



SCENT ARTICLES

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

November 2000

Coordinator Corner

By Jaynie Zmijewski

It seems like only a few weeks ago I received eight file boxes, a couple cardboard boxes, a computer, and I started on the endeavor of coordinating SARDOC. I must admit, the most intimidating part of the job for me was, and is, the computer. I have learned the basics, and all of you have had patience with my trials. We have almost gone through the year without blowing it to bits!! I thank you for your patience.

For the most part I have enjoyed working with all of you and helping you achieve your goals. Keeping the records and files on nearly sixty-five members can be a real challenge. It has really helped that most of you keep good progress records, know the policies and procedures, and maintain a high level of integrity and attitude. Thank you for the support and backing I received when correction was needed.

A special thank you to Jim Vail, Barbi Atkins, and John Shivik for serving as Area Directors during this year.

In order for SARDOC to survive we must:

- have member involvement in organization duties.
- maintain the highest level of professionalism.
- weed out negative egoism, self-focused "me"ism, and non-team players.

To request SARDOC Search Dogs:

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

SARDOC has an awesome reputation—we have an awesome group of people and doggies. Give your "Fido" a big hug and pat yourself on the back—you deserve it!

I will not be engaged in any administrative position for the upcoming year. I will continue to serve as a tester as needed. It is time to take a mental break and concentrate on possibly a new puppy, as Miriah has so much to teach. There are also expanded possibilities with the Division of Wildlife, maybe SAR Manager, and getting back to competitive shooting.

I am proud to be a part of SARDOC and to have been your Coordinator.

Congratulations to new members and operational personnel

Congratulations to Kitty Gardiner (**Larimer County SAR**) who completed her tests to be operational wilderness support this summer! Congratulations to Jen Mackler and Chara (**Larimer County SAR**) who have only one more test to go for Wilderness Air Scent certification. Also, Marcia McMahon, Don Morrison (both **Park County SAR**), Michelle Bennett, Tony Boldt, Kate Canestorp (all three from **El Paso SAR**), and Janet Panebaker (**Routt County SAR**) were voted into full member status this fall.

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.

The printing and distribution of  Scent Articles is supported by **HESKA**

SARDOC Library/T-shirts

Jen Mackler is housing the books and video tapes purchased by SARDOC. If you are interested in checking out these educational resources, please call (970)613-9097. Jen also has T-shirts and window decals which are available for voting members.

The following books are currently in the SARDOC library:

Fire Weather, by the Forest Service Department of Agriculture
The Avalanche Book, by Betsy Armstrong and Knox Williams
Go Find, by L. Wilson Davis
Map & Compass, by Bjorn Kjellstrom
Search Dog Training, by Sandy Bryson
Scent and the Scenting Dog, by William Syrotuck
Wilderness Search and Rescue, by Tim Setnicka
Scent, by Milo Pearsall
Ready, by Susan Bulanda
Ready to Serve, Ready to Save, by Susan Bulanda
Three spiral notebooks Fran Lieser put together of the old *Search and Rescue Dog Training*, by Sandy Bryson

The videotapes we have are:

Cadaver Recovery Procedures, hosted and narrated by Bill Tolhurst
PBS, *Spirit of Colorado* filmed at the Water Weekend 1998

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.

2000 Executive Board

President: Cheryl Kennedy
Secretary: Ann-Marie Boness
Treasurer: Jen Mackler
Director at Large: Dennis McLaughlin
SAR Dog Coordinator: Jaynie Zmijewski

2000 Standards Committee

Ina Bernard
Dan Fanning
Sandy Phillips
Sue Purvis
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.

Feature Article

This issue of *Scent Articles* features an article submitted and written by Cheryl Kennedy and Dave Bigelow. The article first appeared in *Response Magazine* last year (Volume 17, No. 2, 1999) and has been reprinted with the permission of the authors. 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 February 2001 issue of *Scent Articles* is January 15.

Creating and solving canine assignment problems in search operations

By Cheryl Kennedy and David S. Bigelow, Larimer County Search and Rescue, Fort Collins, CO

Introduction

Let's suppose you are the search and rescue manager for a search for a suicidal young woman in your hometown. A pair of search and rescue dogs has recently become available to your local jurisdiction and you need to decide if you will utilize them on this search. What are the important things you need to know in order to make a decision about the use of these resources?

