

**2013 Annual Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – January 18-19, 2013**

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 19, 2012 to January 15, 2013.

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 2012

The 16th ARDF World Championships took place at the Kopaonik ski resort in Serbia from September 10 through 16, 2012. For the eighth time, a delegation of radio-orienteeers represented ARRL at the World Championships. 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, ARRL CFO Barry Shelley executed 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). The 2012 team had nine male competitors and four female competitors, ranging in age from 27 to 71.

USA's Delegation

NAME AND CALL	CITY	CATEGORY
Afonkin, Vadim KB1RLI	Newton, MA	M40
Bromer, Ruth WB4QZG	Raleigh, NC	W60
Cooley, Bob KF6VSE	Pleasanton, CA	M70
Hennigan, Jay WB6RDV	Goleta, CA	M60
Huberman, Joseph K5JGH	Raleigh, NC	M60
Huberman, Lori	Cambridge, MA	W21
Johnston, Marvin KE6HTS	Santa Barbara, CA	International Jury
Leach, Harley KI7XF	Bozeman, MT	M70
Leach, Karla KC7BLA	Bozeman, MT	W60
Mejevoi, Nicolai	Loves Park, IL	M40
Mezhevaya, Alla	Loves Park, IL	W35
Moore, Scott KF6IKO	Santa Barbara, CA	M50
Neal, George KF6YKN	Maspeth, NY	M50
Smathers, William KG6HXX	Santa Barbara, CA	M60

In addition to two days of classic ARDF competitions, the Serbian organizers included three foxhunting events that had never before taken place at the world championships. Starting on September 6 was the World Cup, four days of competition for individuals. Each person ran two 80-meter courses and two 2-meter courses. The four results were combined using a complex point scoring system to determine band winners and overall winners in each category.

USA stood on the medal podium eight times at the World Cup awards ceremony. Bob Cooley, KF6VSE earned two gold medals in his M70 category, for best on 80 meters and best overall. Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI received two silver medals in M40, one for 2 meters and the other overall. Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV captured 80 meter silver in M60 category. Alla Mezhevaya won 80 meter bronze in W35 category and Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG took home 80 meter bronze in W60.

The first classic ARDF event of the championships followed on Wednesday, September 12. Team Captain Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI was gold medalist on 80 meters in M40 category that day. Bob Cooley, KF6VSE won gold on two meters in M70.

On Thursday, September 13 was the sprint competition, a short course that is intended to be a demonstration of radio-orienteeing to the public. Competitors start at two-minute intervals to seek up to five 80 meter transmitters that cycle at five times the rate of classic ARDF transmitters. Once they find the first set, they run through a corridor in front of the cheering spectators to a second five-fox fast-cycle course on a different 80 meter frequency. Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI earned a bronze medal in M40 in the sprint.

The second day of full-course ARDF competition was Friday, September 14, when everyone competed on the band that they didn't run on two days before. Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG and Karla Leach, KC7BLA took team bronze in the category for women over age 60. Team

members aren't allowed to help, or even to communicate with one another in the forest, but their individual scores are aggregated to determine the national team standings.

Photos and more details are in my "ARDF Update" article, "A Baker's Dozen of Medals for ARDF Team USA" on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ardf-update-a-baker-s-dozen-of-medals-for-ardf-team-usa>.

USA ARDF Championships 2013

Your ARDF Coordinator has selected central North Carolina for the Thirteenth USA ARDF Championships, October 9 - 13, 2013. This will be combined with the Seventh ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather for two weekend days of intense competition, first on two meters and then on 80 meters, in the Birkhead Wilderness Area of the Uwharrie National Forest. That will be preceded by three optional events: A full day of training on both bands, a sprint event on 80 meters and a foxoring event on 80 meters. As always, visiting competitors will be welcome from any nation.

Organizers of these championships are members of the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK). The Meet Director is BOK President Joseph Huberman, K5JGH. Registrar is BOK Treasurer Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG. Course setters are Charles Scharlau, NZØI and Nadia Scharlau.

The USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone, at any ARDF skill level. Medals for the weekend competitions will be awarded in IARU's eleven age/gender categories.

Registration for the 2013 USA championships will open soon. I am preparing an "ARDF Update" feature article with more details for submission ARRL for use on the ARRL Web site, QST, etc.

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

Other ARDF Activities

All three IARU regions are holding ARDF championships in 2013. The Nineteenth IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships will be September 9 - 15 at Kudowa Zdroj, Poland. Korean Amateur Radio League will host the Ninth IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships at Hongcheon Gangwon Province, September 1 - 6. Several stateside radio-orientees have expressed interest in attending these events.

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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