

# ARRL ARDF Committee

## Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

### January 2023

## Committee Purpose

*The ARRL ARDF Committee serves to fulfill, in the name of the ARRL, those responsibilities assigned to IARU member societies that participate in Amateur Radio Direction Finding as administered by the IARU regional organizations. Those responsibilities include assigning a society representative to represent the League in an IARU regional ARDF administrative committee or working group, and delegating single competitors or teams to participate in international competitions. When authorized by its corresponding IARU regional organization a member society may organize a World or Regional Championship.*

## Developments Since July 2022

### 2023 World Championships Dates Announced

The World Championships, usually held biannually, are being held in consecutive years (2022 and 2023) to make up for the 2020 World Championships canceled due to the pandemic. The Czech Radio Club has published Bulletin 1 for the 21st IARU World ARDF Championships, which will be held 27 Aug to 2 Sep 2023 in Liberec, Czech Republic. A training camp will be held 24-26 Aug 2023. Visit the official website ([ardf2023.cz](http://ardf2023.cz)) for the latest announcements. This committee plans to send a US team to compete in 2023.

### 2023 USA Championships on Track

The 22nd USA Radio Orienteering Championships is scheduled for 19-23 Apr 2023 in Cooper Lake State Park, near Dallas, Texas. New Mexico Orienteers (NMO) will be the sponsoring organization. The North Texas Orienteering Association (NTOA) will provide maps and local advice. These USA championships will follow the approach used in 2021 and 2022, requiring only a small crew of volunteers, with the competitors pitching in to help.

### 2022 World Championships

A successful ARDF World Cup and 20th IARU World Championships were hosted by the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA) in Borovets, Bulgaria, on 24 Aug - 3 Sep 2022. Attendance at the 2022 ARDF World Championships was down worldwide. This was due to lingering COVID-19 concerns and objections to the war in Ukraine, spurring many qualified athletes and some national organizations to decline to participate. Team USA athletes Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI, and Alex Myachin brought medals home from the Cup and Championships. Vadim (a committee member) took the individual gold medal in the 80m classic M50 category. Other USA team competitors were Liza Afonkin in the W19 category and Gheorghe Fala, who competed in the M21 category.

### **Board Liaison Appointed**

The ARRL ARDF Committee welcomed Phil Temples, K9HI, our newly appointed ARRL Board of Directors Liaison. Phil has already contributed greatly to the committee's goals with sound advice and by arranging discussions with Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY.

### **2024 USA ARDF Championships**

The proposal submitted by Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR, to have the Southern Michigan Orienteering Club (SMOC) host the 2024 championships is on track.

### **Sport Name Change Update**

As reported in July, the committee voted to favor using Radio Orienteering when referring to our radio sport. The primary reason for that change was the frequent confusion of "ARDF" with mobile T-hunting. Since that time, Radio Orienteering has been incorporated into most committee communications. Concerns over potential confusion with the new term have been voiced, but overall, feedback has been positive. The committee is considering expanding the use of the term in 2023.

## **Notable Accomplishments**

### **Equipment Initiative**

A complete set of radio orienteering transmitters and antennas has been designed, constructed, and is now available for USA Radio Orienteering Championships in 2023 and onward. The equipment will be used in local events when not needed for the championships. Open-source hardware design and software are freely available for the equipment, with detailed construction and user documentation planned for release in 2023. The project is funded and executed by the co-coordinators.

### **Publications and TI**

Discussions with Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, facilitated by Board Liaison, Phil Temples, helped identify possible opportunities for the committee to contribute to the Teachers Institute (TI) and articles targeting ARRL publications. A presence of radio orienteering-related kits in ARRL's online store could complement both. The co-coordinators continue to investigate with the help of our Liaison.

Respectfully Submitted,

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