



SCENT ARTICLES

December 2004

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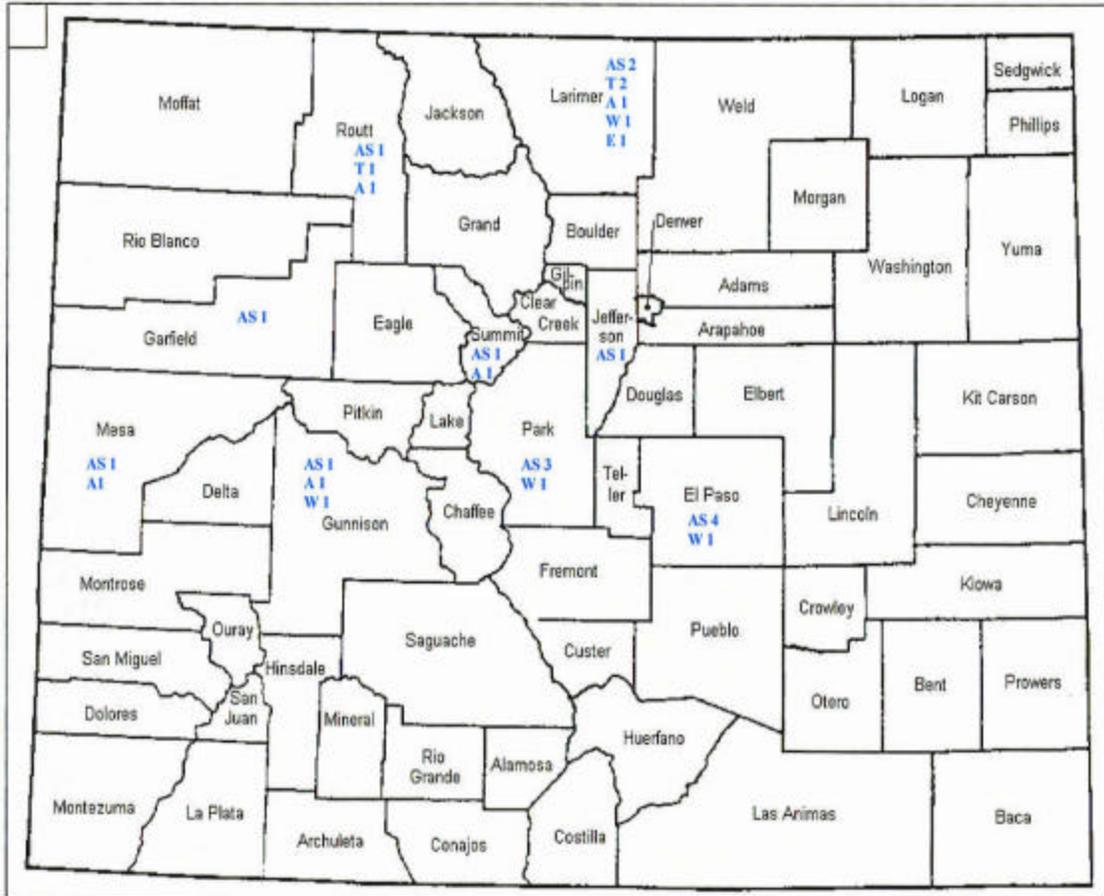
TO REQUEST A TEAM FROM SARDOC CALL 970-416-1985

For more contact information see page 2



Lee Bendel and Rusty work a car trail in Florida. See page 3





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

Contact Information and Board Members

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Canine Search and Recovery Seminar

By Lee Bendel

Canine Search and Rescue, Inc. (www.CSAR.org) and the North Alabama Search Dog Association (www.NASDAK9.org) held a seminar in Guntersville, Alabama October 4th to 8th. Guntersville is a bucolic southern town on the shores of Guntersville Lake, a 40 mile TVA dam on the Tennessee River. There were 104 handlers and dogs present, from 19 states – as far away as South Dakota, Wyoming and Kansas. Rusty and I, together with two of my Southwest Florida K9 teammates went to the seminar.

Rusty and I had signed up for the advanced trailing class. Our instructor was to be Mark Holmes, a very well-respected trainer from Port Arthur PD, Texas. When we got there, we learned that the class was going to be too big, so they brought in another trainer. Boy, did we luck out. Our trainer was Joe Canfield. Joe was a canine handler with the New Jersey State Police for over twenty years. He is now the canine coordinator for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. In addition, Joe is on retainer with Fox News to provide expert commentary for the cases they cover. I saw one of his interviews several months ago. He did an excellent job of describing how search dogs work. He stressed the value of utilizing search dogs as early in the case as possible. He and his canines have been called out over 500 times. They have made numerous finds and have put many criminals in jail.

Our class included Mike from Ohio, Randy from Indiana, and Amy and me from Southwest Florida. Randy's wife, Penny, James from North Carolina, and Charles, the local Sheriff's Deputy, were our trail walkers. The other dogs were all Bloodhounds. My classmates all had participated in numerous searches with their dogs. James was at the WTC for 21 days after 9/11. Each dog worked thirteen trails over the four days of training. They ranged in length from 0.25 miles to 1.25 miles. None were aged overnight, however some were exceptionally challenging. All of the searches were in urban or campsite areas. One trail was almost all on an asphalt parking lot surface.

One interesting trail was done in Guntersville, where US Highway 431 goes right through the center of town. James and Penny walked on the sidewalk next to the highway for about 100 feet. They then got into Penny's car (NO OPEN WINDOWS) and drove ¼ mile on the highway. They parked the car on an asphalt parking area and went separate ways. James walked onto a point of land by the lake, then doubled back on grass, made a turn toward a marina and finally boarded a houseboat. After 1.5 hours, I gave Rusty the scent article for James and the command to find. He found the car and showed great interest, he then worked through the double back and made the find. A TV crew was driving through town and saw us training. They stopped and filmed Amy and her dog trailing and Rusty relaxing after his find. They interviewed Joe who did a very nice job of describing how search dogs can be utilized. There was a nice story on the Huntsville news that night, thanking us for training in the area.

A dog can follow the trail of a person riding in a car since scent particles will be exhausted by the ventilation system of the car. They will be less numerous and more widely dispersed than "walking" scent due to the speed and air currents created by the moving car. As a result, the trailing dog will work more slowly and will cast back and forth much more. The trail I described was one of the two car trails we did at the seminar. All of the dogs had a huge change of pace at the point where the subject got in the car. It would be very easy to interpret this as a loss of the trail. Training for negatives and training with car trails should, in time, allow the handler/dog team to recognize when the subject might have been driven away by car. Another important factor for urban and/or car trails is to recognize the impact of the environment. Car traffic, air conditioner units, chimneys, storm sewers, wind funneled by buildings, etc. all will affect the distribution of scent. The easiest clue for the handler is to look for dust and dirt balls collecting in cracks, corners, vegetation, etc. If your dog is working those areas you are probably on the trail.

The success we had with the trail I described, and all of the others, was largely due to the excellent instruction provided by Joe. He showed us the proper length and use of the lead for urban searches. He required us to use a lead at all times except for one section through dense tree fall and wild rose bush thorns. My scratches from

the rose thorns healed after a week. He gave us several good ideas on how to work through a double back. He taught us how to handle the situation of a person wandering off from a campsite after spending several days in the area. He stressed the importance of training for negatives. He trains three times per week and one of those times is for negatives. It is critical that the dog give a strong indication when there is no scent or when they get out of the scent field. He showed us how to conduct this training and how to reward the dog when a good job is done.

The seminar also included evening classes and talks on Canine Olfactory Capabilities by Dr. Larry Myers, Crime Scene Preservation, GPS usage for SAR, the AKC CGC test, and dog massage therapy. The 2005 CSAR seminar will be held the last week of September in Arizona.

This was the second seminar that I attended this year. Given that I started from ZERO on the SAR dog training curve, these seminars, SARDOC, and SWF K9 have brought me a long way. I thank everyone for that!



Lee and Rusty along with classmate Amy and her Bloodhound Ripley relax before searching the town of Guntersville, Florida.

Fire Search Near Black Forest, CO – July 22, 2004

On the afternoon of July 22nd, fire investigators requested assistance in their search for the remains of anyone killed in a fire and explosion that destroyed a house the day before. The male occupant of the house who often-times made large model rockets and shot them off in his yard was missing and presumed to be in the debris. Unfortunately, the debris had been allowed to burn overnight for fear that additional explosions might occur which would endanger firefighters.

