

**2012 Second Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – July 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 January 11, 2012 to July 18, 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 2012

The Twelfth USA Championships of ARDF took place during the week and weekend after Memorial Day near Mt. Laguna in the mountains east of San Diego, California at 6000' altitude. In addition to the usual full-length ARDF courses on two meters and 80 meters, there were sprint and foxoring competitions on 80 meters. Sprints and foxoring were added to the revised international rules for ARDF events, effective in 2012. Two full days of optional ARDF training took place prior to the championships.

This year's USA Championships were sponsored by Los Angeles Orienteering Club, with assistance from members of San Diego Orienteers and the mobile transmitter hunters of San Diego County. Chair of the organizers was Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS of Santa Barbara.

This event attracted participants from nine states plus Canada. For 24% of them, it was their first championship direction-finding experience. The official banquet on Saturday evening took place

at the Pine House Café and Tavern in Mt. Laguna Village. In attendance were Director Dick Norton, N6AA and San Diego Section Manager Steve Early, AD6VI.

USA's national ARDF Championships are open to anyone at any ARDF skill level. Medals are awarded in all of IARU's age/gender categories. More information about this year's event is in my "ARDF Update" article "Team USA Forming after USA ARDF Championships" on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ardf-update-team-usa-forming-after-usa-ardf-championships>.

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. Thanks to ARRL CFO Barry Shelley for executing the currency exchange and advance transfer of entry fees to the Serbian organizers during June.

Invitations to join Team USA 2012 were based on performances and standings in the Eleventh USA ARDF Championships (New Mexico, September 2011) and the Twelfth USA ARDF Championships (California, July 2012, see above). This year's team has eight male competitors and four female competitors, ranging in age from 27 to 71.

Future USA ARDF Championships

Your ARDF Coordinator is presently in discussions with several persons and organizations that are candidates to host the USA ARDF Championships in 2013 and 2014. I expect to announce the location and organizers of the 2013 championships within a few weeks. Attendance at ARDF Championships by ARRL staff, section and division leaders is welcomed and encouraged.

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, a two-day "training camp" was held July 14-15, 2012 in the forest near Mt. Pinos for members of ARDF Team USA and other interested radio-orientees.

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. 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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