



SCENT ARTICLES

SEPTEMBER 2004

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Steamboat Springs Wilderness Weekend!

by Barb Benning & Jim Vail

Driving over Muddy Hill Pass Friday night, we knew we must be close when we saw a small group of people and a dozen dogs milling around the entrance to the campground! The weather was beautiful...about 75-80 degrees and sunny the entire weekend with variable gentle winds...making it a challenging day on Saturday for air scent dogs!

The weekend began August 14th, Saturday morning, 8:30 at the SST Cabin with everyone catching up with old friends and meeting first time newcomers to SARDOC. After introductions, we then split up into 5 working groups of 5-6 handlers and their dogs...a mix of air scenters and trailers. Each group had an assigned 'subject' who remained in the same area all day, beginning with a marked trail into the assigned area for the trailing dogs. There was also another subject that had camped out in another area all night, creating a large scent pool. The great part was that each group brought together handlers from all different areas of the state, so that there was the opportunity for observing and learning from new people! The input was great! Reportedly, some great new teams were showing a lot of potential!

At 6 pm, the worn out teams arrived back at the SST cabin for a wonderful barbecue beef/pork dinner with baked beans and coleslaw (catered by the Smokehouse Bar BQ)..... Barbecue always tastes even better when you have been out in the sun all day! The brownies were delicious! Dan Fanning led the short member meeting that followed, and then we all enjoyed getting to know each other better and meeting the new dogs. Rumor has it that some went on to do night trainings together, while the rest of us crashed for the night back in our campsites and motels!

The next morning was fun! It began at 7 am with juice, coffee, hard boiled eggs, bagels and pastries! The Steamboat team had put together a fun group article search for the dogs! Num-

bered articles such as old shoes, leather belts, shoelaces, a Mickey Mouse clock and even an owl statue were some of the treasures hidden over an acre of both sagebrush and a treed hillside area. The dogs/handlers combed the area with all dogs on lead... each finding at least one article. Prizes were awarded to all, according to the number on the article, with the coolest prize being a beautiful braided nylon collar and matching leash!! The dogs loved the work!!

Laura wrote in with her memory of the weekend...the article search....

“Thanks for putting on a very enjoyable weekend. This was my boyfriend Stig’s first SAR doggie training experience and he had a great time as well as myself and Raven. I think that perhaps I should look into evidence/article training, which I haven’t done a whole lot of...here’s why:

On Sunday we were running about ½ hr to 40 minutes late for the article finding. When I pulled in, all the teams were all heading out to the hill for the exercise. I figured that we just wouldn’t partake. So I grabbed a bagel and juice and took my time. Meanwhile all the dogs were out finding things. Finally, I decided to take Raven up the hill to get involved, figuring that since we were so late that all the articles had been found. I was told that all the dogs had found 1 article already. So Raven and my boyfriend and I were going across the hill, back and forth, back and forth. Low and behold...our team finds 3 items. I think that it was the most of any dog team. So much for showing up late. Needless to say...we had a lot of fun and a really good learning experience.



Thanks again.
Laura and Raven
Gilpin Cty SAR 165

The final highlights of the weekend were four seminars/stations, each 90 minutes long, with the option of signing up for 2 of the 4...all to be completed by noon on Sunday.

The first station, **'Trailing From the Last Point Seen'** was led by Nancy May who was visiting from Moab, Utah. Many topics were discussed, including when to redirect your dog when he has lost the trail...specific names for dropped scent articles, such as the word 'clue' and teaching the dog to key into these...teaching the dog to survey the entire PLS area before receiving the scent article...and the importance of flagging the trail/learning to read your dog, and when to decrease and eventually eliminate flagging.

The second station, **'Improving Re-finds, Dog Motivation'** led by Stacey.... involved working on re-finds of all kinds – barks, hip checks, etc. They also did drills and found that simply having the subjects walking away made it more difficult for the dogs, many responding with uncertainty.

The third station, **'Using Mantrackers With Search Dogs'** led by Jim Vail & Co. involved the dog handler/support team becoming more aware of footprints and other signs of the subject's passing through the same search area the dog is working.