Dennis McLaughlin went to the scene with Duke and Kiowa to assist. As they arrived, the lead investigator informed him that a badly burned torso missing the head and extremities had been located by the team of investigators. It was requested that the dogs be used to try to locate missing body parts and any other possible remains.

Initially, Duke indicated possible remains in two locations. These areas were marked for further digging and investigation as the debris was about a foot deep. Before fielding Kiowa, a severe thunderstorm hit the area bringing the search to a halt. The remains found were later identified as the occupant of the house through DNA.



July 2004

Mission Reports

July 3, 2004

Location: Gilpin County, possibly on the Heart Lake Trail

Subject: 24 year old female hiker

Dog teams responding on mission: Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota (LCSAR); Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine SAR) were stood down while awaiting directions as the subject walked out on her own. SARDOC member Crawford Rainwater (Gilpin SAR) was also responding and stood down when subject returned to her car at the Moffat Tunnel.

July 4, 2004

Location: Clear Creek County, Camp Rock near Evergreen,

Subject: 24 year old female hiker missing 2.5 hours

Dog team(s) responding on mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine SAR) were stood down upon arrival as the subject walked out on her own.

July 7, 2004

Location: Arapahoe County, Cherry Creek State Park off Hwy 83 near Parker

Subject: 51 year old male, suicide

Dog teams responding to mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue); Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (EPCSAR)

Mission: Two dog teams were requested to assist in searching for the subject who entered the park on July 4th after sending an email suicide note and disappearing with his medications. The primary search area, wetlands at the south end of the park, was one huge scent pool approximately 1/2 mile long. Both dog teams had intense interest and non-directional alerts over a wide area. The man's body was spotted in very dense brush by an Air Life helicopter crew assisting in the search.

July 8 and 9, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Rocky Mtn. National Park

Subject: 80 year old male hiker, NPS volunteer

Dog teams responding to mission: (1) Allen Weaver and Rosie; (2) Natalie Ray and Falcon; (3) Kathy Shepherd and Ember (All LCSAR) . Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota (LCSAR) as well as Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue) were on standby until the next morning.

Mission: Rocky Mtn National Park officials requested assistance in locating the missing hiker who was last seen in mid afternoon. Dog team 1 searched along the hiker's intended route in hopes of determining where he had gone off trail. Dog team 2 had alerts which, in retrospect, were right on but the team was directed to not go off trail at night. Other teams searched their assigned areas. The subject was located the next morning at 0600, off trail, in rugged terrain 500 feet below the alerts of dog team 2 the night before.

Note: This same man, a NPS volunteer, was the subject of a search in December of 2000 in Rocky Mtn National Park.

July 9, 2004

Location: Garfield County, Douglas Pass area, Mile Marker 14 on Colorado 139

Subject: 58 year old male, paranoid schizophrenic with history of disappearing up to ten days to get away from the world

Dog teams responding to the mission: Shannon Young and Maggie (Mesa SAR) ; Wyman Bontrager and Dundee (Garfield SAR) with Janet Pannebaker as support.

Mission: Subject had been missing 14 days when search dog teams deployed right behind some trackers. The trackers found several footprints in the area leading along the Salt Creek drainage. Within minutes of deploying to the north of the tracks, the dogs began to alert to the South, toward the drainage. A helicopter joined the search and spooked a mountain lion in the drainage. The helicopter crew spotted a makeshift blind in the tamarisk and landed to investigate. The pilot then spotted the man's body several hundred yards south of the dogs' alerts.

July 9, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Berthoud

Subject: 3 year old female

Dog teams responding on mission: Dan Fanning and Bear; Jayne Zmijewski and Lakota (all LCSAR) were responding when they were stood down while en route as the child was located.

July 13, 2004

Location: Douglas County, MM 10.5 on Rampart Range Road

Subject: 55 year old female, hiker

Dog teams responding on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits; Gayle Humm and Jenna (EPCSAR) ; Roger Matthews and Loki (Park Co. SAR - on standby). The woman, who had been missing for 6 hours and probably walked 8 to 10 miles in heavy, steep timber, was located on Rampart Range Rd. at mile marker 8 by one of the dog teams driving in toward the ICP.

July 16, 2004

Location: Clear Creek County, Mt. Evans

Subject: 28 year old, inexperienced female hiker from Missouri who was lost overnight after separating from fellow hikers in her party.

