



# SCENT ARTICLES

March 2005

## SARDOC has these specialized dogs available

- Air Scent
- Trailing
- Water Search
- Evidence
- Avalanche
- Cadaver

All of our dogs are trained to scent discriminate  
Our services are free of charge.

**TO REQUEST A TEAM FROM SARDOC CALL 970-416-1985**  
For more contact information see page 2



Dog Team on Water Search

## SARDOC Dog Teams Had a Very Positive Impact on Several Searches in 2004

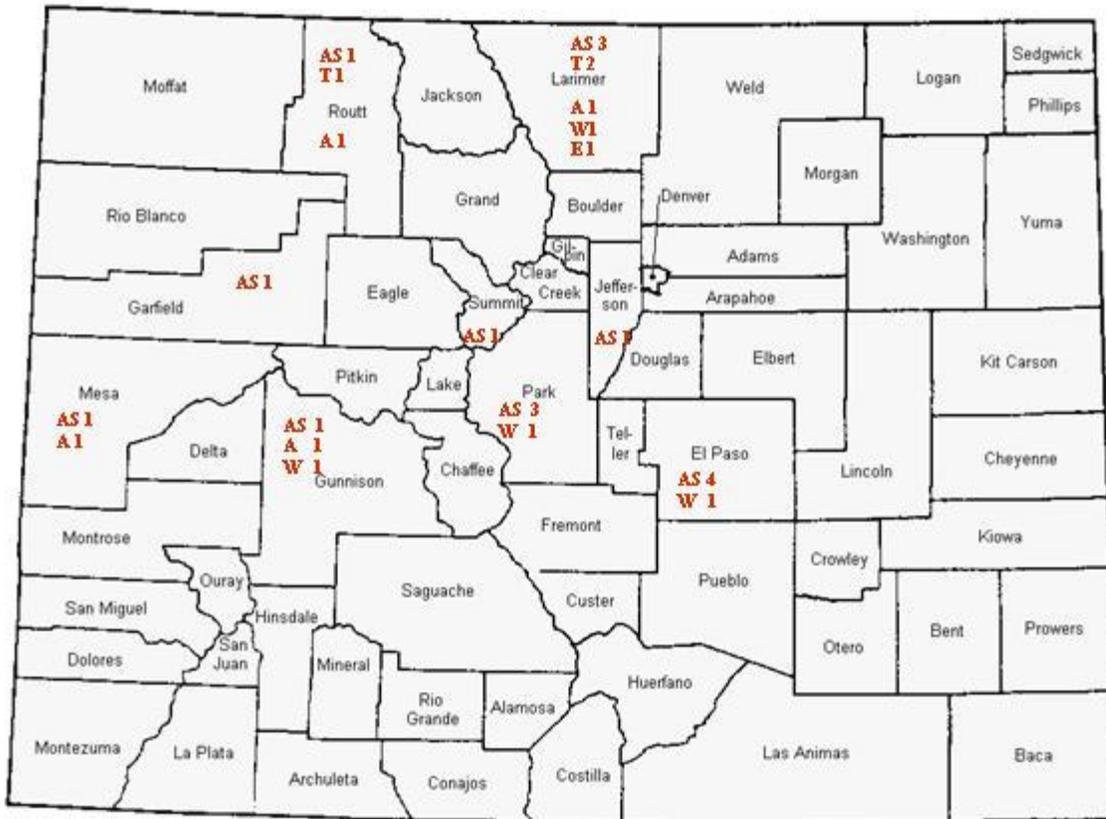
Certified, operational Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado (SARDOC) dog teams responded to a total of 124 search missions last year. Of those, 109 were in Colorado, 11 in Utah, 2 in S. Dakota, and one each in Nebraska, Wyoming and Texas.

SARDOC dog teams had 7 “finds” in 2004 involving 9 people where the dog team actually made the find. These finds involved two lost 5 year old boys, three lost hikers, a drowning victim, an avalanche fatality and a male injured in a traffic accident who wandered away from the scene 33 hours prior to being located by the dog team. This subject, who was very hypothermic and unable to talk when found, was found in an area previously searched by ground searchers. See page three for the full story.