The final group, **'Obedience, Down-stays and Directability'** led by Janet Panebaker and a local Steamboat Springs dog obedience trainer, Valerie Apel was a big hit...with personalized advice for specific problems each handler was having. Emphasis was on improving each dog's focus on their handler with the command, "Leave it" in conjunction with a hand motion redirecting the dog's attention to the handler's face to await a new command. As well, the importance of improving focus through the use of a "confidence course" on non-search training days was stressed. Teaching/guiding the dog to rely and become totally focused on the handler's direction through the course... further building of relationship, trust/obedience between search dog and handler was demonstrated and then practiced by all.

Barb personally appreciated the encouragement and suggestions received at the SARDOC weekend in working with a high drive and very vocal german shepherd, including some relaxation exercises for her! Not to be soon forgotten.... while on our Saturday lunch break out in the field...the look on Jim's face when Barb's dog, Jenna, tried to relieve him of his dangling last bite of sandwich on one of her perimeter check fly-bys!! We all learned some new cuss words!

A great big THANK YOU to Sandy, Jim and Janet for putting on a great weekend near beautiful Steamboat Springs!

President's Column

by Ina Bernard

It is hard to believe that this summer is almost over. We enjoyed some great training exercises throughout the state including our SARDOC weekend in June at Wellington Lake outside of Bailey hosted by Marcia, Roger and Don, and just recently our Wilderness weekend at Rabbit Ear's Pass in Routt County hosted by Sandy, Janet and Jim – thanks to all who participated and helped to make the weekends a success. Remember that our last SARDOC weekend for the year is going to be a “Confidence” weekend hosted by Kim and Brenda Veitch on October 23rd – 24th at the Peaceful Valley Boy Scout Ranch in Elbert County just outside of Colorado Springs. Hope to see you there!

Besides great training we also had quite a few missions, which resulted in 3 finds and 2 assists! Check out the SARDOC statistics in this newsletter compiled by Dennis McLaughlin – thanks Dennis.

The end of summer also means that we are going to start the process of asking for nominations for the 2005 executive board and standards committee. Note, that the 2004 executive board decided not to change the current 1 year term to a 2 year term. Our organization is only as strong as its members and their commitment and I hope that you seriously consider running for one of the positions. In case your memory is a little fuzzy, check out the SARDOC by-laws to familiarize yourself with the requirements needed to qualify for being nominated. The by-laws can be found on our website at www.sardoc.org.

Congratulations are in order for Bill Hanley, Debrah Schnackenberg and Lee Bendel they are now voting members. A big “well done” goes out to Mike Erickson, Crawford Rainwater and Robin Anderson for finishing their support certification. Last but not least Paula Bindrich and Phoebe, Marcia McMahon and Koert, and Kim Veitch and Ruffian are now certified in air scent – way to go new teams! Natalie Ray and her 4 and 2-legged family moved to California in July – rumor has it that love was in the air. Thank you for all your hard work you had put into SARDOC and the best of luck to you. I did have one inadvertent omission in the February newsletter - Wendy's Australian Shepherd Jazz retired from active service last Fall, many belly rubs and milk bones for a well deserved retirement.

Remember that the executive board and standards committee are here to work with the entire organization – so let us know of any ideas or input you have.

Continue to train with dedication, be safe on your missions and enjoy this great weather while it lasts, fall is just around the corner.

ATTENTION MISSION COORDINATORS!!!

Recently, a couple of people have been misrepresenting themselves as dog handlers associated with SARDOC. Should you have any question about dog handlers who arrive on scene for a mission, ALL SARDOC CERTIFIED DOG HANDLERS HAVE BLUE AND WHITE LAMINATED PHOTO IDS OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR DOGS. Please feel free to ask them for their ID. Better not to possibly endanger search or subject by unknowingly fielding an unqualified dog team from who knows where.

Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado



SARDOC P.O. Box 1036 Ft. Collins, CO 80522-1036 970-416-1985

Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado



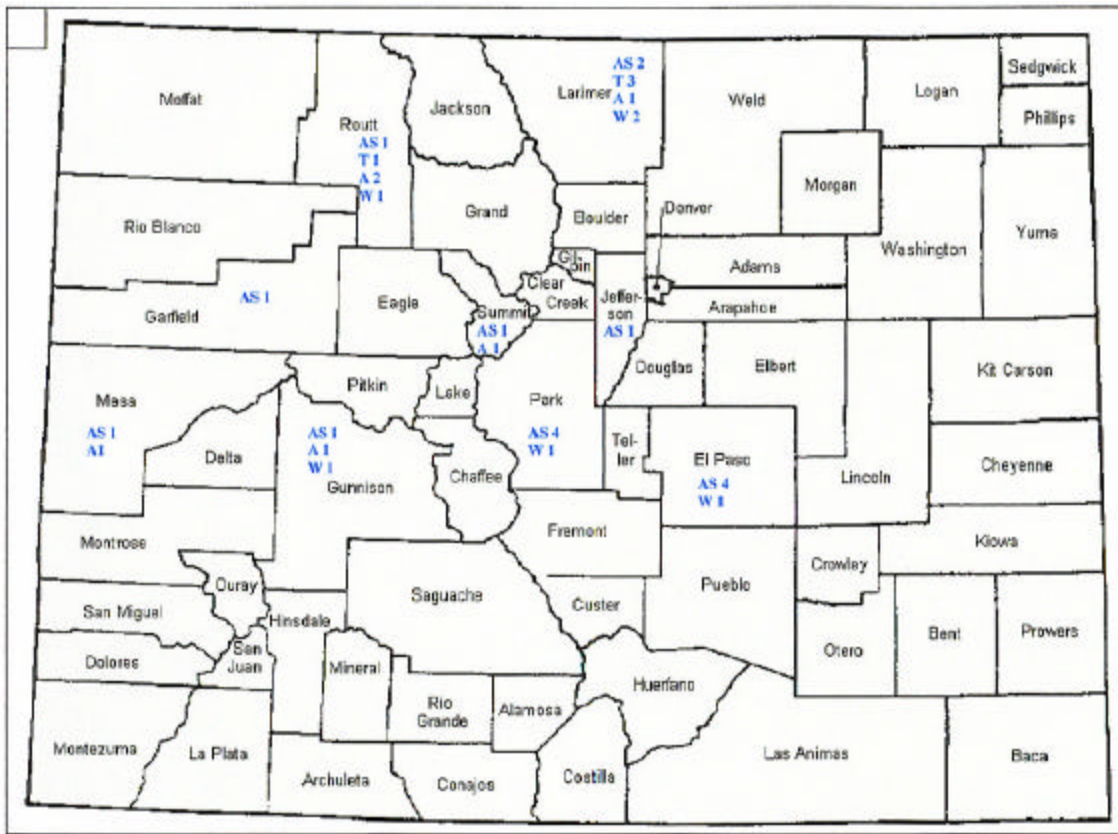
Search & Rescue Dogs of Colorado (SARDOC) Statistics for January 1 – June 30, 2004

During the first half of 2004, SARDOC certified, operational dog teams responded to 52 missions. Of those, 41 were in Colorado, 9 in Utah, 1 in S. Dakota and 1 in Wyoming.

Of the 52 missions, the majority were for hikers (21) and for people suffering from depression or mental issues (9). Other categories included: avalanche (1), drowning (2), homicide (1), wanderers (children, mushroom pickers, etc) (5), suicide (1) as well as a few other categories. As for all of the subjects involved, 36 were male and 26 were female.

SARDOC dog teams were responsible for 3 finds and one good assist during this time period. The finds involved an avalanche victim, two young boys who wandered off and a lost hiker. The assist involved verifying that a drowning victim was indeed in the suspected location.

Although statistics on stand downs while en route were not available, many mission call outs resulted in stand downs prior to the arrival of dog teams.



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

Contact Information and Board Members

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2004 Executive Board

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 Western Slope: Jim Vail - jmvail@springsips.com

Mission Reports

April 3, 2004 - Saturday

Location: Allenspark, Boulder County

Subject: 21-year-old male from Iowa became separated while looking for antlers.

Dog teams used on mission: Dan Fanning and Bear with Mike Erickson as support; Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota with Robin Anderson; Natalie Ray and Falcon with Estelle Purvis (all Larimer County SAR). Don Morrison and Sherpa (Park County SAR) were stood down while en route.

Mission: As the dog teams were working in areas within a mile or two of the PLS in an attempt to develop a direction of travel and locate the subject, the subject was found by a ranger near the Button Rock Dam which is over 7 miles away from the PLS.

April 9, 2004 – Sunday

Location: Klondike Bluffs Trail, Moab, Grand County, Utah

Dog team responding to mission: Nancy May and Shalla (Grand County SAR)

Mission: Subject got lost on the trail but self recovered back to his vehicle and left as his friends were searching for him. A deputy called him on his cell phone and verified that he was safe. The dog team was canceled while en route.

April 10-11, 2004 – Saturday and Sunday

Location: Tie Siding, Albany County, Wyoming

Subject: 37-year-old male from Ft. Collins, CO. disappeared on April 5th. Vehicle found on April 8th. Subject missing –circumstances undetermined.

Dog teams used on mission: Natalie Ray and Falcon; Dan Fanning and Bear; Kathy Shepherd and Ember (all LCSAR) searched on 04/10/04. Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota searched on 04/11/04. Robin Anderson and Mike Erickson of LCSAR were dog team support members.

Mission: On both days, dog teams worked their assigned areas along with ground searchers. Dog teams reported some alerts to the east but were unable to locate the subject.

According to the Denver Post, the subject's body was located on May 4, 2004 in the Pole Mountain area, which is about 15 miles from where the vehicle was found.

April 25, 2004 - Sunday

Location: Lookout Mtn., Jefferson County, near Golden

Subjects: Two male hikers, ages 19 and 20 in good health

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

Mission: Dog team was used to clear area around LSP. Subjects located approx. 8 miles away. They had taken the wrong trail.

April 29, 2004 – Thursday

Location: Lost Park, Park and Jefferson Counties

Dog team used on mission: Marcia McMahon and Yeti with (PCSAR)

Mission: Possibly overdue/unaccounted for 51-year-old male hiking from Kenosha Pass to Foxton Rd (59 miles) over a two week period – failed to check in at halfway point. Dog team searched 8 miles along trail. Subject hiked a portion of intended route, camped and hiked back to Kenosha Pass, possibly due to weather conditions, where a foot team intercepted him.

May 2, 2004 – Sunday

Location: Sovereign Trail, Grand County, Utah

Subject: Adult female mountain biker in good health

Dog team responding to mission: Nancy May and Shalla (GCSAR)

Mission: Subject took the wrong trail and was overdue. A deputy located the subject as the dog team was en route.

May 3, 2004 – Monday

Location: Maxwell Falls Trail area near Evergreen, Jefferson County

Subject: 40-year-old bi-polar female wandered away from neighbor's house 12 hours earlier

Dog teams used on mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (ART); Don Morrison and Sherpa (PCSAR); Roger Matthews and Loki (PCSAR)

Mission: Each dog team was working their assigned area until a friend in another subdivision, miles away from the LSP and the search area, located the missing party.

May 8, 2004 – Saturday

Location: Dee Pass, White Wash Area, Grand County, Utah

Subject: 75-year-old male, fossil/rock hunter in good health

Dog team responding to mission: Nancy May and Shalla (GCSAR)

Mission: The subject went over a ridge and disappeared while fossil/rock hunting with his wife. He had no water with him. Subject had found some campers who took him back to his vehicle as the dog team was responding.

May 8-9, 2004 – Saturday and Sunday

Location: Drake Forks Wilderness Area, Larimer County

Subject: 19-year-old male, hiker/climber

Dog teams used on mission: Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota with Robin Anderson; Dan Fanning and Bear (all LCSAR)

Mission: Night search - The dog teams confirmed the missing person's direction of travel toward some steep cliffs where ground teams were also searching. Voice contact made by ground team that then walked subject out.

May 11-12, 2004 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Location: Greyrock Trailhead, Larimer County

Subject: lightly dressed 21-year-old male, hiker with several medical issues including epilepsy, asthma, deafness

Dog team used on mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie with Estelle Purvis (LCSAR) responded and worked approx. 6 hours at night; Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota were stood down while en route.

Mission: Night search – Dog team searched trail to the summit with several areas of interest and a strong alert in an area where it was believed the subject sat out a storm that had separated him from his party. Subject apparently got off trail and was located approx. 0730 hours across Seaman Reservoir after voice contact was made with him.