The figure below presents a map of the search area where your subject was last seen. After establishing your theoretical search area you realize the area contains a picnic area, a fishing area, a water pumping station, a rural residential area and both paved and unpaved roads all within a mixed shrub and grass field setting.

Do I need to clear the area of recreationists? Can I use both dogs and ground pounders at the same

time? Should the dogs search the water, the fields or the roads? What about those buildings? OK, I'll use the law enforcement dog but hold that volunteer civilian dog in reserve.

Does this sound familiar? We've certainly heard this type of scenario before. But what should have happened given the limited scenario we've outlined? If dogs are to be used in search and rescue operations there are a number of initial actions that should be going through an IC's head.

Background information you should have

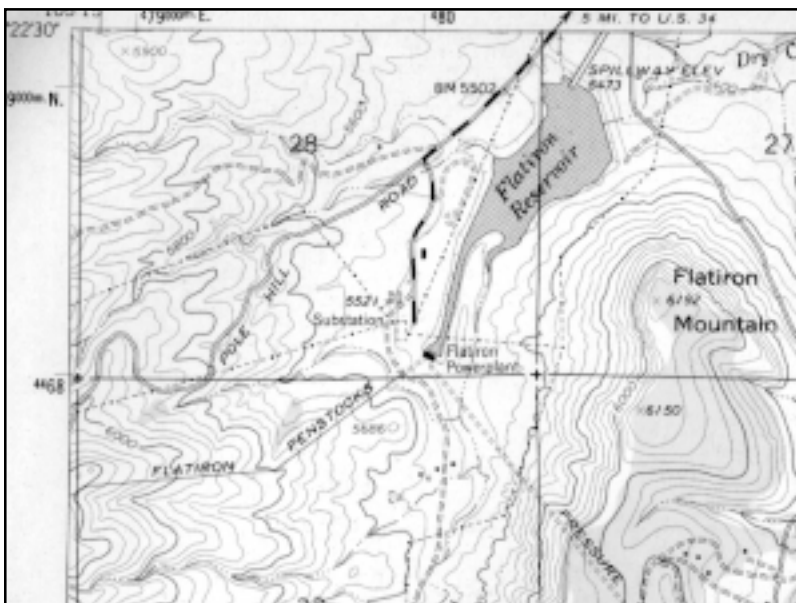
Scent discrimination/scent articles

If you are unfamiliar with SAR dog resources you should probably enlist the aid of at least one experienced dog handler in incident base to assist you or your Plans Chief in determining how this resource should be used. Search and rescue dogs have recently been typed for use with incident command (IC) management structures (ASTM F 1848) and this classification can assist you in becoming

familiar with the various capabilities of SAR dogs. The availability of a scent discriminating dog (ASTM Type I) may allow you to confidently utilize this resource without the need to clear or otherwise secure the public from your theoretical search area. Non-scent discriminating dogs may require that the general public be escorted from the search area. In extreme cases search crews may need to be held from the field until the dog resources have completed their tasks. Even if you have a scent discriminating dog you will not be able to utilize it correctly unless you have secured a viable scent article or another source of uncontaminated subject scent. Investigators or IC staff initially arriving on scene should, for instance, be able to locate and secure a scent article in the same manner in which they would secure evidence in a crime scene. Failure to secure a viable scent article, or to understand the scent discrimination level of your resource, can send a dog crew off chasing the investigator who mis-handled the article or waste needless time and energy identifying by-standers and other search personnel.

Specialty training

Search and rescue dogs are typically trained for specific tasks and you should be familiar with the type of training your dogs have--preferably prior to their utilization on an actual incident. The ASTM standard as well as the newly proposed NASAR certifications can help sort out the specialties. In our scenario, it could be helpful if you had a tracking or trailing dog (ASTM Kind F or G) to establish a direction of travel from a last known point (LKP), or one trained for water search (ASTM Kind H) to lower the POA in and along the bodies of



water in your search area. Familiarity with the type of training your resources have may also allow you to apply a seemingly mis-matched resource to a specific search segment. A disaster dog (ASTM Kind D), for instance, may be well suited to search the buildings and structures in our search area even though our search area contains no natural or manmade disasters. The higher level of agility and obedience training, along with the dog's familiarity with confined spaces, might allow structures, catwalks and other nooks and crannies of our power station to be searched as efficiently as foot teams. An area search dog (ASTM Kind A) might also be as qualified if buildings have been included in its training. Failure to recognize these differences in training may result in the wasting of an available resource or the application of a further limited or untrained resource to do a required task.

