LRCGD 2025 WINTER 2025 UPDATE

LRCGD And The Upcoming Year

The last few years have found the Club in sort of a strange holding pattern. As we all have noticed, our sport has dwindled in numbers for a variety of reasons. After the letter I had Marie send to the membership recently, I had a total of 7 people out of the whole membership respond. We know we need to make a few changes. We know we need to do more activities that are FUN for ALL of you! Recently, our Board met and had a real serious sit-down, heart-to-heart talk about our future. We are all in agreement to continue on with the activities we are easily capable of accomplishing. You will find within this brief newsletter, an outline of activities we plan to put on. We hope many of them will appeal to you!! Please reach out to a Board Member if you have any suggestions for activities you would like to see the Club do!

2025 Board of Directors

Lee Darrigrand - President, crockprint@aol.com
Kathy Maher - Vice President, maherkmkm@hotmail.com
Greg Lynch - Treasurer, kellynlabs@comcast.net
Marie Zimmerman - Recording Secretary, mzimmerman49@gmail.com
Denise Hamel - Corresponding Secretary, pndrgnlabs@aol.com
Rosann Pease - Board Member, sunroselabs@comcast.net
Gloria Perez - Board Member, g911perez@comcast.net
Paul Guttenberg - Board Member, paulg406@gmail.com

for your INFORMATION

LRCGD PLANS FOR 2025

JANUARY 21st @ 7:30pm General Membership ZOOM Meeting - Contact Greg Lynch to receive Zoom Meeting Invite with Instructions: kellynlabs@comcast.net

FEBRUARY 9th @ 11:00am JUDGES SELECTION MEETING @ the Lynch's, Pot Luck

MARCH 16th LRCGD B MATCH @ Mantayo Kennels

SPRING FIELD TRAINING DAY - Rosann Pease and Carol Brady to spearhead

SUMMER TRASH & TREASURE SWAP MEET & Get Together

CHRISTMAS IN JULY CLUB PARTY

INTRO TO DOCK DIVING CLUB GET TOGETHER

LRCGD SPECIALTY in GREELEY August 16-17

upcoming EVENTS

2025 Dog Shows

Colorado KC Feb 14,15,16 1-29 Onofrio Colorado National Complex, Denver

Terry All KC April 4,5,6 3-19 Onofrio Riverdale (Adams County Fairgrounds), Brighton

Scottsbluff KC April 11,12,13 3-26 Onofrio Goshen County Fairgrounds, Torrington WY

Laramie KC May 24,25,26 5-7 Onofrio Albany County Fairgrounds, Laramie WY

Flatirons KC June 6,7,8 5-21 Onofrio Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont

Plum Creek KC June 13,14,15 5-28 Foy-Trent Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora

Buckhorn Valley KC June 21,22 6-4 Onofrio Archer Event Center, Cheyenne WY

Greeley KC Aug 16,17,18 7-30 Onofrio Island Grove Park, Greeley **LRCGD SPECIALTY

Cheyenne KC Aug 30,31 Sept 1 8-6 Onofrio Archer Event Center, Cheyenne WY

Metro Mile-Hi KC Toy Sept 5 Fri (2) 8-20 Onofrio Island Grove Park, Greeley (2 shows Fri)

Evergreen KC Sept 6,7,8 8-20 Onofrio Island Grove Park, Greeley

Roaring Fork KC Sept 12,13,14 8-27 Onofrio Island Grove Park, Greeley (outside)

Arapahoe KC Sept 19,20,21 9-3 Onofrio Arapahoe Counry Fairgrounds, Aurora

Colorado Springs KC Oct 24,25,26 10-8 Foy-Trent Norris Penrose Event Center, Colo Springs