Dog teams responding to mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue); Roger Matthews and Loki (Park County SAR)

Mission: The dog teams were assigned to search around Summit Lake down toward the Chicago Lakes area and the base of several steep areas where the woman may have fallen. The next morning, the woman made contact with other hikers who assisted in guiding her out.

July 16, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Tompkins Road, Ellicott

Subject: Adult, suicidal male – unknown further

Dog team responding on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (EPCSAR) were stood down while en route as the subject, who threatened to kill himself, was found in a ditch by a deputy.

July 16 and 17, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Hwy 14 along the Poudre River in “The Narrows” area

Subject: 45 year old female from Aztec, NM involved in traffic accident with motorcycle and thrown into the river.

Dog teams responding to mission: Kathy Shepherd and Ember (LCSAR) searched along the river bank the evening of 07/16/04 but stopped due to hazardous conditions. On Saturday 07/17/04, Marcia McMahon and Yeti (PCSAR) with Dan Fanning (LCSAR) as support; Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa (EPCSAR) with Jayne Zmijewski (LCSAR) as support; Cheryl Kennedy and Apache (Larimer SO) with Kathy Shepherd (LCSAR) as support; Julie Weibler and Zephyr (Larimer SO) responded and searched along the river bank.

Mission: Search assigned areas downstream from accident site where subject hit guardrail and was ejected off motorcycle into the fast running Poudre River. All dog teams had alerts and strong interest in the area approximately 3000 ft. downstream from accident site. Larimer County Dive Team searched the area with probe poles to the extent that it was safe but was unable to locate subject. The search was suspended on 07/18/04.

July 18, 2004

Location: Fremont County, Upper Beaver Creek Wilderness Area

Subject: Two adult male hikers

Dog team responding on mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert (PCSAR); Gayle Humm and Jenna (EPCSAR) were stood down while en route. Ed Fowler (EPCSAR) was also en route for dog team support. Ina Bernard (EPCSAR) had responded and was at the ICP when the subjects self recovered after having been overdue since 1400 hours the day before. They had gotten lost on the trails and traveled down the very steep and dangerous East Beaver Creek Canyon before getting out on their own.

July 21, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Twin Sisters Trailhead, Rocky Mtn. National Park

Subjects: Two teenagers – no further identifying information

Dog team responding on mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie (LCSAR) were stood down while en route as the teens had been located in good condition prior to their arrival.

June 21, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Rampart Reservoir

Subjects: Two boys - 13 and 14 years old. The 13 year old was 5 ft. tall and weighed 225 pounds.

Dog team responding on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits/Kiowa (EPCSAR) responded but were held on standby as hasty teams searched the trails around the reservoir. The boys were located approx 3.5 miles from the LSP on the North side of the reservoir after another hasty team heard them from across the reservoir during this night search.

July 22, 2004

Location: El Paso County, 5700 block of Windridge Point in northern part of county

Subject: 70 year old male, model rocketeer

Dog team responding on mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa/Duke (EPCSAR)

Mission: Assist in locating remains of subject in basement of house which exploded and burned on July 21st. As the dog team arrived, the SO Sgt. advised that they had located a torso in the debris which was about 1 foot deep. Dog team had some areas of interest and marked those for investigators prior to ceasing search due to severe thunderstorm. Several portions of the body, including the head, were missing at the time.

July 23, 2004

Location: Park County, Stage Stop Campground in Lake George

Subject: 40 year old male hiker missing 1 ½ hours

Dog teams responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert; Don Morrison and Sherpa (all PCSAR) were stood down while en route as the subject self recovered prior to their arrival.

July 24, 2004

Location: Park County, County Road 47, Bailey

Subject: 30 year old female involved in domestic dispute

Dog teams responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Yeti/Koert; Don Morrison and Sherpa (all PCSAR) were stood down while en route as the subject was located nearby in good condition prior to their arrival.