Environmental variables

Many search and rescue workers pride themselves in their ability to work in all types of weather and terrain. Regardless of whether or not your dogs and handlers have a reputation as an all-weather, all-terrain resource, weather *and* micrometeorology will play a key role in their success in your incident. The weather prior to your subject's disappearance will determine to some extent the type of scent trail that your subject will have left. As a rule of thumb, moist conditions (not precipitation) at the time of travel maximize the capture and dispersal of scent. This is based upon the notion that water becomes the glue that sticks the rafts of scent to the surfaces of the landscape and moisture promotes growth of bacteria that feeds on these rafts. Since the dog will be searching out both of these features of human travel, you are wise to develop a clear picture of their etiology.

The current and future moisture content of the landscape containing the scent trail, as well as the temperature and wind, will also play an enormous role in both the deterioration and dispersal of your subject's scent. It is common for non-scent discriminating tracking dogs (ASTM Type II, Kind G) to be trained as "hot trackers"; that is, they are trained to key in on the bacteria associated with the decomposition of scent and damaged vegetation, not the scent per se. This type of resource may be of limited value outside of the 8-16 hour window when bacteria growth peaks (Syrotuck, 1972). Factors that promote or inhibit this growth (temperature, humidity, and precipitation) will, of course, both shift and skew this time line. The age of a scent trail and the conditions to which it has been, and will continue to be, exposed are two of the most fundamental pieces of information that can be communicated to the dog handler. It is as important as supplying a man tracker with footwear and stride information.

In addition to weather, dogs trained for area searching (ASTM Kind A) and water searching (ASTM Kind H) need to be positioned to take advantage of the diurnal micro-meteorology that will be associated with your search area. Convective heating and cooling that accompanies sunrise and sunset, for instance, may dictate when and where these dog resources are best used. On hot days, as the sun warms the earth, scent rafts are lifted towards high points and conversely settle during evening hours. Search segments that have high points (ridgelines) or low points (drainages) can be searched more efficiently if the resource is scheduled to take advantage of these most basic meteorological phenomena. Search segments should be designed, when possible, to take maximum advantage of the phenomena. Depending upon the amount of effort required to reach these terrain features, segments could be drawn to place the features either along the borders or more centrally within a given segment. This may also require an adjustment in the size and shape of a search segment. Segment construction or scheduling that minimizes or ignores the use of weather and micro-meteorological factors most certainly will frustrate dog handlers and ultimately lead to mistrust and lack of confidence in the resource. It can also lead to significant un-searched areas within search segments.

Briefing and managing the resource

The potential for success of a dog crew can be enhanced if some additional information can be provided to the handler as a supplement to the normal briefing that would be given any SAR resource being deployed to the field. We have already mentioned the importance of communicating the past, present and predicted weather and of communicating the history of a scent article. We would like to recommend still more information be communicated to avoid assignments which lead to negative results.

Fetch

The first concept we would like to introduce is the concept of "fetch." This term, borrowed from atmospheric dry deposition meteorology, refers to the size and direction of an area whose scent will eventually find its way to the dog's nose. Though this area is somewhat subjective, it can be discussed with the handler in the context of the time of day and environmental conditions under which a segment will be searched. It is also useful as a planning tool because it can help establish segment sizes and shapes and, during debriefings, assist in the reporting of probability of detection (POD) in search segments that do not lend themselves to regular grid patterns of searching.

For trailing and tracking dogs the fetch is relatively easy to define because the dog has been trained to limit its attention to a narrow path of travel. For area, water and

other typed dog resources, fetch will be dictated by the environmental conditions that prevail primarily during the search. In a simple example from our theoretical search, we might be able use our resource under favorable air movement and temperature profile to “clear” the area between the reservoir and ridge. This can be done if we can reasonably assume that all of the scent originating from that area will eventually reach a nose that is deployed along the perimeter of the lake or along the ridge. With unfavorable conditions we would probably require sufficient time to criss-cross the same area with multiple travel transects. A discussion of fetch should usually result in the identification of where other search resources will be located--and their impact on the resource--and the identification of what types of scent producing sources will likely impact the reporting of results to management.

Strategy and tactics: who's in charge?

