



Dundee - responsible for two "finds" in three months

# SCENT ARTICLES

June 2005

## SARDOC has these specialized dogs available

- Air Scent
- Trailing
- Water Search
- 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

## SARDOC to Host Human Remains Detection and Water Search Courses

In a continuing effort to improve the quality and effectiveness of Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado's dog teams throughout the state, SARDOC will be hosting two special training course opportunities this summer taught by experts from other states.

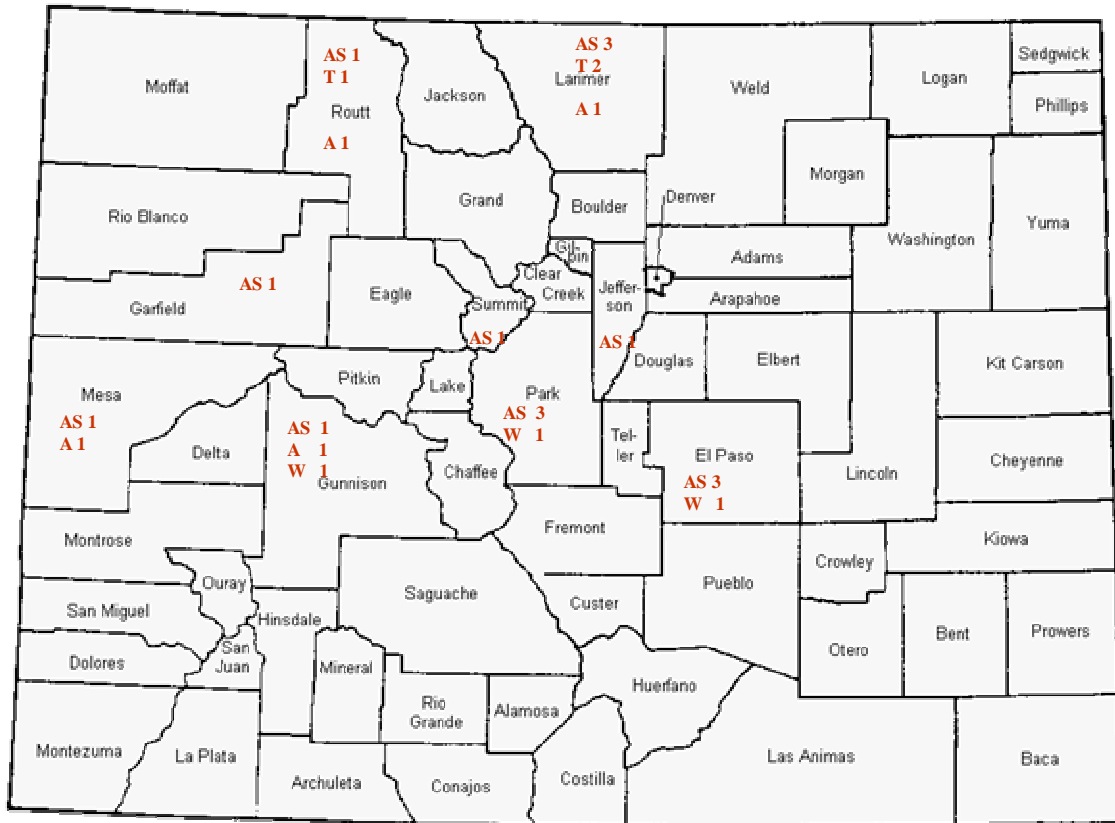
In support of the new certification standard in human remains and cadaver, SARDOC will be hosting a seminar in Human Remains Detection (HRD) to be presented by Bill Dotson, who is the President of Applied K-9 Technologies and internationally recognized. A beginner/intermediate class will be held from July 7 - 9 and an advanced class will be held July 10, 11 and 12, 2005 in Evergreen, CO. The cost is \$180 per session. Room and board is available at a nominal fee at the training location - the Mt. Evans Outdoor Education facility in Evergreen. Space is still available for the advanced class. Contact Angela Eaton-Snovak at [Angela.Eaton@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Angela.Eaton@Colorado.EDU) for more information.