Southern Colorado KC Nov 7,8,9 10-22 Foy-Trent State Fairgrounds, Pueblo

Trail Ridge KC (UKC) May 9,10,11? Pre-Entry Only Pioneer Park, Berthoud CO

High Plains KC (UKC) July ? Messer Arena, Kiowa

Shows farther than 3 hour drive

Central Wyoming July 25,26,27 7-9 Onofrio Central WY Fairgounds, Casper WY

Matches

Terry All KC B match Jan 12 Riverdale (Adams County Fairgrounds), Brighton

Flatirons KC B match Feb 2 Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont

LRCGD B Match, March 16th, Mantayo Kennels

These (Adorable) Avalanche Dogs Are Trained to Save People Every Winter

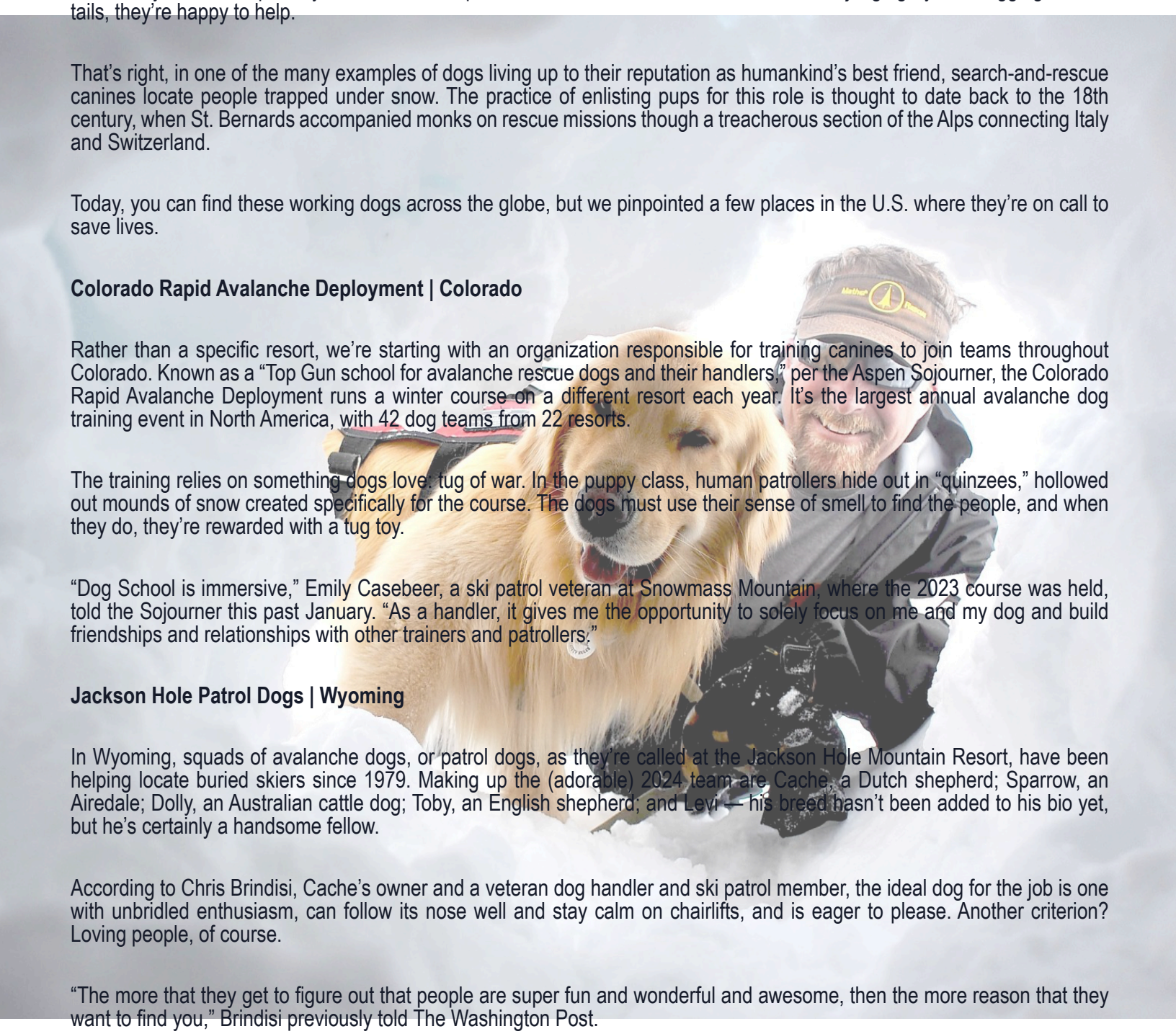
By REBEKAH BRANDES

For sporty snow bunnies, skiing is one of winter's great joys, but the cold weather recreation isn't without risk. Not only does it take some serious skill to careen down a mountain on two runners — or one, if you're a snowboarder — you're also up against the elements.

Though they're luckily rare occurrences at resorts, avalanches do happen, and the sliding sheets of snow can be deadly. That's why teams of specially trained rescue operatives are on staff at most locations, and judging by the wagging of their tails, they're happy to help.

That's right, in one of the many examples of dogs living up to their reputation as humankind's best friend, search-and-rescue canines locate people trapped under snow. The practice of enlisting pups for this role is thought to date back to the 18th century, when St. Bernards accompanied monks on rescue missions though a treacherous section of the Alps connecting Italy and Switzerland.

Today, you can find these working dogs across the globe, but we pinpointed a few places in the U.S. where they're on call to save lives.



Colorado Rapid Avalanche Deployment | Colorado

Rather than a specific resort, we're starting with an organization responsible for training canines to join teams throughout Colorado. Known as a "Top Gun school for avalanche rescue dogs and their handlers," per the Aspen Sojourner, the Colorado Rapid Avalanche Deployment runs a winter course on a different resort each year. It's the largest annual avalanche dog training event in North America, with 42 dog teams from 22 resorts.

