



SCENT ARTICLES

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

May/August 2000



Sadie goes into retirement

by Julie Weibler

Hanna and Casey Sparks have decided to go into retirement, along with Sadie, after having served the search community for several years. While Sadie is still healthy, she is showing some signs of slowing down. The family has decided to reserve Sadie's energy for family outings instead of the rigors of searches.

Hanna and Sadie began their search dog training in early 1990. Sadie was one of those dogs we had to calm down instead of hyping up when she found the subject. She was so excited to find the "missing" person that she

would begin to nip when we all squealed "good dog, Sadie!" We learned to lower our voices and be a bit more baritone. Sadie's enthusiasm for searching was still obvious at her last training as she leapt into the air repeatedly waiting for the scent article to be presented to her.

Hanna, Casey and Sadie began searching on missions in 1993. Over the years, they had several "finds" to their credit. They worked primarily wilderness missions, but also did some water work. Sadie got very concerned when the divers went under the water for training. She grabbed onto their tag lines a couple of times trying to pull them back to shore.

The trio participated in numerous searches and presentations. Hanna and Casey also served in administrative positions--their participation and experience will be greatly missed.

SAR dogs have friend in doggie heaven

by Cheryl Kennedy

It is with great sadness that I write this. On June 10, Dave Bigelow with Larimer County SAR passed away after a year-long struggle with lymphatic leukemia.

For those who didn't know Dave, Dave was a charter member of LCSAR, SAR Manager, ASTM SAR Dog Chair, and overall a total supporter of SAR dogs and their work. Although not a dog handler himself, Dave's love of the SAR dogs, and his enthusiasm for SAR and any challenge, brought great depth and knowledge to the SAR world concerning dogs. He also provided valuable instruction to those in need of further education regarding SAR and SAR dog resources.

To request SARDOC Search Dogs:

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

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Scent Articles is supported by  HESKA

Dave's never quit attitude and zest for life and it's challenges will be greatly missed by all. Please keep his family and SAR family in your thoughts and prayers. Dave's passing leaves a big hole in the SARcommunity.

For those wishing to send a card or e-mail please direct them to: Bigelow Family c/o Larimer County SAR, 1303 N. Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80521 or to Apache1795@cs.com and I will relay for you.

SAR Hasty **April 8, 1986 - April 10, 2000**

by Patti Burnett

Our friend and companion, Hasty was deployed on his final mission at 1600 on April 10, 2000. Since January, Hasty had endured seven grand mal seizures, which became increasingly debilitating with each event. Dan called me to come home on Monday because Hasty had had another seizure, during which he may have aspirated some bodily fluids. When I took him for his last walk there was not even the slightest wag left in his tail; and when I offered him a biscuit, he refused to eat it. Life is getting pretty bad for a Golden Retriever to turn down a biscuit or a walk. Hasty was having no fun.



No working dog has had a greater life than Hasty. In his unusually long SAR career, he was operational for nearly 12 years. Hasty was certified in water, avalanche, and wilderness air scent through Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado. He was an active member of the Copper Mountain Ski Patrol and Summit County Rescue Group. He responded to nearly 150 missions, with many successful finds. He was the first SAR dog in Summit County, and he paved the way for other ski areas and search groups to incorporate rescue dogs.

He has given us innumerable memories, but some of my favorite Hasty memories are:

- At 6 months old Hasty rode Sierra chairlift at Copper all by himself. He loved to go for a ride, whether it was in a helicopter, airplane, fire engine, snowcat, snowmobile, toboggan, motor boat, canoe, sailboard, motorhome, zodiac, chairlift, or car.
- At a year old, Hasty was caught in an irrigation ditch while training, and had to swim up through an underground pipe before I could grab his harness.
- On one of Hasty's first searches, he found a 2-1/2-year-old boy who had wandered five miles from the last seen point.
- Hasty helped us to rescue a little dog, whose owner had died on an icefall. The pup would not let any humans get even close to him until Hasty had befriended him.
- Hasty found a woman in the bottom of a swimming pool, while the cover was on the pool.
- Hasty found an avalanche victim alive who had been buried for 14 minutes.
- He found many other people who had been lost in the wilderness, buried in avalanches, and drowned in lakes and rivers.

After all he had done for us, our gift of love and thanks was to let him go. After Hasty's injection on April 10th, it started to snow. Dan, Sandy, and I went for a Hasty Memorial Run and thought about how the snow was symbolic of our Heavenly Father's sharing in our pain. It was appropriate that the precipitation would be snow, rather than rain, since snow was Hasty's element.

Hasty is survived by Sandy — his 6-year-old friend, fellow Golden Retriever and family member, Bethany — his 9-year-old human friend and family member, Rachel — his 9-year-old human friend and family member, Dan — his adult friend and family member, and Patti — his friend, family member, and SAR dog handler. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Hasty taught us many lessons, but probably the most important is that God gives each one of us a purpose in life with the gifts and talents to support it. Hasty found pure joy in searching; there was nothing as important to this working machine. If each one of us could get a glimpse of why we were placed here on earth and then set our minds and hearts to accomplishing that goal, the world would be a far better place.

Coordinator Corner

by Jaynie Zmijewski

Just a word of thanks to all of you who are trying to assist me in getting settled in as Coordinator and who are helping me learn the basics of the computer. Have patience as this is still quite challenging. As Julie said one day recently when I asked her if a message was being forwarded and my mail said that it was not getting through, "You are sending it correctly, I've received it three times today!"