In addition, SARDOC dog teams had 4 good “assists” where, for example, a trailing dog team determined the direction of travel of a person missing over 24 hours who was subsequently found by a helicopter sent in that direction, information about the probable location of a drowning victim was confirmed and pinpointed for divers, and a suicidal person was located based on dog alerts.

SARDOC currently has 16 operational air scent dog teams, 3 operational trailing dog teams, 3 operational water search dog teams, 5 avalanche dog teams, 1 evidence certified dog team and 1 human remains detection dog team available to SAR managers and law enforcement agencies. In addition, several other dog teams are testing and certifying across the state.

## Locations of SARDOC Dog Teams in Colorado



AS=Air Scent A = Avalanche T=Trailing W=Water E= Evidence

### Contact Information and Board Members

Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado  
 P.O. Box 1036  
 Fort Collins, Co 80522  
 Website: [WWW.SARDOC.ORG](http://WWW.SARDOC.ORG)

**To Request SARDOC search dog resources call (970) 416-1985 (Larimer County SO dispatch)**

### 2005 Executive Board

President: Scott Havener - [Havener@springsips.com](mailto:Havener@springsips.com)  
 Dog Coordinator: Dennis McLaughlin - [kiowamc@mindspring.com](mailto:kiowamc@mindspring.com)  
 Secretary: Angela Eaton-Snovak - [angela.eaton@colorado.edu](mailto:angela.eaton@colorado.edu)  
 Treasurer: Alan Weaver - [lawcpa007@aol.com](mailto:lawcpa007@aol.com)  
 Director-at-Large: Roger Matthews - [rogermatthews@hotmail.com](mailto:rogermatthews@hotmail.com)

SARDOC Training Director: Marcia McMahon - [kmcmahon@amigo.net](mailto:kmcmahon@amigo.net)

### 2004 Area Directors

Mountain Area: Paula Bindrich - [paula@bindrich.com](mailto:paula@bindrich.com)  
 Southern Area: Kim Veitch - [kwveitch@adelphia.net](mailto:kwveitch@adelphia.net)  
 Northern Colorado: Kathryn Shepherd - [bskskt@aol.com](mailto:bskskt@aol.com)  
 Western Slope: Jim Vail - [jmvail@springsips.com](mailto:jmvail@springsips.com)



## Search Dog Dundee & His Handler, Wyman Bontrager of Garfield County, Save Man's Life - Christmas 2004

You won't find a happier dog and his handler – and there's a reason why! Dundee and his master, **Wyman Bontrager**, were called for a search and rescue mission Christmas day by the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's office. Together, they saved someone's life.

On Christmas Eve, a truck driven by a 21-year-old male collided with a horse on State Highway 34 in Meeker. The accident was reported around 11 p.m., but the driver could not be found. The following day, the mother of the driver received a phone call from her son saying that he climbed a mountain to get cell phone service. His mother said that he told her he was feeling "shocky."

Two SARDOC search & rescue dog teams were contacted within a half an hour of the mother's report. Upon arrival, the dogs used the scent from tennis shoes found in the truck to begin their search. By then, the victim had been missing nearly 26 hours.

Dundee picked up a scent about 1.5 miles west of the accident, in a small drainage. However, Wyman was called back to an area about .5 miles east where ground searchers thought they found a track. It was later determined that it was the track of a searcher from the night before.

Meanwhile the second dog, Bailey, working with his handler, Jim Vail, from Steamboat Springs, picked up a scent where Dundee had been before and also found a possible track in the snow near a power line road.

Dundee and Wyman proceeded south toward the power line road when Wyman noted there was a small puff of smoke coming from a ridge about 1 mile to the east. Dundee and Wyman ran in that direction. About 100 yards from the top of the ridge, west of where the smoke was spotted, Dundee alerted and bolted over the ridge.

Dundee found the missing man sitting under a tree. He was so hypothermic that he could not talk but could nod and shake his head. The ambulance crew that was summoned to the scene estimated the young man's core body temperature to be 86 degrees Fahrenheit. He was transported to Meeker Hospital suffering from hypothermia, chest and leg injuries.