May 12, 2004 - Wednesday

Location: Brook Creek Falls area, East Vail, Eagle County

Subject: 66-year-old, possibly suicidal male

Dog teams used on mission: Marcia McMahon and Yeti (PCSAR); Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (ART)

Mission: Subject had been missing over 24 hours when dog teams were requested. Dog teams worked urban areas around subject's home as well as to west of base. Dog team 1 had strong alerts to east. Subject found on south side of Interstate 70 due south of base. He had taken pills but they didn't work so he came out to a bike path where he was found.

May 13, 2004 - Thursday

Location: Cimarron Hills area off Powers Blvd., El Paso County

Subject: 41-year-old female

Dog team used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa (El Paso County SAR)

Mission: Searched public access areas in industrial area near subject's home at request of El Paso County, detectives. Woman disappeared on previous Monday (4 days earlier) from her home under suspicious circumstances. As dog team and ground searchers were out, message re-

ceived that she was with detectives in Denver claiming she had been abducted. She later recanted her story.

May 13, 2004 – Thursday

Location: Devil's Garden, Arches National Park, Grand County, Moab, Utah

Subject: 68-year-old female with "mild dementia." Subject had been missing 5 hours.

Dog team used on mission: Nancy May and Shalla (GCSAR)

Mission: The subject had separated from her group to go to a restroom and then disappeared. The dog team searched the campground, located the subject's trail and provided a general direction of travel. Ground searchers located her later.

May 17, 2004 – Monday

Location: Glory Hole Mine, Central City, Gilpin County

Subjects: Two 2-year-old children

Dog teams responding to mission: None

Notes: SARDOC dispatcher, Jayne Zmijewski, alerted to possible need for search dogs for missing children. She contacted handlers Roger Matthews and Don Morrison (PCSAR) to advise them of possible mission. Stand down order received shortly thereafter with no response by dog teams. Other SARDOC members alerted to the mission and responding until they were stood down were Crawford Rainwater, Paula Bindrich and Laura Jacobs.

May 22, 2004 - Saturday

Location: Widefield area, El Paso County

Subject: 14-year-old female, deaf mute, severely mentally challenged

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

Mission: Just as dog team was deploying to a nearby park, a mobile hasty team located the girl over 1 mile from her home after she was nearly struck by a car. This was the 7th time EPCSAR has been requested to search for this young girl.

May 22, 2004 - Saturday

Location: Clark, CO, Routt County

Subject: 20-year-old female hiker in good health, missing 9 hours when dog teams arrived.

Dog teams used on mission: Scott Havener and Duke with Jim Vail; Sandy Phillips and Schwar (all Routt County SAR)

Mission: When the dog teams arrived at the ICP, they were deployed into the field. The trailing dog team (Scott and Duke) started at the trail-head just before darkness and gave the subject's direction of travel (verified by tracking team). They trailed the subject to a point where she had left the main trail and continued to trail her until they got close enough to make voice contact with the woman and led her to back to a safe location.

May 24, 2004 – Monday

Location: Guanella Pass, between Clear Creek and Park Counties

Subject: 47-year-old female hiker

Dog teams used on mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (ART), Marcia McMahon and Yeti/Koert (PCSAR); Don Morrison and Sherpa (PCSAR)

Mission: Night search--Subject and RP separated on upper third of Mt. Bierstadt as missing party was unable to keep up. Subject funneled down onto Rosalie Trail in Park County. Dog teams were searching assigned areas when subject was located in Park County.

May 24, 2004 Monday

Location: Walden area, near Hwy 105 and 83, El Paso County

Subject: 3-year-old female

Dog team responding: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa/Grits (EPCSAR) – stood down while en route as child was found nearby.

May 25, 2004 – Tuesday

Location: Fort Collins residential area, Larimer County

Subject: 3-year-old male

Dog teams responding: Allen Weaver and Rosie; Kathy Shepherd and Ember – dog teams (LCSAR) stood down while en route as subject was found.

May 26, 2004

Location: Hwy 139 in the Missouri Creek/Douglas Pass area south of Rangley at the Twin Butte Ranch, Rio Blanco County

Subject: 13-year-old female

Dog teams responding: Wyman Bontrager and Dundee (Garfield SAR) with Janet Panebaker (Rio Blanco Co.); Shannon Young with Maggie (Mesa County SAR) and Scott Havener with Duke (RCSAR) were responding but canceled while en route as the subject, part of mental health group, had been located prior to arrival.