The second special training opportunity will be in water search to be taught by Lisa Higgins of Louisiana SAR. This class will be held from August 4 through the 7th at Wellington Lake in Bailey, CO. Lisa, who visited with us a few years ago to teach a water search class, is a dynamic, very experienced, water search expert who responds to at least 30 water searches each year. In addition, she is often called upon by law enforcement officials to search for human remains in old criminal cases. Space in these classes may be limited. Contact Marcia McMahon, SARDOC Training Director, at [kmcmahon@amigo.net](mailto:kmcmahon@amigo.net) for further information.

In addition, regular SARDOC trainings are held on a routine basis in the El Paso County (Southern area) and Larimer County (Northern) areas as well as in the Central Mountain (I-70) area and on the Western slope. Contact the Area Directors listed on page 2 for further information.

## Locations of SARDOC Dog Teams in Colorado

Grand County,  
Utah  
AS 1



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

### 2005 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)

## **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. We will do our best 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 underwater.

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

**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.



I'm Koert, a certified air scent dog also training for water search and cadaver. I live in Fairplay, CO with my handler, Marcia McMahan.



I'm Kiowa, a certified air scent and water search dog. We live in Colorado Springs, CO.

## **Search Mission Summaries for January thru April 2005**

### **Mission Reports for January 2005**

#### **January 10, 2005**

Location: Mesa County, Grand Mesa, North of Jumbo Lake

Subject(s): Two adults and their 18 year old daughter missing since day before after getting lost in a snow storm while snowshoeing.

Dog teams on mission: Shannon Young and Maggie (Mesa County SARC): Wyman Bontrager and Dundee (Garfield SAR)

Mission: Search for missing trio which later turned to search solely for 54 year old father when mother and daughter were located, very hypothermic, on January 11th. Dogs showed interest in a couple of areas but heavy snow (36 inches on top of a 7 foot base) made searching very arduous for the dogs. The deceased subject's body was located by a helicopter crew in late May 2005 in an area where the dogs had interest in the deep snow during this previous search.

#### **January 16 – 17, 2005**

Location: Larimer County, between Estes Park and Lyons on Hwy 36

Subject: 43 year old female, missing hiker

Dog teams on mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie: Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota: Dan Fanning and Bear and Mike Erickson and Merlin with Robin Anderson as support (all LCSAR).

Mission: Search for hiker who left her mountain home at 1300 hours and had not returned by 1940 hours. All dog teams were initially assigned to likely trails and drainages near the subject's home. The trailing dogs (Bear and Lakota) worked the direction of travel of the subject and trailed her to the area of some old buildings near Wilson Spring. She later was located a few miles away by ground searchers who went ahead of the dog teams. Trackers also played a key role in this successful search.

#### **January 20, 2005**

Location: Elbert County, Sun Country Estates near Elizabeth

Subject: 12 year old male, runaway with ADS, missing 24 hours

Dog teams on mission: Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch as support (El Paso SAR): Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue) with Debra Schnackenberg (Douglas County SAR) as support: Dan Fanning and Bear (Larimer County SAR).

Mission: Dog team 1 (Kim Veitch and Ruffian) worked road from the LSP. Ruffian alerted and went to a trailer between two houses where the boy had apparently stayed for a while. Dog team was continuing westward when the subject was found on a nearby ranch after falling into a creek and knocking on the rancher's door for help.

### **January 25 – 30, 2005**

Location: South Dakota, Pennington County, 3 miles SW of Rapid City

Subject: 87 year old male with Alzheimer's who wandered away from his house.

Dog teams on mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert; Roger Matthews and Loki (Park Co. SAR) worked January 26 and 27; Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue) along with Kim Veitch and Ruffian (El Paso SAR) worked January 28, 29 and 30.

Mission: Search area encompassed very rough terrain both north and south of subject's home. Many ground searchers and other dog teams were also involved in the search each day. Pennington County SAR and the Sheriff's Office organized the massive search and assigned areas to the dog teams each day. Although the dog teams had several areas of interest to the south of the man's home, his location could not be pinpointed, partly due to the rugged cliffs in the area. His body was located amongst some trees in a very rugged, remote area a week or so later by ground searchers. This area had been identified by Pennington County SAR officials as a likely area based upon results of previous search coverage documented by all teams using GPS units, etc.