"This was truly a dog team save of a life," noted Wyman, a very proud dog owner. This successful search and rescue made for a very MERRY CHRISTMAS for all involved!

As was noted on page one, SARDOC dog teams had 7 finds in 2004 while assisting law enforcement agencies. This was one of the most notable finds as the area the young man was found in was an area that had been searched previously by other searchers. It is unknown if he was there at that time or had moved into that area after the ground searchers had cleared the area.

Story excerpted from U.S. Forest Service newsletter

## **Information for Sheriffs and Other Agencies Needing Search Dogs**

Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado, an all volunteer group, has been supplying certified operational dog teams to law enforcement and SAR agencies in Colorado for over 20 years and is proud to advise you that we continue to stand ready to assist you at any time, at no charge to you.

SARDOC has trained dogs, tested and certified, to assist you in the following disciplines:

**Air Scent Search**—dog teams capable of searching areas for lost or missing persons, both alive and recently deceased.

**Trailing** - Dog teams used to trail or determine direction of travel of a person - most effective when used up to 36 to 48 hours after someone's disappearance.

**Water Search** - air scent dogs specially trained to detect scent from drowning victims or victims believed to be under water. A cadaver dog is not necessary to search for a body under water.

**Avalanche** - Dogs trained to detect human scent rising from an avalanche debris field.

**Evidence** - Dogs trained to detect objects with human scent on them, either dropped or intentionally discarded.

**Cadaver** - Dogs trained to locate human remains.

If you or your search and rescue coordinator have any questions about SARDOC's resources or what might be best for a particular search situation, contact Dennis McLaughlin at 719—495-1802 or our Training Director, Marcia McMahan at 719-836-2826. If you have an immediate need, call 970 416-1985 (Larimer County SO dispatch), tell them you need search dogs and request that the SARDOC dispatcher contact you. It would be appreciated if you would provide this information to your Undersheriff, dispatch center and your search and rescue coordinator.



An avalanche dog team practices searching a debris field for a buried subject.



An air scent dog looking for a diver's scent while practicing water search techniques in Pueblo.

## **Thanks to Larimer County Sheriff's Office Dispatchers**

On behalf of all of the members of SARDOC (and their dogs), many thanks to the Larimer County Sheriff's Office dispatchers who professionally and efficiently handle requests for SARDOC dog teams. Without their help and the Larimer County SAR personnel who take the pages from the dispatchers and get the resources needed by LE or SAR agencies, we would not be able to function. To the Larimer County dispatchers—**THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

## **SARDOC Mission Summaries for October thru December 2004**

### **October 2004**

**October 4, 2004 - Air scent dog team made a good "find" on this search.**

Location: Summit County, Lily Pad Lake area, near Dillon

Subjects: A married couple in their 30s, hikers who had been missing approx. 5 hours

Dog team responding to mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG)

Mission: The dog team was initially assigned to take the trail toward Lily Pad Lake. After about ½ mile, the dog left the main trail and hurriedly went up a spur trail away from the lake. After another ½ mile on that trail, the dog forked off onto another trail which took the dog team to a swampy, meadow area. When they arrived there, the dog team located the couple in that immediate area after using attraction. After giving them some food and water they were returned to the CP in good condition.

### **October 6, 2004**

Location: El Paso County, Rampart Range Road near the Farish Recreation area

Subject: 45 year old male, depressed alcoholic missing since September 15, 2004

Dog teams responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert (Park Co. SAR) with Paul Goetz (El Paso SAR/SARDOC) as support; Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch as support (El Paso SAR)

Mission: Search area around vehicle location (vehicle removed by law enforcement prior to search) for missing subject. The dog teams were searching assigned areas and then recalled approx. 1145 hours due to shooting in the area. A ground team subsequently located the deceased subject in a drainage, behind a large rock.

### **October 11, 2004**

Location: El Paso County, Palmer Lake Reservoirs

Subject: 49 year old male photographer

Dog team responding to mission: Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch as support (all EPCSAR)

Mission: Night search for missing subject who had gone into the mountains to take pictures of the aspen trees but did not return. The dog team searched its assigned area to the North of the reservoirs for 3.5 hours without locating the subject. He walked out the next morning near the Douglas County line.

