

**2012 Annual Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – January 20-21, 2012**

Report of the ARDF Coordinator

To the Board of Directors:

This report of the ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator to the ARRL Board of Directors covers the period July 14, 2011 to January 10, 2012.

Introduction and Purpose

As defined by the Terms of Reference document of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 ARDF Working Group, "ARDF is a technical sport activity within the framework of the amateur service. It deals with the taking of radio bearings and finding hidden transmitters, constructing relevant equipment, and the training of amateurs involved in and with the organizing of relevant sport and social events."

The purpose of the national ARDF Coordinator position is to promote the development of this sport within the country and to work with ARDF Coordinators of other IARU countries to organize ARDF events and activities. The focus is on international-rules on-foot foxhunting (also called foxtailing and radio-orienteeing), but not mobile hidden transmitter hunting.

USA ARDF Championships 2011

The combined Eleventh USA Championships and Sixth IARU Region 2 Championships of ARDF took place near Albuquerque, New Mexico from September 14 - 18, 2011. Joint hosts were Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club (AARC) and New Mexico Orienteers (NMO). Co-chairs of the organizers were Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK and Mike Pendley, K5ATM, assisted by Scott Stevenson, KC5VVB and many other volunteers.

This event attracted participants from ten states plus Canada, China, Germany and Ukraine. In addition to the championship courses on two meters and 80 meters, there were two full days of intense training for beginners and advanced radio-orienteeers in the week before the championships, led by Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS.

More information about this event is in my "ARDF Update" article "New Mexico Hosts Successful Foxhunting Championships" on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ardf-update-new-mexico-hosts-successful-foxhunting-championships>.

On June 23, 2011, a grant of \$500 from the ARRL ARDF Development Fund was made to AARC to assist with the expenses of hosting these championships. The championships turned out to be a financial success, so AARC is planning to make a donation back to the fund in the near future.

USA ARDF Championships 2012

Planning is in progress for the Twelfth USA ARDF Championships, tentatively scheduled for the first weekend of June in the mountains east of San Diego, California. In addition to the usual full-length ARDF courses on two meters and 80 meters, there will be sprint and fox-oring competitions. These activities have been added to the new international rules for ARDF events, effective in 2012. An optional two-day "training camp" prior to the championships is also being planned. As always, visiting competitors will be welcome from any nation.

USA's national ARDF Championships are open to anyone at any ARDF skill level. Medals will be awarded in all of IARU's age/gender categories. When registration for the 2012 USA championships opens, I will submit an "ARDF Update" feature article with full details to ARRL headquarters for use on the ARRL Web site, QST, etc.

Attendance at ARDF Championships by ARRL staff, section and division leaders is welcomed and encouraged.

IARU ARDF World Championships 2012

The 16th ARDF World Championships will take place at the Kopaonik ski resort in Serbia from September 10 through 16, 2012. For the eighth time, a delegation of radio-orientees will represent ARRL at the World Championships. There will be separate events on separate days for each competitor on eighty meters and two meters, each with up to five transmitters scattered in a large forested area. In addition, for the first time, there will be sprints and fox-oring competitions. Medals will be awarded to the best individuals and national teams in each age/gender category.

Each IARU society is invited send up to three competitors in each age/gender category. Team members are responsible for their own registration/room/board fees and for transportation expenses to and from Serbia. As in years past, I will ask the ARRL CFO to execute the currency exchange and advance transfer of entry fees to the Serbian organizers.

Invitations to join Team USA 2012 will be issued in June, based on performances and standings in the Eleventh USA ARDF Championships (New Mexico, September 2011) and the Twelfth USA ARDF Championships (California, July 2012). Non-competing visitors may also

accompany the team. Additional training events will take place in several localities to help USA's competitors prepare for the championships.

Other ARDF Activities

Regular on-foot transmitter hunts are taking place in many areas throughout the USA during warm-weather months. Here in southern California, almost every session includes a workshop where newcomers can build measuring-tape yagis and attenuators to use on the courses.

Some stateside radio-orientees are also participating in championship events overseas. Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI represented USA at the Eighteenth IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships in Baile Felix, Romania, September 6 - 9, 2011. Bob Cooley, KF6VSE competed in the Eighth IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships in Malden, Australia, September 23 - 28, 2011.

Conclusion

Interest and participation in ARDF activities continues to grow. The encouragement and support of the ARRL Board of Directors for activities of ARDF Team USA and the ARRL ARDF Coordinator is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to ARRL Headquarters, especially ARRL Web and QST staff, for publicizing ARDF activities and events.

I firmly believe that radio-orienting is a magnet to our hobby for youth and for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. I welcome efforts by Board members to encourage inclusion of on-foot transmitter hunting activities at local and regional events within their jurisdictions. It is also an excellent activity for outdoor Scouting events, including Jamboree-On-The-Air.

More information about ARDF in the USA, including details and photos of local events in the reporting period, can be found at my Web site: <http://www.homingin.com>.

Respectfully submitted,

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