I would also like to thank the Standards Committee and Executive Board members who are promptly answering my requests for input on member questions. Having everyone's input makes my decision-making process much easier. Some difficult

judgments are being made, but know that every effort to follow the policies, along with concern about member safety, any legal considerations, and SARDOC professionalism are of the highest priority. We cannot, and will not, jeopardize a subject's or dog team's life for the sake of certifying a team who is not yet quite ready. You may only field in the area(s) of certification you have achieved, so try not to get put into a compromising situation. Be very honest in your evaluations during practices and in signing confidence forms. Be sure there are no short cuts in testing—patience will reap rewards!

Searches are picking up already. Remember to set the best example possible in attitude, appearance, and investigative conduct. Be as safe as you can while traveling to searches

and while you are searching in the field. **Please send in mission reports.** Remember that the reports are due within two weeks following the completion of a search. They can be sent to both the P.O. Box and a copy to me, or E-mail copies to me and Julie.

You are doing good work, and I have a feeling we are going to have many challenging episodes during these next four months. There are tests to finish and ones to start.

Don't forget the two SARDOC weekends remaining. You need to attend at least two for membership requirements. All are worthwhile and fun—besides we always have missions on these weekends!!

Take care and be safe.

Cello, retired SAR dog, passes away

by Marie Cloughesy

Many of you have worked with our good friends Greta Sloan and Cello over the years. Their absence after retirement from our SAR community has been felt and they have been sorely missed by their SARDOC and Alpine Rescue Team friends. It is with great sadness that I've been asked to inform you of Cello's passing on Monday, July 24th. He was 13.5 years "young" and truly loved the work that he and Greta performed.

Together, Greta and Cello were responsible for several "finds" and responded to countless missions. Personally, Greta's insight into the German Shepherd breed brought Jager and me, and then Luke and me, through several rough times. Cello taught Greta well!!!

Cello ended up dying from an enlarged heart. As Greta put it to me, "He was a great dog in every way, and his heart was too big for his body"...I can personally attest to this as fact!

Greta is very broken-hearted over her loss, and all too many of us can relate to the heartbreak caused when you lose your best friend. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers and know that Cello is up in doggie heaven watching us as we train and do the work that we love to do...we can't ask for a better guardian angel!

Give your buddies a big old hug and kiss today...they deserve it!

Donations are greatly appreciated

SARDOC has received various donations over the past couple of quarters. Handlers did several presentations at the Jefferson County School Outdoor Lab program for which we have received donations. We have more requests for presentations in the fall, so more donations are possible.

Additionally, the obstacle course in Fort Collins was treated for weeds again this spring by Nitrogreen (about a \$500 donation of chemicals and time). Hopefully this will help keep the foxtails at bay.

These donations are greatly appreciated and help us to keep working towards our mission of training handlers and dogs for search work.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Estelle Purvis and Echo (**Larimer County SAR**) who finished up all of their tests for wilderness air scent certification mid-June!

Congratulations to John Shivik (**Larimer County SAR**), Nancy May (**Grand County SAR** in Moab, Utah), Barry Sovern (**Garfield SAR**) and Helen Freeman (**El Paso County SAR**) who have completed their tests to be operational wilderness support this past spring and summer! Congratulations also to Josh Brauer, Kitty Gardiner, Cathy Miannecki, and Kathy Shepherd (all **Larimer County SAR**) who were voted into full member status in April.

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 Jaynie Zmijewski when you ask for the written test and confidence forms. If you need the form, let Jaynie know.*

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

Feature Article

This issue of *Scent Articles* features an article submitted and written by K. Max and Kate Canestorp. 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 November 2000 issue of *Scent Articles* is October 15.

Rattlesnakes and snakebites

by K. Max Canestorp, Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Kate Canestorp, RN, Certified Emergency Nurse

“There is one creeping beast....that hath a rattle in his taylor, that doth discover his age; for so many years as hee hath lived, so many joynts are in that rattle, which soundeth (when it is in motion) like pease in a bladder; and this beast is called a rattlesnake.”

T. Morton, 1637, New English Canaan (modified from Klauber, 1982)

With the advent of warmer weather comes the occurrence of snakes. Here in Colorado we have about a dozen different kinds of snakes, but none garner attention as do the rattlesnakes. We actually have two species of rattlesnake in this area, the western, or prairie rattlesnake (in scientific circles called *Crotalus viridis*), and the smaller, less common massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*). It's unlikely you will ever encounter a massasauga while you're out and about in Colorado. However, if you spend much time in the field, it is likely that one day, when your mind is off wandering and you're not paying attention to your surroundings, you're startled out of your shorts by the strident warning buzz of a prairie rattler.

Natural History

Rattlesnakes belong to a group of snakes called pit vipers, so named because they have a pit on either side of their faces containing a sensory organ which detects infrared radiation, or heat. These are used for tracking and locating prey items, and enabling the snakes to “zero in” when striking. Rattlesnakes are the only poisonous snakes in this area. And it's real easy to distinguish them from other species: rattlesnakes have rattles. It's that simple. When on the defensive, some snakes, such as the bullsnake, will vibrate their tails, which can result in a “buzzing” sound if the snake is in dry vegetation. Some snakes may have similar coloration; the western hognose snake looks startlingly like a rattler, but has no rattle. And true, some snakes will act belligerent and may be aggressive if they feel they are threatened, and especially if they are cornered. The long and slender coachwhips are especially convincing and can be quite intimidating. A rattlesnake's rattle is made up of a series of loosely interconnected horny shells made of keratin, the same material which makes up your fingernails. It's often thought a rattlesnake's age can be told by the number of rattles it sports (as in the age-old example in the preface to

this article). However, a new rattle is added each time the snake sheds its skin, an event which can happen several times a year, depending in part on the age of the snake.