### **January 27 – 28, 2005**

Location: Larimer County, Fort Collins

Subject: Unknown, search for possible human remains

Dog team on mission: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache (Larimer SO ES)

Mission: A cadaver dog team was requested by the Fort Collins PD to search a home where the homeowner found suspicious concrete floor replacement while doing remodeling. The home was searched on 01/28 with negative results.

## **Mission Reports for February 2005**

### **February 12, 2005**

Location: El Paso County, Security area

Subject: 75 year old male with Alzheimer's, missing 7 hours when reported to Sheriff's Office.

Dog teams on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits; Ed Fowler and Sam (El Paso SAR)

Mission: Dog team 1 searched from subject's home to swampy area a couple of blocks away and then worked what appeared to be subject's trail on the south side of the swamp. Dog team 2 was working area around the home when it was reported that the man was located 6 miles away. He had been gone 9 hours when located.

### **February 20, 2005**

Location: Larimer County in area of Timnath, east of Fort Collins

Subject: 34 year old female, mentally challenged, missing at least 7 hours from a group home

Dog teams on mission: Dan Fanning and Bear; Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota; Allen Weaver and Rosie; Mike Erickson and Merlin with Robin Anderson as support (all LCSAR)

Mission: Based upon a report of a deputy seeing the missing woman in Timnath earlier, the dog teams were

primarily assigned to the south of the PLS. Dog team 1 initially started north along a busy county road but quickly turned south. When all leads were exhausted, the teams were stood down. The woman was later found at a friend's house about 2 miles NNW of the PLS.

**February 26, 2005 - dog team found the injured subject on this mission**

Location: Park County, near Guffey

Subject: 55 year old male from Texas, could not be found after a traffic accident

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

Mission: The subject had been missing about 6 hours in 12 degree temperatures when the dog team started searching. The dog team began searching near the accident site and trailed the subject approximately 1.25 miles along dirt roads and then off road where the dog located the subject in a valley full of deep snow. The subject was suffering from hypothermia, rib/shoulder and possible head injuries.

**Mission Reports for March 2005**

**March 6 – 7, 2005**

Location: Routt County, Steamboat ski area

Subject: 46 year old male, diabetic, missing 9 hours at callout

Dog teams on mission: Scott Havener and Duke: Jim Vail and Bailey with approval of SARDOC coordinator (Routt Co. SAR)

Mission: Dog teams assigned to search ski area boundary and area of highest POA. One dog team had an alert down a ski slope used earlier by the subject. He had skied out of bounds and was found by other searchers 3 drainages away from the area of highest probability.

**March 8, 2005**

Location: Clear Creek County, Guanella Pass

Subject: 42 year old male snowshoer missing about 6 hours in whiteout conditions

Dog team on mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue)

Mission: Dog team had searched for an hour when the subject was located by a foot team that made voice contact with the subject. A news helicopter helped to narrow the search area and spotted the subject.

**March 12, 2005**

Location: El Paso County, Black Forest area

Subject: 3 year old female who wandered away

Dog team on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (El Paso SAR)

Mission: Dog team arrived and began search of surrounding, wooded area. A woman on horseback located the child approximately 1/2 mile away in the woods within 15 minutes of the dog team's arrival.

### **March 12, 2005**

Location: Park County, Hwy 24, 6 miles from Hartsel

Subject: 56 year old male, drinking, got off bus and took off cross country

Dog team on mission: Marcia McMahon with Yeti and Koert were placed on standby. Investigators located subject near Spinney Mtn. Reservoir.

### **March 22, 2005**

Location: Douglas County, at “the Rock” in Castle Rock

Subject: 13 year old female who disappeared from home after leaving a suicide note

Dog teams on mission: Kim Veitch and Ruffian (El Paso County SAR) with Debra Schnackenberg (Douglas County SAR) as support; Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (El Paso SAR).