July 25 and 26, 2004

Location: Gunnison County, Lost Lake trailhead

Subject: 52 year old female lost a total of 30 hours in dense forest

Dog team responding to mission: Sue Purvis and Tasha (Gunnison Co. SO)

Mission: The woman, who separated from her husband and two sons within 100 feet of their camp, continued down a road, crossed a cattle guard and headed west into the wilderness. On the first night, the dog team attempted to determine the direction of travel in a heavily contaminated area at the LSP without any luck. The team returned the next morning to make a 5 hour traverse of the area to try to cut the woman's track. The dog indicated that the woman may have walked into a deep canyon in the western portion of the search area. It was later found that she had indeed walked into that area. She was located at 1700 hours on the second day when a helicopter passed overhead. A rancher returned her to the CP. The woman had walked over 10 miles in dense forest over a 20 hour period.

July 27, 2004

Location: Park County, Rosalie Trail

Subjects: Two 28 year old female hikers.

Dog team responding on mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert (PCSAR)

Mission: Search Abyss, Rosalie and part of Three Mile Trails for the two missing hikers who called a significant other at 2000 hours the night

before and said they were one hour from their car but failed to come out. Dog team searched 4 ½ hours at 10,000 ft. in elevation. Subjects returned to trailhead at daybreak.

July 28, 2004

Location: Custer County, Crestone Peaks Area

Subject: 29 year old male, solo climber trying to summit 14000' Crestone Needle, Crestone Peak and Kit Carson mountains.

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

Mission: Search for climber who had been missing since he left the trailhead on Sunday, July 26th. Subject planned to summit 14,000+ ft. Crestone Needle and Crestone Peak before returning to his car for the night. He then planned to summit Kit Carson Mtn. the next day. He never came back to his car. The dog team searched on Wednesday, July 28th without locating the subject. The dog team believed that he might be on the opposite side of the peaks as they had no interest at all in the South Colony Lakes area. His body was found by SAR members from RMR and Custer County on Friday July 30th. He apparently fell off the West side of the mountains while traversing between Crestone Needle and Crestone Peak.

July 27 and 28, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Hell's Canyon, 5.5 miles South of Estes Park on Hwy 36

Subjects: Two female adults - forest service botanists assigned to check vegetation in the area and then walk out for pick up.

Dog teams responding to mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie with Estelle Purvis and Sarah Babbitt as support; Kathy Shepherd and Ember (all LCSAR). The dog teams searched in a mountainous area at 8000 to 9000 feet in elevation for up to five hours before a Civil Air Patrol aircraft spotted the two missing women well out of the search area. They had become disoriented while performing a botany survey for the forest service.

August 2004

August 2 and 3, 2004

Location: Mesa County, Coon Hollow, near town of Debeque

Subject: 62 year old male BLM employee doing a vegetation health assessment on ATV

Dog team responding to mission: Shannon Young and Maggie (Mesa Co. SAR) responded but were not fielded as the subject had been located, deceased, by other BLM employees as the dog team arrived at the CP. The man was ascending a steep section of trail on the ATV when it flipped over and fell on him.

August 4, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Red Feather Lakes, Glacier View Gate 13

Subject: 72 year old male with Alzheimer's

Dog teams responding to mission: Kathy Shepherd and Ember; Dan Fanning and Bear (all LCSAR) responded but were stood down upon arrival as the subject had been located. Subject had last been seen earlier that day. When found, he said he was "just going for a walk".

August 5, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Monument Creek through Colorado Springs

Subject: Unknown – reported to be an adult male, possibly a homeless person, swept away the night before in the flooded creek.

Dog teams responding to mission: Gayle Humm and Jenna; Kim Veitch and Ruffian; Dennis McLaughlin and Grits

Mission: Search along the creek from the reported LSP on the north end of the city to the southern end of Colorado Springs. Each dog team worked 6 to 8 hours in rugged terrain including areas with cliffs, quicksand, homeless camps, the flooded creek, etc. along with SAR members and CSFD personnel. No victim was found.

August 5, 2004

Location: Mesa County, near the county line between Mesa and Delta counties.

Subject: 78 year old male mushroom hunter in fair condition, missing 10 hours when dog team requested

Dog team responding to mission: Shannon Young and Maggie (Mesa Co.SAR)

Mission: Dog team not given any specific assigned area. Dog team worked to the North at 11,000 in elevation in effort to benefit from the winds at the time. Subject was located by a ground team in a dense stand of firs about ½ mile from the dog team.

August 6, 2004

Location: Lake Minatare, near Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Subject: 48 year old male, drowning victim who was attempting to recover a boat drifting from shore.