Prairie rattlers grow to an average length of a little over 2 feet in eastern Colorado. Unfortunately for the unsuspecting, they're cryptically colored and blend in amazingly well with their background. Thus the critters are often heard before they are seen, as they vibrate their tails

in warning when they feel threatened. However, don't count on them to rattle - it isn't in their job description. Sometimes a snake will lie motionless, hoping its camouflage will do its trick and the tall intruder will pass by without noticing them. So when out and about, stay alert and use your eyes as well as your ears. When a snake feels threatened and goes on the defensive, it assumes the classic “lock and load” coiled posture depicted in just about every rattlesnake



picture we see. From this position the snake can strike about a half of its body-length (however, let's not be testing this out in the field!). Rattlesnakes do not “jump,” as myths and old wives would have it; however, their strikes are sometimes forceful enough that they slide forward with the lunge or, rarely, their whole body leaves the ground.

Rattlesnakes and People

You've probably heard the reasoning that snakes, while going about their business of being snakes, are basically beneficial creatures insofar as effects on humankind go. Their primary prey items are small rodents: mice, gophers, rats and the like, which we all know are sources for some rather nasty diseases transmissible to people. Despite this, there is an unsettling discomfort, if not downright fear, held by many of us of any critter that even resembles a snake. Hence many drivers go out of their way at every chance to crunch any snake which dares cross the road in front of their vehicle, regardless of whether it's a garter snake or a rattler. Accused, found guilty, and executed; the charge: simply being a snake.

The State of Colorado considers prairie rattlers small game, and thus has established a season (June 15 through August 15), and bag/possession limits (daily bag limit - 3, possession limit - 6) for their taking. This does not mean, however, that if you feel imminently threatened by the presence of a rattlesnake, and the only way to make the area safe is to dispatch the critter, that it would be unlawful to do so.

Snake Bites

Pit vipers (rattlesnakes, copperheads and cottonmouths) account for about 99% of poisonous snake bites in the United States. Of some 8,000 venomous bites each year, about 9 to 15 victims die of snakebite. Pit viper venom, that carried by rattlesnakes, consists mostly of “hematotoxin” which affects blood vessels and clotting. Another, more dangerous, type of snake venom is “neurotoxin” which affects the brain and spinal cord of the victim. Neurotoxic species include the shy coral snake found in southern states, and the Mojave rattlesnake from Arizona, Nevada, California and Mexico, whose venom is both hematotoxic and neurotoxic.

It is hard to predict how dangerous a poisonous snake bite will be. Venom potency varies between species of snakes and even between individual snakes. Toxicity may also vary between adult and juvenile snakes within the same species. Furthermore, varying amounts of venom are injected with each bite. Approximately 25% of poisonous snake bites are “dry” meaning that even though the snake’s fangs puncture the victim, no venom is injected at all! And the part of the body bitten, the general health and physical size of the victim, and time before receiving medical care all affect the outcome.

The first signs of pit viper venom poisoning are burning pain and puncture marks from the fangs. Swelling in the bitten area begins within 5 to 15 minutes if venom was injected by the snake. Blood and fluid begin to ooze from the punctures as swelling and pain increase. The affected area may turn purple or black. As venom spreads, the victim may experience nausea and vomiting, numbness and tingling, a metallic taste in the mouth, and muscle twitching. More severe reactions are uncommon, but may include sweating, chills, rapid pulse and low blood pressure, fainting, and even bleeding from the nose, mouth, or lungs.

While localized reactions can result in tissue damage and disfiguration, amputations as a result of snakebite are rare. If left untreated, a poisonous snake bite can lead to death by shock, internal hemorrhage, and gangrene. Snake bites, like all animal bites, carry the risk of infection or tetanus. Many people have suggested a variety of treatments for snakebite over the years. Salt brine, cutting incisions over the bite, ice packs, hot packs, tourniquets, and electric shock are treatments of the past that have been shown to be ineffective or even harmful.

What To Do

First, get the victim away from the snake. Don’t panic. If you’re alone, back slowly away from the snake. Don’t waste time trying to capture or kill the snake. Of all snakebite incidents, 75% occurred as the victim was trying to kill, move, catch or photograph a snake! If you have a cell phone, call 911 immediately, report the incident, and coordinate a trip to the hospital. Next, remove any

constricting clothing or jewelry from the victim, while keeping the victim lying down and quiet. Remember, physical activity helps circulate more venom into the victim’s bloodstream. Wash the bite with soap and water to prevent infection. Place a clean dressing over the bite.

Splint the area as you would a fracture. Immobilize the bitten extremity at the level of the heart. Elevating the extremity can hasten the spread of venom into the rest of the body; lowering it can increase swelling. Don’t apply ice - it increases tissue damage. Don’t apply heat - it encourages spread of venom. Older snakebite kits that include razor blades and suction cups aren’t recommended. Cutting the skin hasn’t been shown to be helpful, causes more tissue damage, and increases the chances of infection. A Sawyer Extractor, a vacuum pump that extracts venom without making cuts, is effective if applied within 3 minutes of receiving the bite. It should be left in place for 30 minutes.