Mission: Search area around base of “the Rock” for the missing girl. Dog teams searched approximately 20 minutes prior to search being suspended by authorities as they believed she was a runaway.

### **March 24, 2005 - Ski patrol dog team makes a find**

Location: Summit County, South side of Quandary Peak, close to Hoosier Pass

Subject: 26 year old male buried in avalanche

Dog teams on mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG); Roger Matthews and Loki (Park Co. SAR) responded to staging with prior approval; along with the following ski patrol dog teams – Glenn Cottone and Kelso (Breckenridge SP); Paul Molnar and Tucker (Copper SP); John Reller and Tracker (Copper SP); Thomas NLN and Chewy (Keystone SP)

Mission: Search 1800 ft. long avalanche deposition zone for buried subject. As Roger and Loki staged, the other dog teams searched for nearly 2 ½ hours before the team of Glenn Cottone and Kelso got an alert in a small finger of the deposition zone not previously searched. The deceased subject was located under approx. 6 feet of snow at that location.

### **March 25, 2005**

Location: Lawson, Colorado, off I-70, West of Idaho Springs

Subject: 52 year old male, depressed, with affairs reported to be “in order” – suicide

Dog teams on Mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue/SARDOC; along with three dog teams from FRRD.

Mission: Search for missing subject who was thought to have a weapon and probably was suicidal. The subject was found a week later, about a mile west of his home, downwind and out of the dog teams’ search area this date.

## **Mission Reports for April 2005**

### **April 1, 2005**

Location: Mesa County, 4 miles from Powderhorn Ski Area, along avalanche path above Colorado Hwy 65

Subject: 27 year old male, skier, avalanche victim

Dog team on mission: Shannon Young and Maggie (Mesa County SAR) arrived on scene about 5 minutes after the subject was located by other team members. The deceased subject had been buried for approx. 2 hours when located.

### **April 16, 2005**

Location: Park County, Scott's Gulch, near Hoosier Pass

Subject: Two males, 75 and 81 years old, pilots missing with their aircraft for nine days as of this date.

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

Mission: Search north side of Scott's Gulch (location of interest to Civil Air Patrol). Park County SAR sent teams into area to try to eliminate it as possible location of the missing plane. Nothing found. Neither the pilots nor their plane have been located as of June 2005.

### **SARDOC Missions as of April 30, 2005 - 17**

## **SARDOC Training Weekend at Red Feather Lakes was a Big Success**

Twenty five SARDOC members attended the Spring SARDOC Weekend training held in the Red Feather Lakes area of Larimer County, May 13, 14 and 15, 2005. Kathy Shepherd did a great job of organizing the event with the help of many other Larimer Co. SARDOC members and members of Larimer Co. SAR.

On Friday evening, Julie Weibler gave a very informative slide presentation and talk on Wind and Air Behavior which is particularly valuable and relevant information here in Colorado where winds can often times be erratic and unpredictable. It seems as though you can never learn enough about how the wind can affect working search dogs in the mountains, canyons, valleys and flatlands of the state. Some of her own "case histories" from previous missions were both educational and informative for search dog handlers in attendance.

In addition to each dog team working trailing and air scent problems at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch on Saturday and Sunday, we were treated to several other great presentations as follows:

"Packing Light" by Liz Caldwell of Larimer Co. SAR. Liz talked about how to lighten your pack and still take the essentials with you during a search. She explained that many manufacturers are making very lightweight packs, clothing, footwear, etc. that can make the load you carry less of a burden.

"GPS—how it works and what it can do for you" by Mike Erickson and Crawford Rainwater. Although map and compass are still the essential, basic tools for searchers, knowledge of how to properly use a GPS unit to save waypoints, navigate and make tracks for later analysis of where dog



teams actually deployed can be helpful to the dog team as well as the incident command team. Each participant had the opportunity to use GPS to navigate, locate a provided waypoint, save tracks, etc. during this training.

“Mission Analysis” - a discussion of some past search missions by Larimer County SAR Manager and longtime SARDOC member Bill Young. Bill discussed several previous missions—what was done on the mission, the results, what could be done in the future on similar searches to improve results, etc.

