
Boulder	1	0	0	1
Chadron, NE	0	1	0	1
Colorado Springs P.D.	1	0	0	1
Custer	0	1	0	1
Division of Wildlife	2	0	0	2
Douglas	1	0	0	1
El Paso	10	9	0	19
Garfield	3	4	0	7
Grand	0	1	0	1
Gunnison	1	0	0	1
Larimer	12	11	1	24
Las Animas	1	0	0	1
Mesa	3	1	0	4
Park	1	0	0	1
Pitkin	0	2	0	2
Platte Co. (WY)	2	1	0	3
Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park	1	0	0	1
Routt	0	1	0	1
Summit	3	0	0	3
TOTALS	44	34	1	79
Dog Finds	2			
Dog Assists	4			



Search & Rescue Dogs of Colorado

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