Get the victim to a hospital as quickly as possible. The only treatment for a life-threatening snakebite is antivenin, which must be administered in a hospital. While most snakebites aren’t life-threatening, you can’t predict the outcome by looking at the bite initially. The sooner treatment is started, the less chance of disfiguring tissue damage or death. Antivenin is made from the serum of horses that have been exposed to snake venom. It is given intravenously, and can result in severe allergic reactions, which the medical team must be prepared to treat. Further medical treatment might include antibiotics, tetanus booster, wound treatment, sedation, and intravenous fluids for shock.

If the victim is more than 30 minutes from medical care and the bite reaction appears to be severe, consider applying a wide band above the bite, or an elastic bandage as you would for a sprain. The band or elastic bandage should be snug, but loose enough to slide two fingers underneath. Check for pulses below the bandage - it must not cut off circulation. The purpose is to slow the spread of venom into the rest of the body, and should be used only when the risk of increasing tissue damage is outweighed by the likelihood of life-threatening systemic reactions.

What about our four-footed companions? Unfortunately, a dog’s natural curiosity and predator instinct can easily result in a rattlesnake bite. Most snakebites inflicted on dogs occur on the dog’s face or paw. Treatment is the same as for humans. Expect swelling, keep the dog as quiet as possible, and try to carry him out. Get veterinary care as soon as possible. Veterinarians also have access to antivenin. Small dogs are at greater risk of death due to small body size in relation to the amount of venom.

Remember: *don’t panic!* Leave the snake alone. Call 911. Keep the victim calm and quiet. Clean, dress and splint the bite wound, and get medical care as soon as

possible.

In Summary

There's a lot of critters out there we have to share this limited space with. Rattlesnakes, regardless of our attitudes toward them, were here long before us, and may well be here after we're gone. If treated with respect, not out of fear or implied threat but with appreciation for their beauty (yes, in a way), and their unique place in this world, coexistence may be an attainable goal. Be careful out there.

References

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Field Guide to Wilderness Medicine, by Paul S. Auerbach, Howard J. Donner, and Eric A. Weiss, 1999

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Rattlesnakes, Their Habits, Life Histories, & Influence on Mankind, by Laurence M. Klauber, 1982

"Rescue Operations for Snakebite," by Diana L. Arendt and David B. Arendt, *American Journal of Nursing*, July 1992

2000 Executive Board

President: Cheryl Kennedy
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SAR Dog Coordinator: Jaynie Zmijewski

2000 Standards Committee

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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.

Dues Dues Dues

As a reminder, membership dues of \$20 for 2001 are due before November 1. Send them to P.O. Box 1036, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1036. The November newsletter will only be sent to members who are current in their dues, and ballots for next year's Executive Board and Standards Committee will be sent to voting members who are current as of November 1.

Training

National Training

September 2000. Canine Solutions Inc.(CSI) is hosting a seminar focused on disaster work, including floods. The training is in association with the Flint (Michigan) Fire Department and numerous dive teams. It will offer both K9 and non-K9 tracks. The seminar is a two-day scenario which focuses on “learning through searching.” For more information, please contact SARBILL@aol.com.

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.

Statewide Training

SARDOC Weekends (dates may be subject to change)

September 16-17, Wilderness Weekend, Crested Butte. Sue Purvis will be hosting. **Note, this is a change from what was previously published in the February newsletter.**

From Sue:

For those of you who attended the last Wilderness Weekend in Crested Butte (1997), this weekend will be in a different spot and different direction out of Crested Butte. The new location will be at Lake Irwin Campground. This site is located 10 miles west of Crested Butte on the Kebler Pass road (dirt). It is accessible by car and only a 15-minute drive from town.

For those folks traveling from the I-70/Glenwood Springs corridor, I recommend traveling over McClure Pass and turning onto the Kebler Pass road before Paonia. Travel time from Glenwood Springs to Lake Irwin is 2.5 hours.

The campground is at 10,000 feet with bathroom facilities and grills—the ideal family spot. The campground is also on Lake Irwin so it is an ideal place for swimming and boating. If you choose to bring rafts, canoes or motor boats let me know. The campground is located next to the famous mountain bike trail “The Dyke Trail.”

Our goal for the weekend is to train in some spectacular country—dense forest and alpine terrain—and allow our dogs to enjoy that cold mountain lake. We can try to throw in some doggy swimming and retrieving competitions.

I tentatively have Jeff Isaac PA-C, an incredible lecturer, lined up for an evening presentation. The subject is “Wilderness Medicine.”

For more information about Crested Butte, Lake Irwin, lodging, dinner, directions to Crested Butte, and also about wilderness medicine Instructor Jeff Isaac, visit our web page at www.cboutdoors.com (this is my Wilderness Medicine web page). There is a direct link from our web page to everything else you need to know about Crested Butte and Irwin Lake Lodge. Enjoy the surf!

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 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 [barbi.atkins@systechgroup.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)224-4714] for specific locations and dates

Summit County Practices: Contact Ann-Marie Boness [AMBoness@yahoo.com, (970)476-4593] for more information.

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 Jaynie Zmijewski. If you are sending reports via email, please send them to both Jaynie at Calamityjaynie@aol.com and Julie Weibler at jcotton@psnw.com.

January 2, 2000

Location: Cimarron Hills area, El Paso County

Subject: 4-year-old female

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Barbi Atkins and Deegee and Helen Freeman (all El Paso County SAR)

Mission: When the father woke up from a nap that he and his daughter were taking, the child was missing. The dog teams searched around and inside the home and through the trailer park. The behavior of the dogs seemed to indicate the child was not in the area and may have left in a vehicle. A short time later the child was found at a mall with her aunt. The aunt had picked up the child and taken her to the mall without informing the father.

January 18, 2000

Location: Cheyenne Canyon, El Paso County

Subject: 27-year-old male

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa (EPCSAR) were stood down en route. Subject had been running with friends when he had taken the wrong trail after getting separated from his friends. He self-recovered.

January 25, 2000

Location: out of bounds at A-Basin ski area, Summit County

Subject: 21-year-old male, snowboarding

Dog teams used on mission: John Reller and Skadee/Pager and Patti Burnett and Sandy (Copper Mountain Ski Patrol/Summit County Rescue Group); Rob Ware and Jetta (A-Basin Ski Patrol)

Mission: Subject and his friends had already skied/snowboarded in the area earlier in the day setting off an avalanche. They returned to the same area and set off another slide, this time catching the subject. When John got on scene, he started working Skadee downslope of a blood trail. Pager worked herself upslope and

alerted immediately and dug down to the victim who was six to twelve inches below the surface. Subject had severe trauma that was fatal.

January 29, 2000

Location: Cheesman Reservoir, Douglas County

Subjects: 2 adult males, hunting mountain lions

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa, Marie Cloughesy and Luke, Barbi Atkins and Deegee and Helen Freeman (all EPCSAR) were stood down en route. The missing parties were located by searchers and had spent the night out after getting a mountain lion.

February 7, 2000

Location: Greyrock Trail, Poudre Canyon, Larimer County

Subject: overdue hiker

Mission: Stood down shortly after being paged out as the hiker returned.

February 24, 2000

Location: Loveland Pass, Summit County

Subject: snowboarder presumably caught in avalanche

Dog teams used on mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (CMSP/SCRG) and dogs from Breckenridge and Arapahoe Basin ski areas

Mission: A highway department snowplow driver had witnessed a snowboarder building a jump to jump over Highway 6. Jumping the highway is illegal and the driver told the snowboarder to cease and desist. When the snowplow driver returned, the snowboarder was continuing to build the jump. The next time the driver looked back, there had been a slide so he figured the snowboarder had been caught. The dogs had no significant alerts and several agencies spent anywhere from two to four hours searching the debris. The search was called off, no one was reported missing, and all cars were claimed by the end of the day. The dogs had successfully cleared the debris.

March 1-2, 2000

Location: Highway 67, south of Sedalia, Douglas County

Subject: 35-year-old male, suicidal

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Barbi Atkins and Deegee (EPCSAR)

Mission: Subject had sent his former wife a letter telling her that he was going to commit suicide and where to find his vehicle. Subject was found by a foot team. Area was icy and treacherous.

March 5, 2000

Location: Highway 60 and Larimer County Road 5, Larimer County

Subject: 24-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Jen Mackler, Darren Weibler and Ranger, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache fielded. Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah were stood down. (all Larimer County SAR)

Mission: The subject and reporting party had been involved in a roll over accident. The subject walked away from the scene and the reporting party could not find him. He knew that the subject had been hurt. Family and friends searched throughout the night before calling for help. While the dog teams were searching, the subject called his roommate to come pick him up. The subject had wandered into a farm house during the night and had fallen asleep in the living room. The roommate had provided the sheriff's department with a scent article an hour earlier, and instead of calling for an ambulance, or telling the sheriff's department that the subject had called, the roommate drove to the house and then tried to drive

the subject to the hospital. The roommate notified the family using cell phones, and who were still helping on the search. The roommate was then pulled over by a sheriff's deputy while en route to the hospital and an ambulance was dispatched.

March 7 and 11, 2000

Location: Buckhorn Canyon, Masonville, Larimer County

Subject: 56-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah, Allen Weaver and Rosie and John Shivik, Rita Stern and Bounty and Estelle Purvis, Hanna Sparks and Sadie (all LCSAR) and Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa (EPCSAR).

Mission: Subject was missing after presumably setting fire to his property on March 5 after a family dispute. His wife's three dogs had been shot as well. Subject was despondent after forced retirement a year earlier. Cheryl, Jaynie and Dennis searched the first day looking for evidence/body. The other teams searched surrounding areas the second day of the search under the assumption that if the subject was still in the area, he had committed suicide. Subject was not found. While it was indicated that subject did not have the capability to leave the area on foot, it is a possibility.

March 19, 2000

Location: Mt. Herman Road, El Paso County

Subject: 18-year-old male

Mission: A person called the Sheriff's Office after his dog brought him what appeared to be skull pieces with hair and fresh blood. Personnel from the Sheriff's Office located the body while Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa and Gayle Humm and Aspen (EPCSAR) were en route. Subject had committed suicide.