**October 13, 2004**

Location: Clear Creek County and Jefferson County, possibly in the Evergreen area

Subject: Missing aircraft with one occupant

Dog team on standby for mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine SAR) were placed on standby by their team during the initial phase of the search which involved AirLife and other agencies. The search was suspended until morning when an ELT signal was detected in the Idaho Springs/Golden Gate Canyon area. A surveyor working in that area located the wreckage and the deceased pilot.

**October 13, 2004**

Location: Jefferson County near Evergreen

Subject: 13 year old runaway

Dog team responding to mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine SAR) were stood down upon arrival as law enforcement had the child in custody.

**October 17, 2004**

Location: Larimer County, NW of Buckhorn Ranger Station, Fort Collins

Subject: 56 year old male hunter who separated from fellow hunters and had been missing about 9 hours

Dog team responding on mission: Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota with Mike Erickson as support: Kathryn Shepherd and Ember (all LCSAR/SARDOC); Bill Young (LCSAR/SARDOC) was search manager

Mission: The dog team searched for approx. 4 hours in an effort to trail the subject and to develop direction of travel from LKP. The subject had dropped down into Monument Gulch and was located at the bottom of the gulch by a deputy Sheriff.

**October 19, 2004**

Location: Park County, Gibson Lake area

Purpose: Investigate site of old plane crash

Dog team responding on mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert/Yeti (Park Co. SAR)

Mission: Investigate site of previously reported plane crash sighting. The team hiked into the area of the coordinates provided by hikers that came upon the wreckage on September 16<sup>th</sup>. They located a door, a strut and a wing along with a 55 gallon barrel of de-icant in an icy snowfield. Both dogs showed some interest under the wind and repeatedly dug in the snow. Pictures were taken and forwarded to a Civil Air Patrol officer along with the exact coordinates of the wreckage. Further investigation may be warranted in the Spring of 2005.

**October 19, 2004**

Location: Larimer County

Subject: 18 year old female, depressed and drinking

Dog team responding on mission: Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota (LCSAR) were stood down while en route. Bill Young (LCSAR/SARDOC) was search manager.

### **October 30, 2004**

Location: El Paso County, Fountain Regional Park

Subject: 20 year old, bi-polar female missing for several days

Dog team responding to mission: Kim Veitch and Ruffian (EPCSAR)

Mission: Search park area and part of the Santa Fe Trail at request of Colorado Springs PD after report that subject had possibly been seen in that area. Subject not located in that area. She stopped at the CSPD Operations Center the next day to advise them that she was okay and that she had not told anyone where she was going when she left the facility where she lived.

### **October 31, 2004**

Location: Park County, Ute Trail, Tarryall

Subject: 23 year old female backpacker

Dog team responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Yeti (PCSAR)

Mission: Dog team assigned to take trail up to Bison Pass and take the opposite fork from a foot team. The foot team found some tracks on the pass. Dog team later returned to trailhead as subject had been picked up by hunters and taken to Bailey.

### **October 31, 2004**

Location: Gunnison County, near Crawford

Subject: Overdue, missing hunters

Dog team responding: Sue Purvis and Tasha were placed on standby but stood down when the hunters self-recovered.

### **November 2004**

**November 1, 2004 - Trailing dog team got credit for good "assist" on this search. Dog team developed direction of travel on person missing over 24 hours which led to subject being found by helicopter sent in that direction.**

Location: Routt County, Hayden

Subject: 30 year old male who got disoriented and lost at night. Subject had been missing 24 hours when dog teams were requested.

Dog teams responding to mission: Scott Havener and Duke; Sandy Phillips and Schwarz (all RCSAR)

Mission: Dog team 1 assigned to determine direction of travel of subject and trail him. Dog team 2 assigned an area to search. Dog team 1 determined direction of travel which resulted in a helicopter being sent in that direction. The helicopter crew located the subject about 3.5 miles ahead of the trailing team.

