

# ARRL ARDF Committee

## Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

### July 2022

### 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 January 2022

#### 2022 USA ARDF Championships a Success

The 21st annual USA Championships of ARDF took place April 7-10, 2022 at Prince William Forest Park, near Quantico, Virginia. Sponsored by the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK), radio-orienteers from all over the country plus visitors from abroad were invited to attend, and 30 competitors participated. Joseph Huberman, K5JGH, served as Event Director, and Ruth Bromer, W4QZG was Registrar. Practices and training sessions were held in the park on the day before the competitions began. Details of the very successful event are summarized in a [news release](#) submitted to ARRL.

#### 2022 World Championships

Anticipated attendance at the 2022 ARDF World Championships is down due to lingering issues from the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to the war in Ukraine spurring many to decline to participate with the Russian and Belarusian national teams in attendance. The attendance drop prompted the Amateur Radio Union of Serbia (SRS) to drop its plans to host those championships. However, the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA) then stepped in and volunteered to host the World Championships for national teams in the resort town of Borovets on the same planned dates (28 Aug – 3 Sep 2022), as well as the World ARDF Cup (24 – 27 Aug 2022). The size of the USA delegation in 2022 is expected to be reduced due to the same factors listed above: only eight individuals have indicated their intent to participate.

#### 2023 USA Radio Orienteering Championships on Track

The Committee has approved the 22nd USA Radio Orienteering Championships to be held in Cooper Lake State Park, near Dallas, Texas, April 7-10, 2023. New Mexico Orienteers (NMO) will be the sponsor. Maps and advisory assistance will be provided by the North Texas Orienteering Association (NTOA). 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.

### **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.

### **Future IARU ARDF World Championships**

The 21st IARU ARDF World Championships are still targeted to be held in 2023, near Liberec, Czech Republic.

## **Notable Accomplishments**

### **Guam Meeting**

Committee member Joe Burkhead, KE8KMR, met with members of AH2G, the Marianas Amateur Radio Club ([www.ah2g.net](http://www.ah2g.net)) in Guam on 5 April 2022. Joe presented a program on ARDF to the club. Thirty of Guam's hams attended and there was genuine interest shown by club members: several expressed interest in attending a future USA or Region 3 championship competition. Joe will stay in touch with AH2G and keep them apprised of scheduled Radio Orienteering opportunities.

### **Sport Name Change**

The name *Radio Orienteering* has been around for a very long time and has frequently been applied to the sport of ARDF, but it hasn't been recognized in any official sense. Because *Radio Orienteering* is more descriptive of the sport (especially to the orienteering community), and because Amateur Radio Direction Finding is often confused with other radio direction-finding activities (like mobile t-hunting), the ARRL ARDF committee approved a proposal to officially favor the use of the term *Radio Orienteering*. We believe that a transition to that name will result in less confusion, and perhaps, quicker acceptance of the sport by orienteers and others who will more readily grasp the essence of the sport.

### **Dayton Hamvention**

Dayton, Ohio, May 21, 2022: ARDF, Radio Orienteering, was covered as a forum topic at the Dayton Hamvention. Attendance was between 60 and 70. Committee members Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, Bob Frey, WA6EZV, and Brian DeYoung, K4BRI led the forum.

### **Youth On The Air**

West Chester, Ohio, June 12-17, 2022: Youth on the Air (YOTA) activities included the construction of 2M tape measure Yagis and 4-MHz offset attenuators. A YOTA group of 22 individuals participated in an afternoon on-foot hunt for four transmitters.

Build activity: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NP8XP\\_KVRP8&t=34s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NP8XP_KVRP8&t=34s)

Hunt activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRC6VXNyoAM>

Respectfully Submitted,

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