Dog team responding to mission: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache (Larimer Co. SO)

Mission: Dog team initially worked along shore in area of LSP and waded into the lake where handler dropped a marker buoy based on dog's alerts. Later, the dog team worked off a boat where they had hard hits just to the NE of the initial marker buoy. Dive team members recovered the man's body within 10 to 15 feet of the buoy and about 165 feet from shore in 9 feet of water.

August 8, 2004

Location: Clear Creek County, Mt. Evans Wildlife Area near Evergreen

Subject: A male and female, unknown ages

Dog team responding to mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine Rescue) were stood down just as they entered the field as the subjects had been located by Jefferson Co. deputies on ATVs.

August 10, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Fern Lake in Rocky Mtn National Park, West of Estes Park

Subject: 24 year old Hispanic female with no backcountry experience who had fallen while hiking. Subject had gotten lost the night before while hiking with her husband. She had fallen and injured her legs and back.

Dog teams responding to mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie; Kathy Shepherd and Ember (all LCSAR). Dog team 1 had arrived and received an assignment and dog team 2 was en route when the subject was located.

August 11, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Lost Lake, North of Red Feather Lakes

Subjects: Three missing hikers, one 23 year old female, two 18 year old males

Dog team responding on mission: Kathy Shepherd and Ember; Bill Young (all LCSAR)

Mission: Before the dog team could field, the trio was located by incoming SAR members based upon info received from a FedEx driver who had seen them earlier but sent them in the wrong direction when they asked for help in locating Lost Lake. They were 6 to 8 miles from the LSP.

August 13, 2004

Location: Fremont County, Upper Beaver Creek Wilderness Area near Canon City

Subjects: a 41 year old male and his 20 year old son from Manitou Springs who had gone fishing on August 11th

Dog teams responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert (Park Co. SAR); Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (El Paso Co. SAR)

Mission: Dog team 1 searched some extreme terrain with cliffs and high water in some areas from the trailhead toward the lower end of the East Beaver Creek Canyon with no alerts. Dog team 2's handler assigned to work with overhead team at ICP and never fielded. Fremont SO advised late in the day that subjects had self recovered and were in Colorado Springs. Interview revealed that subjects had actually exited the area to the north on August 12th after spending a cold, wet night in the East Beaver Creek Canyon and located a cabin where they stayed until August 13th and then got a ride back to Colorado Springs. The older male had approximately 150 cuts and scratches on his legs and arms from their ordeal. Note: Parts of this search area are extreme and the area contains many rattlesnakes which should be considered when requests for dogs occur in the future.

August 14, 2004

Location: Custer County, Forest Service Road 369 near the Ophir Creek Campground

Subject: 53 year old mushroom hunter last seen 10 hours earlier

Dog team responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin with Grits and Kiowa (El Paso SAR). Don Morrison (Park Co. SAR) and Sue Purvis (Gunnison Co. SO) had been notified also. The dog team was stood down while en route as the subject self recovered.

August 19, 2004

Location: Summit County, Lower Cataract TH, Tipperary Lake near Heeney and Green Mtn Reservoirs

Subjects: Three people in their mid 60s and 70s - two women and one man from Oklahoma who had been missing 24 hours when the search began. Each of the missing people had potentially significant medical issues.

Dog team responding to mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (Summit Co. Rescue Group)

Mission: When the dog team arrived at the trailhead they were asked to go to the campsite to locate a scent article. While the dog team, with support person Joe Summers from SCRG, was hiking the 3 hours to Tipperary Lake, they searched. Another search team approaching Tipperary Lake from below the waterfalls was calling out the names of the missing persons. They heard a reply of "help" and located the subjects, all of whom were lost, tired and cold. Given their ages and conditions, it is probable that the Summit County Rescue Group saved the lives of the trio.

August 24, 2004

Location: Utah, Uinta Mountains

SARDOC member Cheryl Kennedy received a call from a contact from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children inquiring about search dogs to assist in the search for a missing 12 year old boy in the Uinta Mountains, North of Mirror Lake, in Utah. When the on-duty SARDOC dispatcher followed up, she was advised that they had enough search dogs for the effort so no SARDOC handlers were contacted.

The boy has not been located as of November 2004

August 31, 2004

Location: Eagle County, East Lake Creek Trail, near Edwards, CO

Subject: 56 year old female hiker with hypoglycemia and mild depression missing over 24 hours when dog team was requested.

