

# SARDOC MISSION REPORTS FOR 2013

Date: January 12, 2013

Location: Lost Park, Park County

Subject: Adult female, thought to be suicidal

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team was responding but was diverted to another search before arriving. The subject was located.

Date: January 12, 2013

Location: Reinecker Ridge, Fairplay, Park County

Subject: Male hunter

Dog team on mission: The responding SARDOC dog team was stood down before fielding as the subject had been located and was ok.

Date: January 14, 2013

Location: Bailey, Park County

Subject: Ten year old male, sleepwalker

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team responded but was stood down before fielding as the subject had been located and was ok.

Date: January 22, 2013

Location: Masonville, Larimer County

Subject: Twenty four year old male who had argument with brother, left work site and did not return.

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team from Larimer County was responding but was stood down as the Sheriff's Office determined that the subject was an adult not at risk and cancelled the search.

Date: January 26, 2013

Location: Cripple Creek, Teller County

Subject: Evidence search for any items related to a missing woman who disappeared from Colorado Springs in 2008. The reporting party reported finding bones and a ring in the area back in 2008 but had only recently reported it.

Dog teams on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams searched for three hours. The canines had some interest in the area but no alerts. Nothing was found because the area had been disturbed by heavy

equipment recently and there was a 5 year delay in reporting of the items reportedly seen/found back in 2008.

Date: January 26, 2013

Location: Round Mountain, Loveland, Larimer County

Subjects: Two adult male hikers who left earlier to hike Round Mtn. The wife of one of them reported them overdue as it got dark.

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team responded but was stood down as the missing subjects had returned home.

Date: January 31, 2013

Location: Abyss Trailhead, Mt Bierstadt, Park County

Subject: Missing 29 year old male who climbed Bierstadt in a blizzard and high winds.

Dog team on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded but were stood down before fielding as the subject had been located.

Dates: February 1 - 3, 2013

Location: Rocky Mtn National Park, Bear Lake Trailhead, Larimer County

Subject: 39 year old male from Texas, apparently suicidal

Dog teams on mission: Several SARDOC dog teams assisted in this search.

Search area map:



Mission: To locate missing businessman who was in Colorado for a conference and had purchased cold weather clothing in Estes Park. His car was found at the Bear Lake trailhead. Numerous dog teams, ground searchers and aircraft looked for several days but were unable to locate the man primarily due to snow and high winds. Dog teams had interest in several areas. The man's remains (a suicide) were found later in a steep, forested area (area 5 on map) by snowshoers.

A SARDOC dog team plowing through the snow at RMNP:



Date: March 7, 2013

Location: Hoosier Pass, Park County

Subjects: Two adults, a man and woman in their 40's, geocaching and got stuck in the snow at 12000 ft. in elevation. Subjects were in cotton clothing, tennis shoes, cotton anklets, no hats or gloves. Very cold and tired.

Dog teams on mission: One SARDOC dog team responded but was not fielded as the subjects were only 200 yards from the lot and were located using audible attraction. SAR members walked in on snowshoes and escorted the couple out.

Date: April 14, 2013

Location: Bailey, Park County

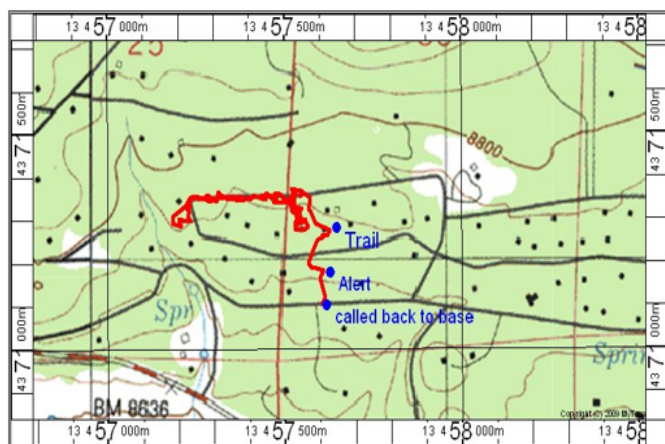


Subject: 10 year old male, sleepwalker

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team searched for approx.. 30 minutes. The K9 picked up the subject's trail and went from the house to Vigilante Ave. before they were told to return as the subject had been found on Vigilante Ave. just prior.

Handler's map on topo and on Google Earth –

Team: Sabine Johnson and K-9 Annie



Started 12:41 AM - 35 degrees, snow fall with very little west wind, snow covered ground

Checked house and area to the west. In light scent going west on Stagecoach Rd. for approx. 0.2mi. Turned back to subject's residence worked on east side, hit subject's trail, leading south. Crossed Gunsmoke Rd and Vigilante Rd at 1:10 AM at which time we were called back to base as subject had been found and was taken back to the house.

Date: May 11, 2013

Location: Horsetooth Mountain Park, Horsetooth Falls, Larimer County – **dog team located subjects**

Subjects: Two hikers, 21 year old female and 18 year old male who lost their way when it got dark and could not find the trail. They called 911 and dispatch got a GPS fix on their phone.

Dog team on mission: A responding SARDOC dog team was tasked with hiking in to the location of the cell phone ping and searching that area. As they approached the area, the canine had several interests due to the scent of the missing subjects. While the team used audible attraction, the subjects responded back. They were located and escorted out in good condition.

Date: May 28, 2013

Location: Salida, Chaffee County

Subject: Male adult, violent felon. Subject's vehicle was found in late October/early November. At that time, the Sheriff's office conducted a brief search of the area and concluded subject had probably left town as he was a wanted felon. New evidence surfaced that he might have been murdered and they requested dogs to come and search the area surrounding where the vehicle had been found, which was in a new, rural subdivision south of Salida.

Dog teams on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded to the request for assistance.

Mission: Search area around where vehicle had been found south of Salida and a vehicle search (subject's vehicle). First, one of the SARDOC handlers worked around the subject's vehicle which was in impound for any clues which were provided to the Sheriff's Office. The dog teams then worked a large area around where the subject's vehicle had been found with negative results. The investigation is continuing.

Date: June 1, 2013

Location: Maloy Park, Wilson Mesa, Grand County, Utah **Subject located by SARDOC dog team.**

Subject: 23 year old female, camper in good health. Subject was camping with 2 friends. Subject was last seen around midnight. At approx.. 1:00 am, when her companions went to bed in a tent they were sharing, she was not there. They figured she had gone to the bathroom or for a stroll and they went to sleep. When they woke up at 6:30, they discovered she was still missing.

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team from Moab,, Utah responded. The canine started trailing approx. 50 feet from a cliff drop off. She alerted several times at the edge of the cliff. Due to physical clues present and the dog's alerts, a rock tech was sent off the cliff. Subject's body was found in/under the scrub oak down below approximately 170 feet below the cliff.

Date: June 6 -7, 2013

Location: Evergreen, Independence Mtn, Jefferson County

Subject: 28 year old female/alcoholic/depressed who disappeared from rear deck of home after fight with parents.

Dog teams on mission: June 6<sup>th</sup> – Two SARDOC dog teams responded and searched but did not located the subject.

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Three SARDOC dog teams searched for several hours without finding the subject as she had gone to town and was seen alive on store video tape. The search was suspended at that time.

Date: June 13 -14, 2013

Location: Mesa Verde National Park, Montezuma County, CO

Subject: 51 year old male who was recovering from back surgery, Subject left on short hike to view Spruce Tree House at about 4PM and did not return. He was reported late by spouse at 8:30 PM on June 9, 2013. Subject did not have any water with him. (Khaki shorts, brown tee shirt, redwing shoes)

Dog teams on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded and searched. Dog teams from K9 Team of Dolores, CO also had responded and worked the search prior to the SARDOC teams arriving. The missing subject has not been located as of November, 2013.

Photos from one handler's report showing overview of search area.

Note the trail at the bottom of the photograph is paved. The trail leads to the bottom of the canyon, but is fenced with a locked gate. Pictograph Point trail leads to the right of the ruin along the sandstone rim.







Sample view of Canyon bottom. Most of canyon is not this lush. Next picture is overview of area.