For many managers, the discussion of strategy and tactics with an individual resource often leads to perceptions of a loss of control by search managers to get assignments completed. This discussion with dog handlers, however, is often paramount in the success of the resource. Search managers have to understand that limiting a handler to a particular strategy, such as a directional transect through a pre-defined search segment, prevents the handler from mining the environmental conditions which will control both the coverage and speed with which a segment can be searched. A much better approach to using the resource is to discuss *various* tactics that could be used to conditionally work through an area and trust the handler to choose the optimal one for the conditions they actually encounter. Discussions of this nature during the briefing will ensure that both the handler and search manager will be aware of contingencies that may occur during the investigation of the search segment and mitigate much of the loss of control perceptions that may arise during the search. Sometimes it is useful to additionally include dog crew support personnel in these discussions, but on no occasion should personnel be briefed without the handler being included. The handler will ultimately be in control of the assignment and therefore needs to have complete information.

Scent clues

How scent clues are acknowledged and reported is another useful exchange of information that should take place between search management and the handler prior to the beginning of an assignment. At a minimum, it should be clear that alerts need to be time-stamped and accompanied by a wind direction. Weak alerts or interest on the part of the dog may also be reported, but it must be made clear that these clues may hold far less importance than an alert. It is strongly recommended that alerts be reported and plotted in near real-time rather than holding back this

information until a debriefing. The triangulation of alerts using wind direction can often reveal high probability areas or confirm expectations about how scent has dispersed because of environmental conditions.

Another benefit of reporting scent clues early is the unburdening of the handler as the sole synthesizer of the scent clue information. Failing to acknowledge or otherwise treat scent clues in a manner consistent with other clues almost universally leads to handlers contacting one another to strategize about the search or planning their actions in a vacuum. These practices almost always result in management losing control of the dog handler's information until a debriefing takes place, and it negates the ability of management to immediately follow-up on the clue as it might with other clues. For example, cutting for scent, like cutting for sign, might be initiated based upon the timely reporting and plotting of scent clues.

Because of the high degree of interpretation that is required by the handler in assessing the success of the tactics chosen to search a given segment, caution should be exercised in sharing too much interpreted scent information between handlers while they are in the field. Just as a clue reported in an area not occupied by a foot team can result in a loss of team motivation, reporting scent clues among handlers can result in a false sense of accomplishment or failure. There are exceptions, of course, such as when the sharing of information may assist a handler in working through a particularly difficult portion of a search segment. A second handler's opinion on how a dog should be worked through a particular area almost always results in better advice than can be given by a search manager. Letting one handler's report of success drive another's tactics, however, removes some of the independence from the reporting of scent clues and weakens their significance.

When using overlain mapping to track resources it is helpful to have a separate overlay for scent clues. This will also facilitate the briefing and debriefing of active and subsequent dog teams used in the search.

Following leads

One of the most frustrating experiences that can be encountered by a search crew is to find a clue and not be permitted to follow up on it. The reasons for this most hated management directive are varied but most typically occur because management has some urgency for having the crew's assignment completed. In most instances, there is little concern that clues found by foot teams will deteriorate over time. Clues are marked, photographed, and so on, and for the most part can be followed up by a separate resource if need be. This is not the case for scent clues. Scent clues are not stable and they may not present themselves to a follow-up resource. For this reason, it is

imperative that handlers be permitted to follow to completion any and all scent clues that they come across.

To further justify this position it is suggested that search managers and search planners consider the objective of the search dog to be to achieve a negative result. That is to confirm that a subject is not and was not in a search segment. Using this strategy, it can be concluded that a negative result by the dog will lower the probability that the subject is in or passed through that search segment, thus lowering the POA. If the dog discovers scent in the segment, then the previous assignment is in effect completed and they cannot lower the POA. The benefits of completing or re-verifying the old assignment will most certainly have less urgency than the following up on the scent clue because the segment may be re-searched at a later time but the scent clue may not be there for future investigation.

A final reason search dogs should be permitted to follow leads is that this is what they are trained to do. Each time a dog is pulled from an active scent source without the positive reinforcement of a find, dog training is weakened. The dog may become confused about what it is to be looking for or what mode it is to be working in (note that some handlers have different commands to signal the dog as to whether it is searching for a cadaver, trailing, etc.). In some cases, dogs may not resume working the problem after being pulled from an active scent source and will become inattentive on subsequent assignments. As will be mentioned later, handlers need to spend extra time at the end of an assignment to positively reinforce the dog's lack of results. It is very difficult to reinforce the dog positively for accepting the termination of the work they were trained to do.

Mixing resources

In general, dogs should not be mixed with other resources when forming search crews. A search dog should be used as an independent resource. As previously mentioned some dogs will not work, or work inefficiently, in the presence of search personnel. Those trained in hot tracking, for instance, may be overwhelmed by the amount of vegetative destruction that a foot team causes as it moves through its assigned area. Handlers working as a part of a mixed crew typically find it difficult to re-direct the crew in response to a scent clue, and have a more difficult time directing the dog while holding to the objectives of the non-dog part of the crew. Dogs will often need to travel through an area at a faster and more erratic pace than foot teams, and may require alternate routing to mine the environmental factors previously discussed. Finally, handlers have a difficult enough task in reading and interpreting a dog's body language as it responds to its environment. The additional distractions of a foot team will just add to the complexity of the problem.

The primary purpose of a dog crew should be to discover and report scent clues. This is not to say that handlers should not be expected to be clue aware, utilize attraction, and in general be cognizant of the general requirements for a typical search crew. They cannot, however, be expected to be as efficient in these traditional search techniques as non-dog crews when working their dog. Building up a search dog crew with additional members may improve the clue awareness of the crew, but, as previously pointed out, the dog's speed and the often erratic method of working make the reporting of success of these activities problematic.

Dog crews should have one or more additional members assigned to them to handle such tasks as navigation, radio communications, and medical care. These crew members, however, will also be primarily concerned with supporting the handler. They are typically trained to work with the idiosyncracies of navigating with a dog crew and with the special requirements for recording and communicating dog-generated clues. Oftentimes, handlers prefer to bring their own support personnel or to utilize another handler in this capacity. Search managers assigning resources to search crews should recognize this and, when possible, provide crew members with this specialized knowledge and training.

Releasing the resource

Debriefing

The initial debriefing of a dog team should be no different than that of any search team. However, search managers should realize that the debriefing is also an important training tool for the dog handler. In this context, it can be expected that the handler will additionally be interested in all of the environmental factors that interplayed during the duration of the dog handler's assignment. Where were the winds coming from during an alert? Where were search resources deployed? What else has been revealed about subject behavior? Have scent traps or thermal sinks been reported?

Debriefers should expect a handler to provide a map indicating the route traveled, location of alerts, and perhaps locations where dog behavior was of interest, along with the time and air flow pattern that was present at the time. An interpretation of the behavior of the *scent* should also be expected and should be noted. Was the scent etiology consistent with the given history and age of the problem? Should assumptions about its behavior be modified when planning for additional dog resources? Based upon these discussions, the handler and debriefer should *jointly* assign a POD to the area searched and identify significant gaps in coverage.

If more than one handler is involved, it is useful to have the handlers discuss their collective thoughts with management during this time. Common canine behaviors that were not considered relevant upon initial interpretation can sometimes be identified during these joint sessions and this may be useful in continuing the planning process. This is where having a canine aware person in incident base can be especially beneficial. It is preferred that these debriefings be conducted verbally in a timely manner and not solely through the integration of forms (e.g., an ICS 214) in the planning cycle. If this can be accomplished, it is likely that both handlers and search management will be knowledgeable of and satisfied with the documentation and use of the dog resources employed.

Reporting POD

The reporting of PODs by dog handlers should be based solely on the abilities of the dog to detect scent. If other means of searching was accomplished, this should be reported separately. Scent-based POD has the advantage of being the same for either live or deceased subjects. Other means of searching often require a different POD based upon the mobility and responsiveness of the subject.

The POD concept for dog handlers (and search managers) is always problematic. This is due to the nature in which dogs and handlers are trained. Testing and training are frequently based around "clearing an area," and a find occurs when this objective is not achieved--the subject is instead found. In certification tests, the team is expected to achieve a 100% POD, yet during an actual incident they are expected to "clear the area." This implies that a dog will always achieve a 100% POD. Although a subversion of the separation of the POD/POA concept, we find it much easier to have handlers report a POA and use its inverse as the POD for areas searched. A handler reporting that there was a 75% chance the subject was in the area would report a POD of 25%. Most handlers given a discussion of the environmental factors that occurred during a search will be more comfortable estimating the POA, and we believe this will lead to a more meaningful and understood estimate of the dog team's coverage in a particular search segment.