**November 11 and 12, 2004**

Location: Garfield County, East Divide Creek, 14 miles south of Silt

Subjects: Two male hunters, one 23 years old and the other 19 years old, got lost at night while following a wounded elk.

Dog team responding on mission: Wyman Bontrager and Dundee (Garfield SAR)

Mission: One of the two missing men self-recovered at 1400 hours on the 11<sup>th</sup> and called for help. The dog team arrived on scene at 1630 but was held in staging until clues were found as the potential search area was very large. Approximately 2330 hours, some old tracks were found and the dog team worked in that area with nothing found. Search operations were suspended at 2400 hours due to unsafe conditions. At 0820 hours the next morning, a helicopter spotted the missing subject, face down and naked, in the snow. The dog team responded with the rescue team to where the subject was recovered, barely alive. The dog team then searched the immediate area in an effort to locate any of the man's personal belongings. The dog found the man's pants, containing a working cell phone, and overalls about 100 yards upslope from the subject's recovered position.

**November 17, 2004**

Location: El Paso County, Woodmen Hills area, Colorado Springs

Subject: 78 year old male with late stage Alzheimer's

Dog teams responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa/Grits with Paul Goetz as support, Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch as support; Ed Fowler and Sam (all EPCSAR) with an EPCSAR member as support.

Mission: Dog team 1 searched missing man's normal walking route which was a residential area in a valley with steep hills/ridgelines and heavy scrub oak. Other assignments were to follow up on possible sightings but subject was found laying on the ground off the side of the road about ½ mile from his home by a fire dept. unit using their spotlight. He was transported to the hospital for observation.

**November 19, 2004**

Location: El Paso, Teller and Douglas Counties, along Rampart Range

Subject: 49 year old female from Parker, CO. who said she had taken some pills and was in the mountains off Rampart Range Road on this date. She had left her home on 11/17/04 as the result of domestic issues.

Dog teams on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits; Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch as support (all EPCSAR)

Mission: Dog teams were to be used to search area around subject's vehicle if it was ever located. It never was. As the result of a message left on her voice mail, the missing subject called Dennis McLaughlin's house on Saturday, 11/20/04 at 1247 hours and said "Wrong number, sorry" and hung up. Case turned over to Douglas County SO.

**November 22, 2004**

Location: Mesa County, Area East of Kodels Canyon, Colorado National Monument

Subject: 45 year old male with history of depression and drug abuse

Dog team on mission: Shannon Young and Maggie with NPS Ranger

Mission: Search area east of Kodels Canyon for subject missing from Fruita and believed to be suicidal. This area was subject of the search as the man had hiked in that area previously according to his wife. On this date, the dog team had swirling winds and very little interest from the dog. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, a hiker spotted a form lying in Kodels Canyon that was later identified as the body of the missing man. On the day of the search, the dog team was about 500 above the man vertically and ¼ mile away with winds not conducive to them locating the subject.

**November 27, 2004**

Location: Texas, San Antonio

Subject: Female, mid-40s, murder victim

Dog team on mission: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache (SARDOC/Larimer SO ES) were requested to assist with a search by the San Antonio PD while in the San Antonio area. After receiving approval of the Larimer Co. SO ESD, the dog team was stood down prior to contact with SARDOC Coordinator as investigators decided to hold off on field work until additional investigation was completed. Investigators later located the abducted woman's body, just off the roadway, covered with brush and downed trees, 2 miles from her abandoned vehicle.

**November 28, 2004**

Location: El Paso County, W. High Street, Colorado Springs

Subject: 64 year old male, Alzheimer's subject

Dog teams on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits: Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch as support (all EPCSAR) were stood down after arriving when the subject was located about 2 miles away by the police and transported to the hospital.

**December 2004**

**December 10, 2004**

Location: El Paso County, Cimarron Hills area

Subjects): Two brothers, 4 and 6 years old

Dog team on mission: Dennis McLaughlin with Kiowa and Grits (El Paso SAR) were responding when one boy returned home on his own and the other was located by deputies searching the area.