“Canine Massage” by Jill Reynolds of Canine Massage of the Rockies. Mike Erickson’s “Merlin” was the lucky recipient of the demo on dog massage techniques by Jill as others applied the techniques to their own dogs. Jill explained and demonstrated how massage can be used to help a dog before and after a search, help them heal from injuries, etc. Those of us who don’t live in Larimer County envied those in Larimer SAR where Jill regularly visits to provide massages for the search dogs. Talk about some lucky dogs.

### **Training:**

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 at [kcmahon@amigo.net](mailto:kcmahon@amigo.net) or Ed Fowler at [ed.fowler@adelphia.net](mailto:ed.fowler@adelphia.net) to make sure your email address is correct.

### **Dog News:**

Kathy Shepherd’s “Ember” continues to do very well after having a front leg amputated due to cancer. Ember is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

Roger Matthew’s “Loki” should be returning to service very soon from back surgery.

Scott Havener’s “Duke” will soon undergo surgery for a torn ACL and is expected to be out of service for 8 to 10 weeks.

Nancy May’s “Shalla” hopes to be back in service soon from a foot problem.

In addition to the dogs who have been sick or injured, let’s not forget the handlers as these issues can be stressful to us humans as well as quite expensive.

### **Be Prepared:**

Memorial Day weekend is typically the start of our busiest season. This year was no exception with searches in Park County, Grand County, Routt County and Huerfano County over Memorial Day weekend. Make sure you, your dog, your vehicle and your gear are ready to go at a moment’s notice as we will have members on vacation as well as dogs recuperating that may put a bigger burden on all available dog teams.

Remember, most searches require an immediate response and are not “scheduled” for a later date.

If you are going out of county on a search, try to notify the SARDOC dispatcher of the mission to give them a heads up on the potential for needing to call more dog team resources.

## Wendy Wampler's "Jazz" Goes to Doggy Heaven

It is with a very heavy heart that I send this to you all (April 7, 2005)

Jazz, a Regional Frisbee Champion, Star of an Animal Planet production, mother of Dundee, a gift to my family, and (in my humble opinion) the best damn Search Dog I have ever seen, died yesterday. Jazz's list of accomplishments boggles my mind. In her first year as a certified search dog, Jazz had more finds than most of our dogs have in their careers. Search was Jazz's favorite game (frisbee came in a close second.) I hope that somewhere in doggy heaven, Jazz is taking time out from search and frisbee to look down at our dogs and give them a little advice on how search should really be done. - by Wyman Bontrager

## Rocky Mountain Trackers - A New, Noteworthy Search Resource

**Any SARDOC member who has been on a lot of searches knows that no single resource is always the answer to the problem at hand. Oftentimes, using multiple, trained, efficient resources is the best answer. If you don't yet know about the Rocky Mountain Trackers, the following information will be useful to you and Search Managers involved in looking for lost or missing persons.**

**Rocky Mountain Trackers** is an association dedicated to providing well trained and experienced trackers to assist in searches, investigations, and anywhere else that may require tracking resources.

**Rocky Mountain Trackers** maintains a roster of **Certified Trackers** in **the Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico region** who are ready and qualified to respond at your request. They are field rated members of a Search and Rescue team in their area and are certified as trackers by established, reputable Tracking Schools.

- Well-trained trackers are one of your most efficient resources
- Securing the Point Last Seen can make all the difference in the world
- Well-trained tracking teams can get a "positive" direction of travel within minutes
- Trackers can help verify if the search dogs are in fact on the line of travel
- Tracking teams continuously advance the Last Known Point

**To get trackers, the Search Manager should protect the LSP and -**

- ◆ **Contact the On-call RMT dispatcher at 970-691-1839 or**
- ◆ **Larimer County Sheriff Dispatch 970-416-1985**
- ◆ **Have them page the on-call Tracker Dispatcher**

**The writer has had personal experience on searches with a few of the RMTs and recommends them as a valuable resource during a search for missing or lost persons. Visit their website at [www.rockymountaintrackers.org](http://www.rockymountaintrackers.org) for further information.**