

**2011 Second Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – July 15-16, 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 January 19, 2011 to July 13, 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.

USA ARDF Championships 2011

Planning and preparation continues 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 in Albuquerque, NM for two days of intense competition, first on two meters and then on 80 meters. An optional two-day "training camp" will take place September 14 - 15 to help newcomers learn the sport and to provide intensive practice for experienced foxtailers. As always, visiting competitors and spectators will be welcome from any nation.

Organizers of these championships are members of Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club (AARC) 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. As this report is being written, there is concern about a wildfire in the area of one of the venues, but the monsoon season is expected to start soon and to reduce the wildfire threat.

Registration for the 2011 USA championships is now under way. As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone, at any ARDF skill level. Medals will be awarded in all IARU age/gender categories. Medal winners will be considered for positions on ARDF Team USA for the 2012 ARDF World Championships in Serbia.

More information about this event is in my "ARDF Update" article, "Foxhunters Prepare for National and IARU Championships in Albuquerque" on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ardf-update-foxhunters-prepare-for-national-and-iaru-championships-in-albuquerque>.

On June 23, a grant of \$500 from the ARRL ARDF Development Fund was made to AARC to assist with the expenses of hosting these championships.

Attendance at stateside 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 these warm-weather months. Here in southern California, almost every session includes a workshop where newcomers can build measuring-tape yagis and attenuators to use on the courses.

Some stateside radio-orientees are also participating in championship events overseas. Three persons represented USA at the ARDF International Five Days competition in Turnov, Czech Republic, July 1-6, 2011. Several are also planning to attend the Eighth IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships in Malden, Australia, September 23 - 28, 2011.

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. The cost of 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 of one-time coverage is unacceptable.

ARDF enthusiasts were pleased to learn that the new ARRL Club Liability Insurance Plan under Hays Affinity Solutions does not have the exclusion for "sporting events" that was in the previous plan under Marsh Affinity Services. In my own area, the Fullerton Radio Club, a regular sponsor of ARDF events, has switched to the new carrier and is pleased with the service from the plan representatives. