



SEARCH TEAM 5-1, INC.
Search and Rescue Sacandaga (SARSAC)
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The members of Search and Rescue Team 5-1 wish to express a heart-felt thank you, to our K-9 team of Lew Decker and his track- trail dog Otis, for their many years of dedication and commitment to Search and Rescue.

We are proud to announce that Lew was recently certified as a track- trail K-9 tester with the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams. Lew has already tested other K-9 teams to certify them. Most recently Lew went to Corinth N.Y. to test a K-9 team for searches in urban environments.

Lew started training Otis as a search dog approximately nine years ago. The training was extensive and took about two years for Otis to become certified by the Federation's Tester. Lew and Otis traveled hundreds of miles throughout our state and even into Pennsylvania for training and testing. This was all done at Lew's own expense not to mention the countless hours that he and Otis spent away from home and family. This required selfless dedication on Lew's part and the support and understanding of his wife, Velice,

Lew and Otis have participated in many searches throughout the state, in adverse conditions and difficult terrain, and they have both performed to their utmost capabilities. They are well respected within the S A R community, and have been a pleasure to work with, for anyone that has been lucky enough to know them.

Lew had planned to retire Otis at the end of this year, but due to a recently diagnosed, serious health condition Otis will be retired now. We hope that Otis's remaining time with us will be peaceful, for he deserves that. Otis, you will be sorrowfully missed by family and everyone on the Team.

Thank you again, on be-half of Team 5-1, the lost subjects you have searched for and their families.

Respectfully,

Vernon Brownell
Vice President