Date: June 16, 2013

Location: Mt. Rosalie, Deer Creek Trailhead; Park County

Subject: 32 year old male who separated from others in party

Dog teams on mission: Three SARDOC dog teams responded and two of them actively searched for hours before the subject self recovered, unhurt.

Date: June 27 - 28, 2013

Location: Clark Canyon Dam area, Dillon, Montana

Subject: Seven year old male reportedly missing since 1999. It was reported that he was murdered, dismembered and buried near the Clark Canyon Dam.

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC handler with two cadaver certified canines responded along with a canine team from out of state. The teams had been requested by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Mission: Search several areas of interest to law enforcement based upon information they had received about the child's murder and burial.

On the first day, their assignment was to work in the public camping area between the parking area and the river, where several old campfire rings were located. The two SARDOC canines indicated the presence of cadaver scent and worked to an area near a small spring coming out of a hillside where they gave their final indication of the strongest scent. At debrief later, the Sheriff informed the dog handlers that that spot was where a suicide had taken place in 2009 which gave validation to the ability and work of the SARDOC dogs.

The dog teams worked other areas during that day and the next with nothing of significance found related to the cold case.

Date: June 27-28, 2013

Location: Colorado River downstream of Jughandle Arch

Subject: 61 year old male, 250 pounds, with bad knees who rented a duckie (boat) on 6/21 and didn't return it. His truck was located at the Moab boat dock on 6/22.

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team from Moab, Utah responded. Their initial role was to search for subject in several areas along the river and search the river. The dog had numerous interests on their run downriver on the 27<sup>th</sup> but nothing was found. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, just as they launched the boats, the subject's body was found in the river by a boatman on a commercial river trip.

Date: June 30, 2013

Location: Como, Como Boys Home, Park County

Subject: Thirteen year old male runaway.



Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team responded and searched buildings and area around the home which was on the highway for two hours before suspending the search. The subject was located 10 miles away, in Fairplay, the next day.

Date: July 1, 2013

Location: Abyss Trail/Park Co.

Subjects: Two female hikers in their 30s. Subjects hiked down Scott Gomer trail from Guanella Pass onto Mt. Rosalie, but took the wrong turn onto Abyss trail upon return. They made cell phone contact with SAR personnel and were assisted down by Alpine SAR.

Dog teams on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams had responded and worked several miles up the Abyss Trail before the subjects were assisted out by Alpine approx.. 1 mile from Guanella Pass.

Date: August 1, 2013 – SARDOC dog team located subject.

Location: Willow Springs Road, Grand County, Utah

Subject: 18 yo male, with mental "issues". (Schizophrenic, Psychotic) who took off and ran away from camp during a thunderstorm.

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team responded and trailed to the missing subject. Subject was okay and everybody walked out.

Date: August 31, 2013

Location:..Nearly 6 miles in on Lost Park Rd, Jefferson, Park County

Subject: missing drunk, male teenager who was partying; became lost from campsite during the night. FD looked for a while before calling for dogs. The subject was located before dog teams could be fielded.

Dog teams on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded but did not field as the subject had been located.

Date: September 1, 2013

Location: Kite Lake and surrounding 14'ers, Park County

Subjects: Three 27 year old males from OK and TX who started climbing the 14ers just before afternoon storms the day before.

Dog teams on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded Sabine Johnson and K9 Annie; Marcia McMahon and K9 Koert (all PCSAR)

Mission: One dog team was assigned to walk up the jeep trail to the summit of Mt. Bross while the other dog team worked 1/3 of the way up the Bross chute before the dog alerted NW towards Mt. Democrat. The dog then started sitting and pointing towards Mt. Democrat and blocked the handler's way. The handler told her navigator/support person that the subjects were not up the trail they were headed up-nor were they in the bowl-the scent was on Mt. Democrat and they needed to go back down. Two minutes later, two SAR team members on Mt. Democrat radioed in that they had found the backpack of one of the subjects on the Democrat saddle. A few minutes after that, the RP called in that the subjects had walked out to Hwy 9 at Hoosier. The subjects had dropped off the sheer north face of Mt. Democrat in a severe electrical storm while disoriented by clouds; spent the night in a mining cabin below the summit, and then walked out on the Montgomery Reservoir road in the morning.