March 28-29, 2000

Location: Gothic Mountain, Crested Butte, Gunnison County

Subject: 32-year-old male, skier

Dog team used on mission: Sue Purvis and Tasha (Crested Butte SAR)

Mission: Subject did not return to work on Monday and did not pick up paycheck on Tuesday. He was last seen Saturday. He was reported missing after he failed to get his paycheck. Search efforts initially were started near

where it was believed he had built a snow cave to stay in for the weekend. The search was redirected after an avalanche was spotted in a chute he had mentioned he might ski. The weather prevented a search of the avalanche that day. The next day Sue and Tasha searched the avalanche debris, which was hard as cement and was van-sized, without getting any alerts or interest in the debris field. Tasha had interest along a ridgeline and they found tracks. The subject was found by other searchers in a drainage away from the avalanche. He had injured his knee.

March 29, 2000

Location: Ellicott area, El Paso County

Subject: 3-year-old female

Mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Marie Cloughesy and Luke, Barbi Atkins and Deege, and Gayle Humm and Aspen (all EPCSAR) were stood down en route as the child was located. The mother called for help when she could not find her child inside her home or at any of the neighbors' houses.

April 19, 2000

Location: Crystal Mountain, Larimer County

Subjects: Seven adults

Mission: The call came in from one of the subjects over a cell phone requesting help after getting their vehicle stuck in the snow the day before. One person was having asthma problems and another had suffered frostbite through the night. Their phone battery went dead while giving directions to their location, though the directions pretty much narrowed down where they could be. After a camp was found that might have been the subjects' and no one was there, the dog teams were called to assist in the rescue. Darren Weibler and Ranger, Julie Cotton and Zephyr, and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (all LCSAR) were stood down a short time later as the subjects had been located.

April 21, 2000

Location: Mt. Evans, Clear Creek County

Subject: 28-year-old female and her dog

Dog teams used on mission: Angela Eaton Snovak and Isis (Alpine Rescue Team) fielded night before. Andrea Reller and Skadee (SCRG) and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah and John Shivik (LCSAR) were stood down.

Mission: Subject was hiking in to area on April 20 to a cabin for a 6-day stay as a counselor for "Hoods in the Woods" program and did not show up at the cabin. Subject walked out about 1036 hours on April 21 at the Mt. Evans Ranch.

April 21, 2000

Location: near Fort Carson, El Paso County

Subject: 74-year-old female with dementia

Dog teams used on mission: Barbi Atkins and Deege, Dennis McLaughlin and Duke/Kiowa, Gayle Humm and Aspen, Ina Bernard and Lenzbe (all EPCSAR)

Mission: The subject had wandered off and had been missing for 8 hours. Someone reported seeing her at a 7-11 store. A dog team worked from that store back to a steep area with a small flowing stream and found the subject on the opposite side of the stream in some tall weeds. The subject was afraid of the dog and shooed him away. This store was about 2/3 mile from the subject's apartment.

April 23-29, 2000

Location: Colorado River, Garfield County

Subject: 23-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (Garfield County SAR), Jim Vail and Pepper (Routt County SAR), Shannon Young and Klapatche (Mesa County SARC). Ann-Marie Boness (Vail Mountain Rescue Group) assisted as support on April 29.

Mission: Subject dove into the river on April 23. Wendy and Jazz searched the river for several days and had some alerts as did Shannon and Klapatche. Jim and Pepper had some alerts as well on April 29. No divers were sent in and no body was found. On May 25, the body was spotted in the river by a motorist and searchers recovered the body. It was about 10 miles downstream from where the subject had jumped in after soaking in natural hot springs.

April 24, 2000

Location: Bailey, CO, Park County

Subject: 13-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin (EPCSAR) and Kiowa and Don Morrison (Park County) fielded. Barbi Atkins (EPCSAR) and Deege arrived as child was found.

Mission: Subject had run away after having an argument with his mother. Dennis searched the area where the child was last seen until the subject called from a ranch 10 miles away. He had climbed into a vehicle for the night.

April 30, 2000

Location: Horsetooth Reservoir canal, Larimer County

Subject: 49-year-old female

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Bill Cotton fielded. Cheryl Kennedy and Apache and Jayne Zmijewski and Miriah were stood down. All three teams were on standby for the following day to search the water. (all LCSAR)

Mission: The subject was last seen on April 28 around noon. She and her husband had an argument. A canal driver found the car hanging over the canal with the driver's side door open on April 30. Zephyr verified there was no trail leaving the car and he had interest in the canal. The water was too fast to search, so the dogs were going to be used the following day to search the canal, and the river the canal fed into, after the flow was turned off. Divers found the body against a railroad trestle in the evening. She had gone three miles down the canal and two miles down the river. Apparently she had driven her car off over the edge of the canal while backing up on a narrow road that dead-ended. Her dog was also gone from the car.

April 30, 2000

Location: Ellicott, El Paso County

Subject: 11-year-old male on mood and anti-depressant drugs

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

Mission: The subject had run away from his foster home. Just as the dog team began their search, the mother advised that the child had been picked up while hitchhiking and was in Victor, CO which was approximately 80 miles away.

May 6, 2000

Location: Harmony Trailer Park, Larimer County

Subject: 5-year-old male

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler (LCSAR) were stood down as child returned home. He

had been missing since 2000 hours earlier in the night. Apparently the child had fallen asleep somewhere outside and was not seen while people were looking for him. He awakened and returned home.