Bringing closure to the dog

One of the cornerstones of training search and rescue dogs is the positive reinforcement that occurs when the dog makes a find. The value of this motivation at the end of a work assignment cannot be underestimated. During training, where a positive outcome has not occurred, this is easily accomplished by bringing the dog to the subject. During actual incidents this is also highly desirable. Search managers, where possible, should attempt to provide an opportunity for each dog to be

introduced to the subject at the conclusion of an incident. In some cases, such as cadaver work, this may be awkward and can lead to some embarrassing dog behavior. Nonetheless, the importance of this closure cannot be understated.

For those teams that demobilize before a subject is found or that cannot be brought to the subject, it is not uncommon for handlers to set up a short positive find problem for their dog. Search managers should be aware of this and, if possible, include these activities as a part of their demobilization procedures.

Conclusions and recommendations

Dogs are a useful, specialized resource that can be used for many types of search incidents. Search managers, however, must be familiar with the different types and training of the resource in order to use it effectively. Search managers who do not possess knowledge of the resource should enlist a knowledgeable dog handler or coordinator to assist in the selection of assignments and in the interpretation of results from dog crews.

Experienced dog handlers can be expected to have a firm understanding of the strategy and tactics of deployment. Their training typically includes dealing with the myriad of environmental factors that both enhance and diminish the effectiveness of their resource. This knowledge should ideally be tapped during planning sessions, and especially when briefing and debriefing the resource.

Dogs should not be integrated into traditional search crews. The tactics of traditional search crews are largely incompatible with the tactics required by dog crews. Dogs will primarily be responding to scent, while traditional crews will be responding to visual and audible clues.

Handlers should be asked to report a POA rather than a POD for areas searched. POA reporting is more natural for dog handlers and more consistent with their training. The assignment of a POA also provides an opportunity for the handler to discuss limiting environmental factors that contributed to an estimate.

References

- American Society for Testing and Materials, 1998. Standard Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams, ASTM Philadelphia, PA. ASTM F 1848.
- Syrotuck, W.G., 1972. Scent and the Scenting Dog. Arner Publications, Rome NY.
- Appendix A. The Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado (SARDOC) Pre-Mission Questionnaire.

Training

National Training

February 1-5, 2001, SR/DR SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Jacksonville, FL. For course descriptions and faculty bios check out the following site: <http://srd.com>.

Just a few of the many classes:

“Advanced K9 USAR Disaster Skills”

“Wilderness Man Tracking”

“Canine Forensics...Buried and Hidden Body Detection”

“Ground Operation for Missing Aircraft”

“Canine Trailing...Intermediate to Advanced Trails”

April 4-9, 2001, LaSAR Symposium, Pollack, Louisiana. Contact Cheryl Kennedy or Julie Weibler for more information.

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

Statewide Training

SARDOC Weekends (dates may be subject to change)

No weekends have yet been scheduled for 2001. If you are interested in hosting a weekend, please let Jaynie know so she can pass the information along to next year's Coordinator.

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

Local Training

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

Larimer County Practices: Practices are held weekly on alternating Saturdays and Sundays. Sunday practices are usually near Estes Park and Saturday practices are usually in the northern part of the county. Contact John Shivik [John.Shivik@usda.gov, (970)266-6088] for specific locations and dates.

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.

Dues Dues Dues

As a reminder, membership dues of \$20 for 2001 were due before November 1. Send them to P.O. Box 1036, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1036. Please get them sent in if you haven't already done so.

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.

June 29, 2000

Location: Frying Pan River, Pitkin County

Subject: missing person following a car accident into the river

Mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz (Garfield SAR) were stood down shortly after getting called out.

June 30, 2000

Location: Kim, Las Animas County

Subject: 79-year-old female with Alzheimer's

Dog team used on mission: Ina Bernard and Lenzbee (El Paso County SAR)

Mission: Subject had wandered away from her home. The search area had deep canyons with pinion pine trees and some open prairie. The dog team searched 0-2 miles either side of the subject's house to the west and to the east. Subject was found in good health about 4 miles north of her home by a crew in a helicopter.

July 5, 2000

Location: Hayden, Routt County

Subjects: two adults and one infant

Mission: Sandy Phillips and Schwar (Routt County SAR) were stood down en route to search for subjects who were overdue.