Date: September 6, 2013

Location: Wagon Tongue Gulch Trailhead, Park County

Subject: 79 year old male, hunter, overdue

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team responded but was stood down prior to fielding as the subject had been located.

Date: September 13, 2013

Location: Woodland Park, Teller County

Subject: Fourteen year old female in good health. On September 4, 2013 the subject walked away from home after argument with her mother. She reportedly was picked up by a friend nearby on Hwy67 and taken to Memorial Park in Woodland Park at 21:00 hours.

Dog teams on mission: Three SARDOC dog teams responded.

Mission: Search the town of Woodland Park for any clues to the location of the missing girl. Two of the dogs had interest in Memorial Park and other parts of town but both eventually worked their way east along Hwy 24 toward the Safeway store and Wal-Mart. One dog was insistent that there was scent going east on Hwy 24 past the Wal-Mart store.

One of the other SARDOC dogs had considerable interest in a house on Baldwin Street in town. This was reported to the police department for follow-up and investigation.

The third SARDOC dog team also searched heavily populated areas near the park and high school where the dog had interest to the SE.

News Article posted in Mountain Jackpot News after girl was located:

# The Mountain Jackpot News

News with an Altitude – Established 1989

## Missing Teen Found Following National And Volunteer Search

by [chambersphoto1](#) • September 17, 2013



photo by CR Chambers

(Related Cover Story) by Rick Langenberg:

A nearly two-week pursuit for a missing 14-year-old Woodland Park teen, involving federal authorities and culminating with an exhaustive all-day volunteer search, ended on a happy note Sunday evening.

According to Woodland Park Police authorities, Alexandra “Ali” Ponte was discovered Sunday evening. However, few details have been released and her mother, Chrissy Duis, has asked for privacy and indicated that she will disclose more information in the near future. “Ali has been found alive and well and is home with us this evening,” stated Duis on a posting on Facebook, who also thanked the many people who assisted her family during this time.

The Woodland Park Police also didn’t release any specific details about the circumstances surrounding the teen’s discovery, but have indicated an investigation into her disappearance still continues. According to Woodland Park Police Chief Bob Larson, Ali was discovered by a WP police officer Sunday evening near her parents’ home at the Tamarac subdivision around 9:30 p.m. She was taken to the police station and then released to her parents. Ali told the police that she had received a ride from an older male, but didn’t provide too many details, according to Larson.

The police say they plan to talk to the teen more this week, once she has recovered from her ordeal. According to Larson, the WP Police had been providing regular patrols around her parents’ residence, and said some preliminary reports had indicated she may have been spotted near the home during her week and a half disappearance.



Despite a number of unanswered questions, local law enforcement authorities are ecstatic about the outcome. “We are very happy she is safe and are thankful for the community support we received,” said the police chief. “People were very helpful. This could have turned out very bad. We were very concerned.”

The news of the teen’s return is being warmly welcomed by many community residents. A bevy of “thank you” comments flooded the Help Find Ali Facebook page late Sunday evening and early Monday morning. Many had started to fear the worst, especially when officials confirmed that her cell phone had been inactive since she disappeared.

And on Saturday, the search for Ali got quite serious and became a community-wide quest. A large group of more than 50 residents, parents and teens took advantage of a break in the weather and partook in a detailed search for the 14-year-old teen, who was last seen in Memorial Park on the evening of Sept. 4.

This marked the first intensive search for Alexander “Ali” Ponte, organized by community residents, civic leaders and national law enforcement authorities. Besides the Woodland Park Police Department, the inquiry had involved the El Paso County Sheriff’s Department, the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, based in Alexandria, Virginia.

Despite her lengthy absence, officials and parents remained optimistic about their prospects of finding the teen. Detective Sean Goings of the Woodland Park Police Department told the large crowd, who assembled in the Woodland Park High School parking lot Saturday, that the case was still considered a search for a missing person and “not the search for a body.” From the get-go, law enforcement authorities maintained that they found no traces of foul play and continued to actively pursue leads.