May 10, 2000

Location: Flume Creek Canyon, Mesa County

Subject: 11-year-old male

Dog team used on mission: Shannon Young and Klapatche (Venture Crew)

Mission: Subject had stopped to tie his shoe while out with a school group on an outing and then disappeared. The dog team was working into the last seen area when they were diverted to locate the teachers who had gone to search for the lost student. As the dog team approached the teachers whom they could see up on a knoll, the teachers whistled that they had found the missing student.

May 13, 2000

Location: Buckhorn Canyon, Masonville, Larimer County

Subject: 56-year-old male missing since March 5, 2000

Dog teams used on mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie and Dan Fanning, Rita Stern and Bounty, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah, and Jen Mackler and Chara (with Coordinator approval). (all LCSAR)

Mission: This was a follow up search to that reported earlier, March 7 and 11. Some areas were recovered and search area also expanded. Still no clues or subject.

May 24, 2000

Location: in town, Fort Collins, Larimer County

Subject: 85-year-old male with Alzheimer's

Mission: Subject was located as dog teams were getting called out to assist Fort Collins Police Department. Subject had wandered away while his wife was getting checked into the hospital by their son. The son had told the subject to wait in the car.

May 30, 2000

Location: "The Ark," El Paso County

Subject: 17-year-old female

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Duke and Gayle Humm and Aspen (EPCSAR)

Mission: Subject had walked away from facility after getting mad. She had been hiding and foot teams did not find her as they passed her. Dog teams did not search the area where she had been hiding. She eventually came out on her own in the morning.

May 31, 2000

Location: Prospect Lake, Colorado Springs, El Paso County

Subject: 19-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Cheryl Kennedy and Apache (LCSAR) and Dennis McLaughlin (EPCSAR)

Mission: Subject and reporting party were going up and down the lake in the middle of the night on an inflatable raft. The wind was strong and when the subject moved in the raft to assist with paddling, the raft overturned. The subject could not swim and neither person was wearing a life jacket. Divers had searched that night and for two and half more days when the dogs were called. There was a pretty good wind out of the SW making it hard to narrow down the alerts, but the alerts were consistently in the same area of the lake. Later in the evening we marked an area and suggested that if they did not find the subject, they move closer to the working shoreline which was upwind of the marked area. The subject was found on the first pass by the divers upwind of the area we had marked.

June 1, 2000

Location: Black Forest, El Paso County

Subject: 84-year-old female with head injury

Mission: Barbi Atkins and Deeogee, Dennis McLaughlin and Duke, Gayle Humm and Aspen, Ina Bernard and Lenzbe were stood down. Subject had wandered away from her home and a neighbor found the subject sitting in an abandoned vehicle not far from subject's home.

June 8, 2000

Location: Fourth of July Trail, Boulder County

Subject: 23-year-old missing since avalanche in December 1999 near South Arapahoe Peak

Dog team used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr (LCSAR)

Mission: Boulder County received a call from a resident in the area below the avalanche that they smelled something dead. Boulder County ES wanted a dog team that had previous experience finding bodies that had been missing for an extended period of time. Zephyr did not find anything near the cabin and then searched the avalanche debris. No indications in the debris field or from the water coming out of the snowfield. Subject was found June 10 a mile-and-a-half to the east of the avalanche site towards Caribou. The snow had just melted enough for his jacket to be sticking out. Cause of death was determined to be hypothermia.

June 24, 2000

Location: Twin Crater Lakes, Rawah Wilderness Area, Larimer County

Subject: 17-year-old male taking medication

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr, Darren Weibler and Ranger and Josh Brauer (all LCSAR)

Mission: The subject was taking blood thinner medication and it was determined that he should not be taking it at altitude and under exertion. We were called to take in the message to the subject who was backpacking in a remote area. The dogs were not specifically requested or needed, but were taken along to help us locate the subject once we got to the lakes in case the subject was camped in a well hidden location. The subject was with a group of other kids, so they were not hard to find as they were having races at the time we arrived and were cheering each other on.

June 24, 2000

Location: Greyrock Trail, Larimer County

Subject: 24-year-old female

Mission: Subject was reported to be missing after her hiking partner got back to car and the subject, who had been ahead of him on the trail, was not at the car. Subject was escorted out by another hiker just as Allen Weaver and Rosie and Kitty Gardiner and Josh Brauer (LCSAR) arrived.

June 25, 2000

Location: residence in Loveland, Larimer County

Subject: 5-year-old female

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler fielded. Cheryl Kennedy and Apache were stood down en route (LCSAR).

Mission: Child was last seen a couple of hours earlier going out the front door of her house to play. Subject's family had recently moved to the neighborhood. The subject's mother could not find her and had checked at some of the houses. Zephyr was just starting to work from the front door when police found the girl at a house further down the block.

June 28, 2000

Location: YMCA in Estes Park, Larimer County

Subject: 88-year-old male with dementia

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Darren Weibler, Allen Weaver and Rosie, and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (all LCSAR) were stood down as the subject was located.

June 28, 2000

Location: Round Lake, Flattops Wilderness Area, Garfield County

Subject: 82-year-old male

Mission: Shannon Young and Klapatche (MCSARC) had been flown in to the outfitters camp at Round Lake and were waiting for their navigator to be flown in. The helicopter spotted the subject while returning to the mission base to get Shannon's navigator. The subject had separated from the rest of his group while fishing at Round Lake and took a game trail rather than the hiking trail when he tried to return to camp. Sandy Phillips and Schwar (RCSAR) were also responding.