July 12-13, 2000

Location: Colorado River, Glenwood Springs, Garfield County

Subject: male in his 30's

Dog team used on mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR)

Mission: Subject had crashed his car eluding police and jumped into the river at dusk while screaming "shoot me" at the police officers. Two days later, the dog team was used to search the river and they pinpointed an area for divers to search. The body surfaced the following afternoon.

July 31, 2000

Location: Security, El Paso County

Subject: female child

Dog teams used on mission: Ina Bernard and Lenzbee and Barbi Atkins and Deegee fielded. Dennis McLaughlin and Duke were not deployed. (all EPCSAR)

Mission: Child had escaped from home early in the evening. A police officer found the child. Child was SE of both dog teams and the wind was out of the NE.

August 1, 2000

Location: Colorado River, Gore Canyon, Grand County

Subject: male kayaker

Mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR) were called to search the river after a kayaker disappeared in whitewater rapids. The primary search area was not conducive to bank searching and divers would not attempt a recovery if the dog alerted. Wendy was put on standby for when the search progressed further downstream where conditions were more favorable for searching and a recovery. The body was recovered without the dog resource being needed.

August 16, 2000

Location: Pitkin County, near Aspen

Subject: 40-year-old female missing from scene of car accident

Mission: While SARDOC dispatch was getting information from the deputy, the ambulance had picked up a woman in Aspen matching the description of the missing subject so we were not needed. Subject was injured and disoriented.

August 24, 2000

Location: Monument, El Paso County

Subject: 63-year-old male with Alzheimer's

Dog team used on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa fielded briefly. Gayle Humm and Aspen and Barbi Atkins and Deegee were stood down (all EPCSAR).

Mission: Subject got up in the middle of the night and wandered off in the RV Park. His wife could not locate him. Subject walked out from behind a building near the staging area when he saw the flashing lights on vehicles.

August 26, 2000

Location: Widefield, El Paso County

Subject: 9-year-old male

Mission: Gayle Humm and Aspen (EPCSAR) were stood down when subject returned home. He had not gone to friend's house as he had reported he was going to do.

September 1, 2000

Location: Flattops Wilderness, Garfield County

Subjects: 2 male hunters in their mid-40's

Mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR) were stood

down as the subjects were spotted from the air.

September 15, 2000

Location: Pingree Park area, Larimer County

Subject: 18-year-old male, bow hunter from Arkansas

Mission: Julie Weibler and Zephyr (Larimer County SAR) were stood down for early morning response.

September 21, 2000

Location: Air Force Academy, El Paso County

Subject: 46-year-old male

Dog teams used on mission: Barbi Atkins and Deegee and Gayle Humm and Aspen (EPCSAR)

Mission: Subject had left on September 20 to go for a bike ride and did not return. Deegee had a strong alert and a helicopter and Air Force Academy Natural Resources employees were sent that direction. The employees found the subject. He was slightly injured and was taken to the AFA hospital for evaluation and treatment.

September 22, 2000

Location: Transfer Trail, Garfield County

Subject: hunter in his mid-40's

Mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR) were stood down when the subject called a friend from a rest area.

September 23, 2000

Location: Divide Creek, Garfield County

Subject: male hunter

Mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR) were stood down shortly after getting called out.

September 23, 2000

Location: Crestone Needles, Custer County

Subject: 69-year-old male hiker/climber

Mission: This was called out on September 20 for response on Saturday, September 23. The subject was last seen on September 16. Search efforts had not been successful and a major effort was going to be put in on the 23rd. Sue Purvis and Tasha (Crested Butte SAR) and Ann-Marie Boness and Teal (Vail Mountain Rescue Group) were available to respond, but were stood down on September 20 when the subject's body was found by his son.

September 24, 2000

Location: Guernsey Reservoir, Platte County, Wyoming

Subject: teenage male

Mission: Subject had a big fight with his mother on September 22. He tried to enter the reservoir grounds but did not have money for the tollbooth and was denied entry. He took a back road and busted through a gate. A Torrington dog followed tracks from the subject's vehicle to the top of a cliff. During a night search of the reservoir area, the subject's shoe was found floating in the water. Dive resources were searching on September 23 and wanted to know if any dog teams would be available if a search was needed again on September 24. Minimally, Julie Weibler and Zephyr and Cheryl Kennedy and Apache (LCSAR) were available. No additional resources were contacted until the search was indeed happening. The subject was located on September 23 by the dive team and no SARDOC dog resources were utilized.