The training relies on something dogs love: tug of war. In the puppy class, human patrollers hide out in "quinzees," hollowed out mounds of snow created specifically for the course. The dogs must use their sense of smell to find the people, and when they do, they're rewarded with a tug toy.

"Dog School is immersive," Emily Casebeer, a ski patrol veteran at Snowmass Mountain, where the 2023 course was held, told the Sojourner this past January. "As a handler, it gives me the opportunity to solely focus on me and my dog and build friendships and relationships with other trainers and patrollers."

Jackson Hole Patrol Dogs | Wyoming

In Wyoming, squads of avalanche dogs, or patrol dogs, as they're called at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, have been helping locate buried skiers since 1979. Making up the (adorable) 2024 team are Cache, a Dutch shepherd; Sparrow, an Airedale; Dolly, an Australian cattle dog; Toby, an English shepherd; and Levi — his breed hasn't been added to his bio yet, but he's certainly a handsome fellow.

According to Chris Brindisi, Cache's owner and a veteran dog handler and ski patrol member, the ideal dog for the job is one with unbridled enthusiasm, can follow its nose well and stay calm on chairlifts, and is eager to please. Another criterion? Loving people, of course.

"The more that they get to figure out that people are super fun and wonderful and awesome, then the more reason that they want to find you," Brindisi previously told The Washington Post.

But besides having those key characteristics, Cache, Dolly, and the other pups are incredibly valuable members of the staff simply for being dogs — and in spite of the many technologies available to locate people under snow. When it's unknown whether someone is stuck, the animals can run great distances to quickly determine if a human needs help.

"The alternative would be 23 patrollers lined up single file with probes pushing through the snow to see if we find anybody, which can take hours and hours and hours and is extremely difficult and not awesome," explained the program's assistant director, Scott Stolte.