June 3, 2004 - Thursday

Location: Southeast of Debeque, Mesa County

Subject: 71-year-old female with history of heart problems

Dog team responding on mission: Shannon Young and Maggie (MCSAR). Subject heard radio traffic by Mesa County SO deputies and self-recovered before dog team fielded.

June 3, 2004 – Thursday

Location: Fish Creek area, Steamboat Springs, Routt County

Subject: Unknown

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

Mission: Routt County SAR was requested to search an area where an RP reported a bike at the base of a cliff in the Fish Creek area with a backpack and helmet nearby but no person seen in the area. The area was checked and it was determined that the bike had been pushed off a cliff. No backpack, helmet or persons were located.

June 6, 2004 – Sunday

Location: Grizzly Creek Rest Stop on Interstate 70, Glenwood Springs, Garfield County

Subject: 18-year-old female hiker

Dog team responding to mission: Wyman Bontrager and Dundee (GSAR). Wyman was first SAR member on scene. Deputy located missing subject shortly after dog team's arrival.

June 8 and 10, 2004 - Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Paonia Reservoir, Gunnison County

Subject: 45-year-old male resident of Paonia – last seen boating on reservoir

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

Mission: Water search for subject missing 7 days (as of June 1st) after his boat was found going around in circles on the reservoir in full throttle. No one was in boat when the boat stopped. Dog team mapped out an area of high probability. Water depth estimated to be 60 to 200 ft deep in that area. Decision made to wait for subject to float to surface due to unsafe diving conditions.

Note: Colorado State Park Rangers found the subject's body in the reservoir on June 30th.

June 9, 2004 – Wednesday

Location: East Canyon, Bookcliffs, Thompson Springs, Grand County, Utah

Subject: Two adult male county employees on ATVs

Dog team responding to mission: Nancy May and Shalla (GCSAR)

Mission: Men were spraying noxious weeds and did not show up at their rendezvous point at quitting time. They were located 30 miles away before dog team arrived.

June 13, 2004 – Sunday

Location: County Road 18, near Fairplay, Park County

Subject: 50-year-old female, accident victim

Dog teams used on mission: Don Morrison and Sherpa; Marcia McMahon and Yeti/Koert (all PCSAR)

Mission: Subject had driven off the road the night before into a shallow beaver pond. Subject was located in the beaver pond. Dog teams initially called to search after subject was removed from the pond in case anyone else was involved in the accident. Dog teams were released but later called back when wallet belonging to husband was found at scene. As dog teams began to work, the husband was observed walking down the road from their nearby house.

June 14, 2004 – Monday

Location: Harris Park, near Bailey, Park County

Subject: 17-year-old male who disappeared in 1998

Dog teams used on mission: Marcia McMahon and Yeti (PCSAR); Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa (EPCSAR)

Mission: Search for bones. Park Co. SAR and SO requested search for additional bones from subject who disappeared 6 years earlier and was believed to be a suicide. A hiker had recently discovered the male's skull and some other large bones on a hillside. Dog teams searched an area ¼ mile by ¼ mile around the site without finding any more human bones.

June 15, 2004 – Tuesday

Location: El Paso County, northern area of county

Subject: 40-year-old, distraught female

Dog team responding to mission: Kim Veitch and Ruffian and Dennis McLaughlin and Grits responded but were not fielded (EPCSAR).

Mission: El Paso Co. SAR requested dogs on standby in the event that an area of interest was developed. The woman had disappeared from a vet hospital approximately 6 hours earlier when one of her horses suddenly died. She left on foot. When she had not returned home by 2300 hours, her husband called the Sheriff's Office. SO deputies requested SAR assistance. She was later found hiding in a ditch on the side of a highway.

June 16, 2004 – Wednesday

Location: Green Mountain Falls off Hwy 24 West, El Paso County

Subjects: Two 15-year-old female runaways from troubled juvenile facility

Dog teams used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits with Ina Bernard; Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch; Gayle Humm and Jenna (all EPCSAR). Ed Fowler (SARDOC) also responded.