July 1, 2000

Location: Bonner Peak, Larimer County

Subjects: Three children, one of whom had a diabetic problem

Mission: Julie Cotton and Zephyr and Kathy Shepherd and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (all LCSAR) were responding from dog practice in the area when the children were located.

July 8, 2000

Location: Stratton Park, Rist Canyon, Larimer County

Subjects: two small children

Mission: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah were stood down as the children were located and fine.

July 14-15, 2000

Location: Old Stage Road, El Paso County

Subject: 47-year-old female with possible mental problems

Dog teams used on mission: Gayle Humm and Aspen and Barbi Atkins and Deegee fielded. Dennis McLaughlin and Duke did not field before subject was located. (all EPCSAR)

Mission: Subject drove her rental car onto Old Stage Road and then abandoned it with the key and her personal belongings still in the unlocked car. She then wandered off from the car. Subject was found by a team of SAR personnel on motorbikes who were just ahead of the dog team. Wind not conducive for dog alerts. Subject was not aware of her location or how she got there.

July 17, 2000

Location: Richmond Hill, Conifer, Jefferson County

Subject: 4-year-old autistic child

Mission: The child had been missing for 4 1/2 hours when dog teams were called to search. Many dog teams were sent due to rain and flash flooding conditions. Julie Weibler and Zephyr, Darren Weibler and Ranger, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache, Allen Weaver and Rosie along with support members Bill Cotton, John Shivik, Jen Mackler, Vicki Steele and Josh Brauer responded from Larimer County. Dennis McLaughlin and Duke and Barbi Atkins and Deegee responded from El Paso County. Three members from Front Range Rescue Dogs were also responding. The boy was found by an Alpine foot team while dog teams were en route.

July 22-23, 2000

Location: Pennock Pass, Buckhorn Canyon, Larimer County

Subject: 50-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache and Josh Brauer, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah and Dan Fanning, Allen Weaver and Rosie and Kitty Gardiner, Julie Weibler and Zephyr and Darren Weibler and Ranger, and Estelle Purvis and Echo (all LCSAR); Gayle Humm and Aspen and Dennis McLaughlin and Duke (EPCSAR); Angela Eaton Snovak and Isis (Alpine Rescue Team)

Mission: The subject had left his camp early 7/22 telling the reporting party, who was still sleeping in the tent, that

he was going for a short walk. The subject did not return and the reporting party called for help early evening. The dogs indicated that he had gone south of the camp, and Zephyr got as far south as the first high point, but the subject's continued circling made it difficult to work through. Isis worked out of the scent pool and indicated the subject had eventually headed to the southwest of his camp. Dennis and Duke were diverted in that direction, and Dennis reported seeing smoke at the same time a CAP pilot also reported seeing smoke. The pilot verified that the subject was near the smoke which then progressed rapidly into a forest fire. The subject was walked out using a nearby trail and firefighters were brought in to put out the fire. The subject had apparently found a smoldering tree root that had been struck by lightning and he fanned up the fire to signal his location.

July 24-25 and August 5-6, 2000

Location: Glendo Reservoir, Platte County, Wyoming

Subject: body seen in the water by jet skiers

Dog teams used on mission: Julie Weibler and Zephyr and Cathy Miannecki, Cheryl Kennedy and Apache and Josh Brauer (all LCSAR)

Mission: A couple of jet skiers reported they had seen a body in the water near the mouth of the North Platte River in Glendo Reservoir on July 23. There are no missing person reports in the area. The dogs' behavior did

indicate there was most likely a body in the reservoir. Divers searched an area the dogs indicated, but did not find anything. The water level was going down rapidly, so the search was called off to give time for the water to recede further. The dog teams indicated in the same area again in August, and with weather conditions and equipment more conducive to searching, the dogs narrowed the area to a very small area in the river channel. Again, no body was recovered. The current in the channel is too strong for the divers to get down to the channel bottom, and the silt is three feet in depth so the dragging lines are probably missing the subject.

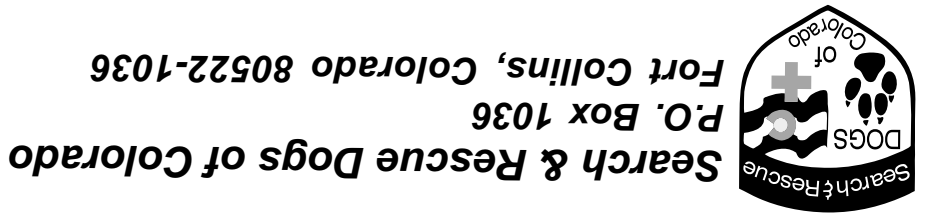
August 7, 2000

Location: Cimarron Hills, El Paso County

Subjects: one 5-year-old, two nine-year-old, and one 11-year-old males

Dog teams used on mission: Barbi Atkins and Deeogee, Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa/Duke; Marie Cloughesy served in incident base as part of the overhead team. (all EPCSAR)

Mission: The four boys were supposed to go three blocks to a grandfather's house and had not shown up after nine hours. Dog teams searched adjoining fields and the homes of the boys. The boys were found about a mile away by someone other than the dog teams. At first they said they had been abducted, then they admitted that they were trying to go to Texas.



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