September 25, 2000

Location: Bull Basin, Grand Mesa, Mesa County

Subjects: 17-year-old and 19-year-old males

Dog team used on mission: Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR)

Mission: The subjects did not return from a hike/fishing trip in the area. One subject's body was located about noon on September 25 by foot teams who were able to follow tracks in the snow. The dog team began searching in the area near the fatality and was beginning to work scent when the other subject was spotted by air and evacuated by helicopter. Apparently the two males got separated during a snowstorm.

September 27, 2000

Location: Highway 7, near Boulder County and Larimer County line

Subject: 82-year-old female with Alzheimer's

Mission: Boulder County resources were en route and asked for Larimer County to assist since subject was last seen on her ATV heading towards Larimer County. Allen Weaver and Rosie, Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah, and Estelle Purvis and Echo (all LCSAR) were stood down when RMR resources established voice contact with the subject, escorted her back to her ATV, and got her home. Subject was hypothermic when found.

October 1, 2000

Location: Weld County

Subject: evidence related to illegal animal kill

Dog team used on mission: Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (LCSAR)

Mission: Dog team was used to look for evidence related to a poaching incident.

October 1, 2000

Location: Colorado River, Glenwood Springs, Garfield County

Subject: 38-year-old male, possible suicide

Mission: Subject had been missing for a week and his vehicle was found at a pullout by the river. Wendy Wampler and Jazz (GSAR) were stood down when there were not enough resources to safely launch a river search with boats and the dog team.

October 7 and 10, 2000

Location: Summit County

Subject: 49-year-old woman missing for 2 weeks

Dog team used on mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (Summit County Rescue Group) searched early on October 10 prior to foot teams being put in an area. Wendy Wampler and Jazz and Barry Sovern (GSAR) and Jaynie Zmijewski and Miriah (LCSAR) were stood down for the earlier date after authorities decided to fly the area with infrared first.

Mission: The subject had been missing for almost 2 weeks when we were contacted about the possibility of bringing dogs into the area to search. The investigators decided to wait until they had done some air searching before bringing in the dogs and foot teams. While searchers were looking in one area, some people looking for a place to 4-wheel drive found the subject's car near Georgetown on October 10. Authorities found her body on October 17 under 10 feet of dirt near her house.

October 10, 2000

Location: Black Hollow, Crown Point Road, Larimer County

Subject: 33-year-old female

Dog teams used on mission: No dog teams fielded prior to subject being located, but Julie Weibler and Zephyr and Jen Mackler went into the field to find an easy route out for the subject and foot team who found her. Darren Weibler and Ranger and Kathy Shepherd were ready to field. Allen Weaver and Rosie and Cheryl Kennedy and Apache were responding later. (all LCSAR)

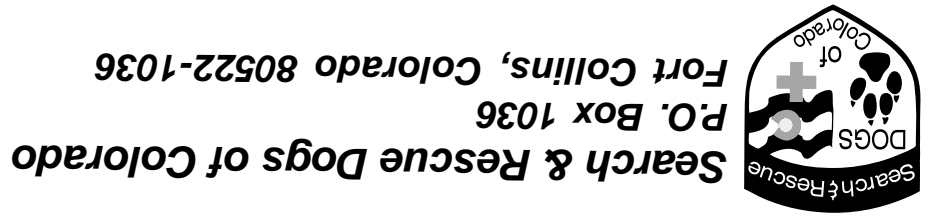
Mission: Subject and the reporting party became separated while the subject was looking for rocks. Once she realized she was unsure of where she was, the subject sat down and built a small lean-to and a fire to keep her warm. The first foot team into the field (including Bill Cotton) got voice contact within 15 minutes just as the trailing team was getting their assignment. The trailing team worked in to the subject and foot team from the ridge top to assist them in finding an easy route out to the subject's vehicle.

October 15, 2000

Location: Chadron, NE

Subject: 16-year-old male

Mission: Subject had been missing for over 6 hours following an altercation at a campground. The temperature was in the lower 20's. The sheriff was inquiring, through another SAR agency, about dog resources and only wanted them if we could get there in two hours. Closest dogs were at least four hours away. We were not called back, so don't know if the youth had been found or if they just didn't want resources from that far away.



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