Big Sky Resort Avalanche Dogs | Montana

Moving next door, Montana is known for its beautiful natural scenery — not least its snow-capped mountains. The massive Big Sky Resort, a sprawling 5,800 acres of skiable landscape, attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

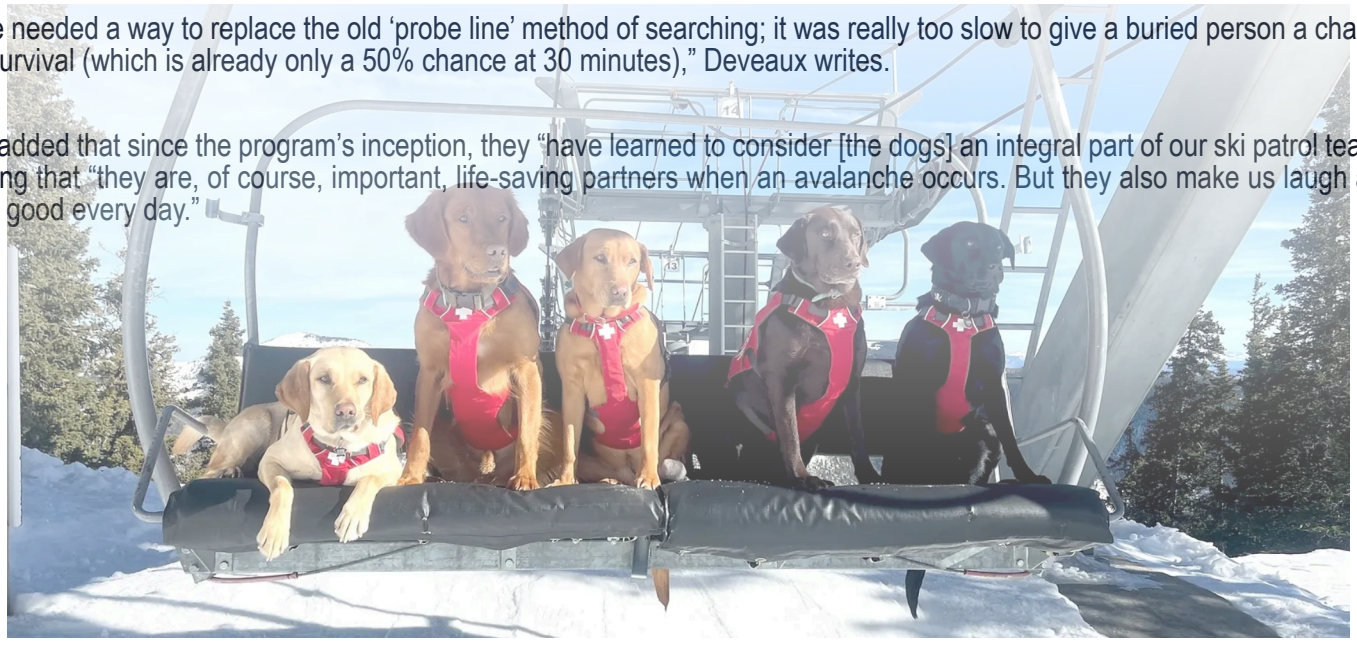
And with over 300 runs, the popular locale relies on its avalanche dogs as essential members of the patrol team.

Thankfully, you don't have to be in dire circumstances to meet the resort's heroic pups. According to the website, meet and greets with one of the dogs will be held every Monday and Wednesday afternoon beginning Dec. 30, during which people can learn about the animals' training, role on the team, and more.

Taos Avalanche Rescue Dogs | New Mexico

The canines currently on the roster are Finn, a golden retriever, and labrador retrievers Sadie, Kona Yuki, Brooks, and Bramble. The official website hilariously lists nicknames, hobbies, and dreams for each pup ("Finn dreams of a world where all objects are tennis balls waiting to be thrown and chased").

Per a post on the website written by Taos Ski Patrol member Rey Deveaux, the organization was founded in the early 1980s, the only program of its kind in the Rocky Mountains at the time.

"We needed a way to replace the old 'probe line' method of searching; it was really too slow to give a buried person a chance of survival (which is already only a 50% chance at 30 minutes)," Deveaux writes.

He added that since the program's inception, they "have learned to consider [the dogs] an integral part of our ski patrol team," noting that "they are, of course, important, life-saving partners when an avalanche occurs. But they also make us laugh and feel good every day."