

**2011 Annual Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – January 21-22, 2011**

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, 2010 to January 18, 2011.

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.

IARU ARDF World Championships 2010

The 15th ARDF World Championships took place near in the islands near Opatija, Croatia from September 13 through 18, 2010. For the seventh time, a delegation of radio-orienteeers represented ARRL at the World Championships. There were 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.

Each country is permitted to send up to three competitors in each of eleven age categories, six for males and five for females, in accordance with rules of IARU. Team members are responsible for their own registration/room/board fees and for transportation expenses to and from Croatia (see ARDF Fund section below). As in years past, ARRL CFO Barry Shelley executed the currency exchange and advance transfer of entry fees to the Croatian organizers.

Invitations to join Team USA 2010 were based on performances and standings in the Ninth USA ARDF Championships (Massachusetts, June 2009) and the Tenth USA ARDF Championships (Ohio, May 2010).

USA's Delegation

NAME AND CALL	CITY	CATEGORY
Afonkin, Vadim KB1RLI	Newton, MA	M40
Arnett, Dick WB4SUV	Erlanger, KY	M60
Boyd, Gail	Albuquerque, NM	Visitor
Boyd, Jerry WB8WFK	Albuquerque, NM	M40
Bromer, Ruth WB4QZG	Raleigh, NC	W60
Cooley, Bob KF6VSE	Pleasanton, CA	M60
Granger-Bevan, Stephen	Cambridge, MA	Visitor
Harker, Jennifer W5JEN	Austin, TX	W35
Harker, Kenneth WM5R	Austin, TX	M21
Hennigan, Jay WB6RDV	Goleta, CA	M50
Huberman, Joseph K5JGH	Raleigh, NC	Visitor
Huberman, Lori	Cambridge, MA	W21
Hunt, Dale WB6BYU	Yamhill, OR	M50
Hunt, Kuon KB7WRG	Yamhill, OR	Team Captain
Johnston, Marvin KE6HTS	Santa Barbara, CA	International Jury
Leach, Harley KI7XF	Bozeman, MT	M60
Leach, Karla KC7BLA	Bozeman, MT	W60
Mezhevaya, Alla	Loves Park, IL	W35
Neal, George KF6YKN	Maspeth, NY	M50
Schwendtner, Dennis WB6OBB	Santa Barbara, CA	Blind

On the first day of ARDF competition, USA won the silver medal for team performance in the W60 category on the 80-meter band. The aggregate scores of Karla Leach, KC7BLA and Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG put USA in second place among participating countries with two or more persons in W60. Only the Russian team was faster.

On the second competition day, George Neal, KF6YKN took the individual bronze medal in the M50 category on 80 meters. In addition, two USA competitors finished in fourth place in their respective categories on two meters: Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG in W60 and Lori Huberman in W21.

Also during this period was the First ARDF World Championships for the Blind. This event takes place on the 80-meter band in a large open field with three transmitters to find. Competing for USA was Dennis Schwendtner, WB6OBB, who placed fourth in his age category.

Photos and more details are in my "ARDF Update" article, "Three Medals for Team USA at the 2010 ARDF World Championships" on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ardf-update-three-medals-for-team-usa-at-the-2010-ardf-world-championships>.

USA ARDF Championships 2011

Your ARDF Coordinator has selected the Albuquerque, NM area for the Eleventh USA ARDF Championships, September 16 - 18, 2011. This will be combined with the Sixth ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather for two days of intense competition, first on two meters and then on 80 meters. An optional two-day "training camp" prior to the championships is also being planned. As always, visiting competitors will be welcome from any nation.

Organizers of these championships are members of Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club and New Mexico Orienteers. AARC put on the very successful 2001 and 2005 USA Championships, but the 2011 competitions will take place in different forests near the city.

To encourage first-timers and foreign visitors, the competition fee will be waived for persons who have never participated in the USA ARDF Championships, and for persons coming from outside North America. As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone, at any ARDF skill level. Medals will be awarded in IARU's eleven age/gender categories.

Registration for the 2011 USA championships will open soon. I am preparing to submit an "ARDF Update" feature article with full details to ARRL shortly for use on the ARRL Web site, QST, etc.

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

Insurance for ARDF Practices and Championships

For large ARDF events such as the annual USA Championships, liability insurance is a necessity to protect the organizers and to indemnify the site owners. But even for small group practice sessions, insurance is now being demanded by many parks and other outdoor facilities as a condition of use. A requirement for two million dollars of liability coverage is typical. Typical one-time "group" liability coverage for an informal single-day event is over \$200. Since typical attendance at local sessions is a dozen persons or fewer, the per-person cost is unacceptable.

The ARRL Club Liability Insurance Plan presently has a specific exclusion for "the activities of any participant in a game, contest, race or sporting event, including practice." Because of this, some ARDF championship events have been insured by co-sponsorship from a local orienteering club. The US Orienteering Federation has an excellent insurance program for its chapters. I strongly believe that similar liability and medical coverage should be available through the ARRL club insurance program. Those premiums are presently quoted to each club on an individual basis, according to its activities, so adding ARDF to the menu of covered activities is practical and would not add to the premium cost for clubs that don't do ARDF.

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-orienteeing 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.

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,

Joe Moell KØOV
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