**December 13, 2004**

Location; Horsetooth Mountain Park, Larimer County

Subject: No details available

Dog team on mission: Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota were responding but were stood down while en route.

**December 14 through December 19, 2005**

Location: Pennington County, Rapid City, South Dakota

Subject: 21 year old male airman from Ellsworth AFB, thought to be suicidal

Dog teams on mission: Wyman Bontrager with Dundee (Garfield Co. SAR); Allen Weaver with Rosie (LCSAR) and Crawford Rainwater (Gilpin SAR) as support; Jayne Zmijewski with Lakota (LCSAR) and Dave Hake

(LCSAR) as support.

Mission: The initial search by local LE and SAR officials began on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The missing subject reportedly left a suicide note. His car was found near a rugged area approx. 3 miles SW of Rapid City. The search, centered in that area, continued through December 19<sup>th</sup> and then was suspended with the subject not having been found. According to news accounts, the subject was located alive, several days later, out of state.

#### **December 19, 2004**

Location: Larimer County, Fort Collins

Subject: Male, early twenties, intoxicated and emotionally upset

Dog team on mission: Dan Fanning and Bear; Kathy Shepherd with Ember (all LCSAR)

Mission: The missing subject had been drinking heavily and left the home of friends around 0230 hours with the temperatures in the low 20s. The dog team was called out about 2 hours later and began to search from the last seen point. In the meantime, the subject had been reported as possibly having been seen two blocks away. The dog team confirmed the direction of travel (consistent with reporting). The subject was discovered asleep on a couch in a nearby unlocked home by the owner. The second dog team was stood down while en route.

, who had been missing in frigid weather for over 4 hours, had been located by a fire department unit while walking along the FS road.

#### **December 25 and 26, 2004 - Air scent dog team got credit for a good “find” on this mission.**

Location: Rio Blanco County, mile marker 49 on state Hwy 64 near Meeker, CO

Subject: 21 year old male who was injured in a truck vs horse collision on December 24th.

Dog teams on mission: Wyman Bontrager with Dundee (Garfield SAR); Jim Vail with Bailey (Routt Co. SAR)

Mission: see story on page 3

#### **December 29, 2004**

Location: El Paso County, Rampart Range, FS road 322

Subject: 20 year old male visiting from Florida

Dog team on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (El Paso SAR) were stood down upon arrival as the subject who had been missing for over 4 hours in 20 degree weather and snow, was located walking on a forest service road by the FD.

## **Late Mission News: Dog team finds accident victim in frigid weather**

On Saturday morning, February 26th, 2005 Marcia McMahon and her dog Koert were called out in the middle of the night by Park County deputies to search for an accident victim who could not be located. After searching for over an hour, Koert found the injured 55 year old man, a considerable distance off the road, over one mile away from the original accident scene. He was evaluated for hypothermia, rib/shoulder and possible head injuries and transported to the hospital.

## **More Later Mission News: Avalanche dog team makes a find**

On March 24, 2005 two SARDOC dog teams (Patti Burnett and Sandy along with Roger Matthews and Loki) responded along with three other dog teams, one each from the Breckenridge Ski Patrol (SP), the Copper Mtn SP and the Keystone SP responded to an avalanche on Quandary Peak. A climber and a friend were climbing with crampons up the Monte Cristo Couloir when an avalanche started above the lead climber. He called for help on his cell phone after riding the avalanche down nearly 1800 feet. After the dog teams had been searching the huge debris field for over two hours, a Breckenridge SP dog team (Glenn Cottone and Kelso) got an alert on the missing subject. The 26 year old deceased man was located under approximately 6 to 7 feet of snow by other searchers using shovels.

## **Training:**

SARDOC members—check the training notices sent to all members by Training Director Marcia McMahon. If for some reason you are not receiving these notices, please contact Marcia directly or Ed Fowler at [ed.fowler@adelphia.net](mailto:ed.fowler@adelphia.net) to make sure your email address is correct.

## **New Air Scent Team in Larimer County:**

Mike Erickson and Merlin recently passed their air scent testing and are now available to respond to searches statewide as well as to searches in others states upon request. **Congratulations Mike and Merlin!**