

 <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">NORTHSTAR SEARCH & RESCUE</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Northstar Search and Rescue</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;">1609 Independence Ave North Golden Valley, MN 55427</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">24/7 EMERGENCY NUMBER 1-877-SAR-K911</p>
---	--

9015 INDIVIDUAL FIELD REPORT

Unit Mission #	Subject's Name:	Requesting Agency:	Report Prepared by	Date Prepared			
2021-012	Rebekah Barsotti	Missoula County Sherriff's Department	Northstar Command	08/28/2021			
Arrival date:	Time:	Departure Date:	Time:	Mileage:	Driving Time:	Flight Time	Total Time
08/14/2021	1630	08/24/2021	0700	12560	160 hrs	N/A	592 hrs
<p>K-9 Handlers only: K-9 used: <u>K-9 Sophie, K9 Deacon, and K9 Astor</u> Certified Discipline: <u>Human Remains Detection (HRD)</u> K-9 Certified with: <u>UNITED K9</u> on Date <u>04/25/2020</u> Recert Due Date: <u>04/25/2022</u> K-9 Certified with: _____ on Date: _____ Recert Due Date: _____ All K9's have same certification through national third party organization (United K9) and all certified at the same time and level.</p> <p>Field Support: Listed in the Narrative below and on the transcribed notes attached</p>							
<p>Search Functions: Air Scent Track/Trail Land Cadaver <u>Water Cadaver</u> Article Disaster Field Tech Mantracker Ground Search Other _____</p>							
<p>Support Functions: Communications Transportation</p>				<p>Command Functions: Command Staff Operations Planning Logistics</p>			
<p>Search Area Terrain: River</p>				<p>Weather: SEE DAILY WEATHER IN REPORT</p>			
<p>Problems: N/A</p>							
<p>Attachments Additional Narrative Maps Additional Reports Other – Describe</p>							

NARRATIVE REPORT (Print or type clearly / give specifics)

Arrived at Sheriff Department, Missoula MT and were briefed by CPT William Burt and Chaplain Lowell Hochhalter on the missing person Rebekah Barsotti, who is presumed drowned in the Clark Fork River on July 20, 2021. She is a 34 yo female described a 5'5" tall, 135lbs with sandy hair and blue eyes. Her vehicle was found at the Alberton Rest Area east of Cyr at Exit 70, Hwy 90. Her cellphone and clothing items were found at that location; video from the cellphone confirmed she was playing with her dog at that location. Her K-9 was located drowned on Clark Fork River, drowned approximately 10 miles downstream from Alberton rest area.



Summary of Search for Rebekah Barsotti from August 14, 2021 through August 24, 2021

Day 1 8/14 – Met and briefed with Missoula Co SAR prior to moving to the search area on the Clark Fork River. Three K-9 Teams (K-9 Astor w Handler Joan Dansky, K-9 Deacon w Handler (Chief) Diane Stefanick, and K-9 Sophie w Handler Heath Glassburn) deployed from various Fishing Accesses from Alberton to Lozeau. Two of the three teams covered two areas each moving both up and down stream between accesses, Team Sophie covered one area. Debrief – we covered approximately 20-30 river miles with high interest from K-9 Deacon near the old truck. We were later called back because Mineral County saw an oil slick from the road down on the river just downstream from Forest Grove Launch at Tarkio. K-9s Deacon and Sophie were deployed to oil slick to check for odor of human remains (HR). K-9 Sophie indicated, K-9 Deacon verified and wanted to exit the boat. It was decided we would launch the ROV. ROV was deployed and showing rocks and had difficulty maneuvering camera due to heavy undercurrents. Returned to base. Debriefed before leaving.