Dog team responding to mission: Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG) with Lee Bendel (VMR/SARDOC) as support

Mission: The dog team was assigned to search the Dead Dog Trail which was relatively steep. They also checked over some cliffs in the area. The woman was located in fairly good shape by a helicopter crew, far from where the dog team had searched for 6 to 7 hours above 10,000' in elevation.

September 2004

September 4, 2004

Location: Custer County, Adobe Peaks area, East of Westcliffe

Subjects: 57 year old male and his 10 year old grandson along with two other adults who had been searching for the original pair

Dog teams available to respond when canceled as subjects had been found by Custer County with one in serious condition: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (El Paso SAR); Don Morrison and Sherpa; Marcia McMahon and Koert (Park Co. SAR)

September 4, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Devil's Kitchen area North of Rampart Range Road

Subject: 48 year old bow hunter lost about 7 hours when search began

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

Mission: Subject had gone hunting with friend at sunrise and got lost on back side of Blodgett Peak. He called his wife at 0630 to say he was lost. She contacted the SO at 0910 hours. Subject located in good condition by a ground team shortly after the dog team fielded.

September 5, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Rawah Wilderness, McIntyre Trail

Subject: 26 year old male hiker

Dog team responding to mission: Dan Fanning and Bear (LCSAR) were responding when the subject was contacted via cell phone while he was en route home. The team was stood down.

September 6 and 7, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Rampart Range area

Subject: 51 year old male, suicidal

Dog teams responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits (El Paso SAR); Marcia McMahan and Yeti/Koert; Roger Matthews and Loki (Park Co. SAR)

Mission: On the afternoon of 6 September, El Paso SO deputies requested a dog team to assist in looking for the subject who was reported missing August 14th. His truck was found along Rampart Range Rd., 11 miles from Colorado Springs. The dog team searched approx. 500' around the vehicle before it got dark. The handler and support person could both smell what they believed to be a decomposing body while in a drainage area near the truck.

On September 7th, two other dog teams from Park Co. SAR were assigned to drainage areas as well as nearby high points. Dog team two had some interest in the drainage, directly below a high point about 1/2 mile from the man's vehicle. Dog team 3 was assigned to go across a ridge line leading toward that high point. They, too, could occasionally smell a decomposing body. Dog team 3 split when approaching a rock formation when the dog team's support person, a member of Teller SAR, located the deceased subject under a makeshift lean to.

September 7, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Fountain CO

Subject: Unidentified missing adult female, possibly missing up to 3 months

Dog team responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa/Grits (El Paso SAR)

Mission: Search around a mobile home for a possible gravesite in the yard. The yard was full of piles of old lumber with nails sticking up, garbage, piles of dead vegetation, etc. Both dogs had alerts and strong interest in the back yard, high along a fence but did not indicate on any specific location. Police were unable to hold the area until the next morning when it would be cooler. Note: On October 1, the Fountain PD arrested the occupant of the mobile home. After questioning the suspect, they recovered the body of a female adult in the back yard. She had been wrapped in two tarps and buried 2 to 3 feet down under a pile of meth lab trash

September 8, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Stratmoor Valley, Forest Avenue

Subject: 24 year old bi-polar, epileptic female who took pills this date and had overdosed two weeks prior

Dog team responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits. The dog team had not fielded prior to the woman being located at a friend's house – drunk and very lethargic.

September 9, 2004

Location: Fremont County, Canon City, between Willow and Ash in a drainage area

Subject: 76 year old male who disappeared 6 years ago

Dog team responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Kiowa/Grits (El Paso SAR).

Mission: Search a low lying, very wet and swampy area for the remains of the man who disappeared several years ago. This area was pointed out as likely by a Florida psychic hired by the family. Nothing was found. The area is very wet and heavily overgrown.

September 10, 2004

Location: Clear Creek County, Loveland Ski Area

Subject: Report of male, possibly dead, in a cave with a piece of plastic over his face

Dog team responding to mission: Paula Bindrich and Phoebe (Alpine SAR) were stood down upon arrival as deputies located the cave where the woman thought she saw a body but they could not find anything at that location and they had no reports of a missing person in the area.

September 11, 2004

Location: Park County, Meridian Trailhead outside Bailey, CO.