Mission: Dog teams were assigned a steep, rugged area on the West end of Green Mtn. Falls where the girls were last seen. It was feared that they may have gotten injured while running away (second time that day) as they went into mountainous terrain, one without footwear, unprepared. The girls were later seen in town by a containment team but refused to stop. The search was terminated, as they were known to be out of the steep terrain. They were arrested the next morning and taken to a more secure facility.

June 18, 2004 – Friday

Location: Steamboat Springs, Routt County

Subject: 2 Hispanic males in their 20s

Dog teams used on mission: Sandy Phillips and Schwar; Scott Havener and Duke (both RCSAR)

Mission: The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) requested dogs to search for two adult males missing after an accident involving an overturned truck. Blood and human tissue were found in the truck. At the request of the police, both dog teams searched a swampy area nearby with no alerts or indication of scent. The teams returned to the vehicle's location to search that area further in an effort to determine direction of travel. Schwar alerted down the road. Duke picked up a trail in the same direction and worked to a location approximately ½ mile away where the trail seemed to end near fresh tire tracks which turned around and went in the opposite direction. The CSP went to the subjects' home and located two males with injuries consistent with recently being in an accident. Both males spoke Spanish only and would not admit to being in an accident or how they got home.

June 18, 2004 – Friday

Location: Littleton, Arapahoe County

Subject: 21-year-old autistic female

Dog teams responding to mission: Dan Fanning and Bear (LCSAR); Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (EPCSAR); Gayle Humm and Jenna (EPCSAR); Roger Matthews and Loki (PCSAR). Teams stood down while en route, as subject was located.

June 19, 2004 – Saturday

Location: Fort Collins, Larimer County

Subject: 9-year-old female in good health, missing 5 hours

Dog teams responding to mission: Dan Fanning and Bear; Natalie Ray and Falcon; Allen Weaver and Rosie; Kathy Shepherd and Ember; Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota (all LCSAR)

Mission: Dog teams 1 and 2 fielded briefly and had some alerts just prior to the child being found in a neighbor's mobile home. The other dog teams had either just arrived at the ICP or were still en route.

June 21 – 22, 2004 – Monday into Tuesday

Location: Dead Horse Trail area, Garfield County

Subject: 27-year-old male hiker in good health, missing/overdue 7 hours

Dog teams responding to mission: Barry Sovern and Sara; Wyman Bontrager and Dundee (both GSAR)

Mission: Both dog teams were deployed for as long as 9 hours, most of it at night. Dog team 1 indicated that the subject had been on the Dead Horse Trail, which was later confirmed with the subject. Dog team 2 hiked the trail for 8.5 hours and then down a spur trail for ½ hour (subject's tracks found on this trail). Scent pools found along the trail. Both teams returned to base when the subject was located along a road 12 miles east of the LSP.

June 23 – 24, 2004 – Wednesday and Thursday

Location: Tarryall, Co. Road 204, Park County

Subject: 8-year-old male from Kansas, missing 4 hours

Dog teams responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Yeti/Koert; Roger Matthews and Loki; Don Morrison and Sherpa (all PCSAR)

Mission: Search for missing boy last seen sitting on a rock near a pool of fast moving water. Dog team 1 searched around a turbulent pool where divers were searching upon arrival. Dog team 1 alerted repeatedly in one spot off a big boulder in the middle of the creek and barked nonstop. Dog team 2 later worked creek side and the dog pulled the team toward pool and went into the water. Dog teams 1 and 3 later worked the creek side starting several miles downstream as land search was still considered a possibility at that time. Divers, on belay due to strong currents and debris, continued to search the pool where Dog team 1 had the earlier alerts but could not locate the child. An underwater camera was used on June 25th to locate the body in the pool where dog 1 initially alerted on June 24th.

June 26, 2004 – Saturday

Location: Gunnison County, West Elk Wilderness Area

Subjects: Two female hikers – 36- and 42-year-old sisters missing 15 hours

Dog team responding to mission: Sue Purvis and Tasha (CBSAR)

Mission: The subjects spent a cold night in the wilderness before climbing out of a drainage to Baldy Peak where they located the main trail and were found by searchers from Western State College. The dog team did not field.