Day 2 8/15 – Back at Forest Grove, Tarkio. Divers and Missoula SAR deployed to check oil slick. Unable to verify the source of the slick – Divers from the Swift Water Dive Team, Coeur d'Alene Idaho were called in to check this area. Those divers took a water sample in a plastic water bottle to be scented by K-9s Sophie and Deacon and analyzed by the Coroners Office in ID. Debrief: Because the K-9s showed interest in the sample, it was decided that we would review the same routes tomorrow.

Day 3 8/16 – Area of Operation (AO) Cyr Parking Area to Forest Grove near Tarkio. Team K-9 Sophie searched where K-9 Deacon had interest near the truck in the gorge on day 1, K-9 Sophie also had interest at the old truck. Team Sophie continued searching today between St Johns to Tarkio, Team Deacon from Tarkio to Quartz.

Day 4 8/17 – Wings of Hope, Brad Smith flew his drone from Thompson Reservoir upstream to Superior MT. Chief 1 w K-9 Deacon waited at Superior to pick up a Mineral County SAR Boat Driver and moved up to Dry Creek Launch, St Regis to motor the river to Forest Grove. Wings launch sonar from the shelf adjacent to the oil slick to check for HR. Dive team was called back to investigate sonar image 19 feet down and 19 feet away from the rock shelf. Divers in the water nothing was found. Rechecked with hand held sonar – no image.

Day 5 8/18 – Chief 1 and CPT Burt went to the property adjacent to the husband of Barsotti. Nothing was found. Wings 1 flew from Superior to Forest Grove – nothing. Then Wings flew from Alberton Rest Area to Forest Grove Tarkio – nothing. K-9 Deacon deployed to shoreline near oil slick – not HR. K-9 Sophie deployed on the river between Tarkio and Forest Grove.

Day 6 8/19 – Team Deacon will start at Lozeau Bridge and continue to Big Eddy. Team Sophie floated from Big Eddy to Sloway. Neither K-9 had any indications. Wings flew drone along this route as well with no sighting. Wings and Tim with ET and ET2.0 (the drones) are flying drones from Dry Creek to Sloway – nothing.

Day 7 8/20 – Returned to the search area where both K-9s had interest. Team Sophie floated nearby and Brad dropped sonar from a MOboat and saw an image which was reported to Bill, who in-turn called Divers. The divers deployed in the water upriver about 2 miles from where the Barsotti K-9 was discovered ½ in and ½ out of the river near shore – no HR found. K-9 Deacon checked the shoreline downstream from Forest Grove, river right where a report of foul smell was reported a week ago – nothing. Chief Diane Stefanick, Northstar SAR and Brad Smith, Wings of Hope SAR departed Montana for home.

Day 8 8/21 – Team Sophie completed a float from Tarkio to Forest Grove – no change of behavior.

Day 9 8/22 – Off.

Day 10 8/23 – Team Sophie deploys from Forest Grove and floats to Big Eddy. There was no change in behavior this day. CPT Burt met with Missoula County Sheriff T.J. McDermott and it was decided that Missoula County would release this investigation back to Mineral County who did not request further services of Northstar Search and Rescue.

August 24, 2021 Heath and Trish w K-9 Sophie departed Montana to return to Minnesota

The summary above was compiled from individual notes recorded on WhatsApp and transcribed to the document attached indicating specific up to the minute Northstar SAR Base notes on the daily searches. This document is 21 pages in length, separated by date and is titled: MISSOULA COUNTY SHERIFF AND SEARCH & RESCUE UNITS FROM MISSOULA AND COUNTY & TIM PALMER – MINERAL CO

POINT OF INTEREST / INDICATION COORDINATES: (Datum used: WGS84)

For space and clarity, a list of specific points of interest and indication coordinates is contained only on the master SARTopo map attached to this report.

Submitted by: Northstar Command Signature: *Diane Stefanick, Chief* Date: 08/29/2021

Personal Contact Information:

Home Address: 1609 Independence Ave N, Golden Valley, MN 55427

Email: diane.stefanick@gmail.com

Home Phone: same as cell Work Phone: same as cell Cell Phone: 763-443-7263