But Goings cautioned the searchers that the last known place Ali was spotted for sure was in Memorial Park on Sept. 4. He stressed that a number of tips had bombarded the police agency, but these had resulted in no confirmed sightings. In the last week, rumors abounded regarding kids who may have resembled Ali in other parts of Colorado. However, based on information from a local restaurant owner and the scent of her clothing picked up by a professional canine unit (added note: SARDOC dog teams), authorities believed last week that Ali left Memorial Park and walked on Baldwin Street and then headed southwest towards the other side of U.S. Hwy. 24 and may have traveled near the Wal-Mart store and Old Crystola Road area.

Still, the case had raised many questions. This is longest time Ali has been away from home. She left home a year ago, but was found by authorities less than an hour later. “When kids leave home, they have to depend on other people,” said Larson. And according to the police chief, this reliance can sometime get tricky when it comes to young juveniles who aren’t old enough to drive.

The latest news, though, marked a great development as some volunteers described the search for Ali as “looking for a needle in a haystack.” Still, community residents weren’t throwing in the towel.

Massive volunteer pursuit



photo by CR Chambers

In a no-nonsense style, and with the help of leaders from the police and FBI, volunteer parents and teens assembled into three groups Saturday and vigorously hit the search trail with a special emphasis on the Rampart Range Road area, sections near Crystola and Green Mountain Falls and many locations surrounding Woodland Park, including the Rampart Range Reservoir area. The group was split up, based on those who were willing to embark on difficult treks uphill along Rampart Range Road in back of the school, conduct a long-distance search on foot or explore the area in-depth through their automobiles. Searchers were advised not to touch anything they found that may belong to Ali such as clothing or a cell phone case. “We have to think like a kid,” said Goings, who stressed the importance of examining the Rampart Range Road area and other popular getaways for local teens.

The search, according to authorities, netted a few notable discoveries, but none of them related to the Ali Ponte case. The police chief said that some volunteers continued their pursuit efforts until mid-afternoon Saturday.

According to Larson, a few other brief searches were conducted in the last week. But with the spree of rain and floods that bombarded the region, no comprehensive search could be conducted until Saturday morning. “We were very happy with the turnout,” said Larson, regarding Saturday’s volunteer effort. He also reported much cooperation from the community and from local realtors in identifying possible vacant homes that may serve as a potential hang out or an escape spot for the missing teen.

The police chief said many local resources were being used for this investigation. In the past, most missing teen reports get resolved in several days, according to local authorities. “Usually they will come back several days later when they run out of money,” said the police chief.



Woodland Park PD Cheif Bob Larsen  
Photo by CR Chambers

According to previous reports, Ali left home following an argument with her mother on Sept. 4 regarding a Facebook post. She then got a ride to Memorial Park in Woodland Park from the mother of one of her friends to supposedly meet another friend for a “sleepover” that evening. However, the friend’s family didn’t know anything about the sleepover.

If Ali hadn’t turned up, Larson stated that authorities had planned to re-interview many kids and acquaintances of the teen at both the Woodland Park schools and in Ellicott, where she went to school previously. He also said phone records of some of her friends were going to be examined. Larson said the FBI was in charge of the technical aspects of the case, such as examining her cell phone and social media sites she may have used. Unfortunately, her cell phone didn’t appear active during the time she disappeared, according to Larson.

The case, though, is still under investigation. The police chief said the authorities want to get more information about Ali’s whereabouts for the last week and a half and the details surrounding the person who reportedly gave her a ride home. “If someone just gave her a ride home, that is fine. But if a person contributed to her disappearance, that would be a crime,” said Larson.

Date: September 13, 2013 **Subject located by SARDOC dog team**

**Location:** Culvert Canyon area, Grand County, Utah

**Subject:** 21 year old male, ATVing with family and drinking. Subject left family around noon and disappeared into the desert.

**Dog team on mission:** One SARDOC dog team responded and was assigned to clear/search the mouths of two side-by-side canyons in order to determine if the subject



had left the area and possibly had gotten a ride elsewhere or had fallen/jumped in the river. When the dog team dropped down into the second canyon, Culvert Canyon, the dog indicated that it had the subjects' scent in the area, particularly up on the side wall of the canyon. The handler requested that a helicopter search the middle layer and bench of the west side of the canyon based upon the dog's indications. The heli flew right to the subject ½ mile up the canyon – on the bench. The subject was very dehydrated and overheated. The medical people that dealt with him after the heli brought him out said he wouldn't have survived much longer.