Subject: 13 year old male separated from father while black powder hunting

Dog teams responding to mission: Don Morrison and Sherpa; Marcia McMahon and Koert (Park Co. SAR). Both dog teams were stood down as they arrived as the child had been found.

September 13, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Burgess Road in Black Forest

Subject: 22 year old female, intentional separation after reportedly cutting her wrists

Dog teams responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits; Gayle Humm and Jenna (El Paso SAR)

Mission: Dog team 1 fielded to the rear of the residence. The dog alerted and went South and then East before circling back toward the residence when it was announced that the young woman had been found under a rabbit hutch in the yard in an area cleared earlier by deputies.

September 13, 2004

Location: Larimer County, "The Narrows" on the Poudre River

Subject: Middle aged female missing since traffic accident on July 16th.

Dog team responding: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache; Julie Weibler and Zephyr (Larimer SO)

Mission: Continued search for remains of woman who went into river on 07/16/04 as result of traffic accident. Scent picture this date similar to that of initial search operational period in July indicating that remains are in area approx. 3000 ft downstream from accident site.

September 16, 2004

Location: Park County, Mt. Silverheels near Alma

Subject: 60 year old male hiker who separated from his son the night before while climbing Mt. Silverheels

Dog teams responding on mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert; Don Morrison and Sherpa (Park Co. SAR). The dog teams were stood down while en route as the man called on his cell phone to say that he was okay and had stopped to rest until daylight.

September 16, 2004

Location: Park County, Gibson Lake near Grant

Subject: Plane wreckage

Dog teams responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert; Don Morrison and Sherpa (Park Co. SAR).

Mission: Hikers had come across an airplane wing and debris while hiking near Gibson Lake the weekend before. They took coordinates and left. They later reported the find to the USFS. The Civil Air Patrol inquired about the wreckage on 09/16 after which Park Co. SAR was contacted. Further research indicated that this was an old plane wreck, possibly 20 years old. No search conducted on this date.

September 17, 2004

Location: Larimer County, "The Narrows" on the Poudre River

Subject: Middle aged female

Dog team responding: Cheryl Kennedy and Apache; Julie Weibler and Zephyr (Larimer SO)

Mission: Continued search for remains of woman who went into river on 07/16/04 as result of traffic accident. Dog teams continue to have strong indications of cadaver scent in river below accident scene at a point approx. 3000 ft. from where woman went into the river.

September 19 and 20, 2004

Location: Park County, Rosalie Trailhead near Bailey

Subject: 53 year old male hiker in good health who was recovering from foot surgery.

Dog teams responding to mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert, Don Morrison and Sherpa (Park Co. SAR); Patti Burnett and Sandy (SCRG); Kim Veitch and Ruffian (El Paso SAR)

Mission: Subject had gone on hike to summit of Rosalie Peak with his dog which also was recovering from a health problem. Subject made the summit but returned down the wrong side. He called on his cell phone to report that he was lost as he kept moving. The search began at night at elevations above 10,000' and continued into the next day. The subject was located by a member of Alpine Rescue in Clear Creek County, several miles from the initial search area.

September 23, 2004

Location: Larimer County, Cherokee Park Road, 30 miles NW of Ft. Collins

Subject: Male adult, grouse hunter

Dog team responding to mission: Allen Weaver and Rosie (Larimer Co. SAR). The dog team and other responding LCSAR members were stood down while en route as the subject walked out on his own.

September 27, 2004

Location: El Paso County, Spring Valley Road, Monument, CO

Subject: 5 year old female with Down's Syndrome, missing approximately 1 hour

Dog teams responding to mission: Dennis McLaughlin and Grits; Kim Veitch and Ruffian with Brenda Veitch as support; Gayle Humm and Jenna; Ed Fowler and Paul Goetz also responded (all EPCSAR)

Mission: Little girl last seen just prior to some guests leaving the house and the front door not being locked. Father physically incapacitated. Mother could not find child inside and went outside to look with neighbors. Child found asleep in the dryer with the door closed by EPCSAR/SARDOC member Paul Goetz who was assigned to search the house.

September 27, 2004

Location: Between Park and Jefferson Counties, Georgia Pass

Subject: Adult male hunter

Dog team responding on mission: Marcia McMahon and Koert/Yeti (Park Co. SAR). The hunter was located by Summit County Rescue Group and the dog team was stood down while en route.