Date: September 16, 2013

Location: Deer Creek Trailhead, Park County

Subject: Male hunter from Oklahoma in his 30s in good health on outfitter arranged trip. Got lost from hunters' camp day before; fell in river. Came down to TH and spent night at cabin. Tried to return to camp the next day and fell in river; came back to TH and went to sleep.

Dog team on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded but were stood down as the subject was located before they could field.

Date: September 22, 2013

Location: Fort Collins, Larimer County

Subject: 17yr old, developmentally disabled (5 yr old mental level) 5'10" 185#

Dog team on mission: Three SARDOC dog teams responded.

Mission: The teams searched from 22:00 until 00:30 on Monday with no significant interests from the dogs. The subject was located safe around 2:30 am Monday morning at CR52 and I25 (6 miles south of ICP, 4 miles south of the search area boundary).

Date: September 23, 2013

Location: North Fork TH, Lost Park, Park County

Subject: Adult male, elk hunter

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team searched along a trail and in mountainous areas where subject had been last seen. The subject's general location was obtained from cell phone ping and he was located there by ground searchers.

Date: September 24, 25, 30, and October 2, 2013

Location: Mt. Harvard, Chafee County

Subject" Male, 64 years old, hiker, poss. mild diabetes and possible Dementia, from out of state

Dog teams on mission: September 24<sup>th</sup> – Six different SARDOC dog teams responded to this search at the request of Chaffee County. Teams worked their way up the trail toward Mt. Harvard and Mt. Columbia while some teams were flown in by helicopter to search mountain tops before descending down various drainages in search of the subject. The subject is still missing.

Date: September 30, 2013

Location: Agnes Vaille Falls, Buena Vista, CO, Chaffee County

Subjects: Six individuals caught in a huge, deadly rockslide. All of the people were from the same family varying in age from 10 to 40's. They were hiking in to look at the falls. There were five fatalities.

Dog teams on mission: One SARDOC dog team (called from search on Mt. Harvard) was accompanied by a geologist and 3 other Chaffee County SAR members to check the area for any missing people. The area of the rockslide was considered to be very dangerous and unstable. As they entered the area, a fifth person was located by one of the SAR members under the body of another fatality. The area was strewn with Volkswagen sized boulders that had fallen on the victims from several hundred feet above. The search dog indicated on all of the fatalities and where the one subject, a young girl, was rescued alive previously. Two other SARDOC dog teams were responding also but never fielded.

View from Agnes Vaille Falls TH



Date: October 1, 2013

Location: North County Road 29, Loveland, Larimer County

Subject: 63 yo male, COPD, on meds for mental issues but stable

Dog team on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded. After searching the area near his home and finding nothing, the man was later found safe in Loveland

Date: October 17, 2013



Location: Timnath, Larimer County

Subject: Male, adult, no further as subject was involved in a one car crash and fled the scene. He apparently waded and swam across the Poudre River. The fire department had searched prior to SAR being called out.

Dog team on search: One SARDOC dog team responded but was stood down by the deputy on scene. Unknown if subject was ever found.

Date: November 2-3, 2013

Location: Hwy 285, Park County

Subject: 19 year old male with schizophrenia, ADHD, Bipolar, younger mentality who climbed out window of home and disappeared. He had been arguing with his mother and her significant other beforehand.

Dog teams on mission: Two SARDOC dog teams responded and searched the surrounding area for several hours with little to no interest near the home. A couple of dogs indicated interest in the direction of the highway toward Bailey. Search suspended pending additional information.

Date: November 10, 2013 – SARDOC dog team found the subjects

Location: Twin Eagles Campground/Lake George/Park Co.

Subjects: Four 27 year old males, U.S. Army soldiers just back from Iraq who were out on an acclimatization hike. Wife of one called SO after husband sent text saying they were a little lost. They had plenty of equipment with them.

Dog team on mission: One SARDOC dog team responded and located the men who were all in good shape, just a little slower than they anticipated.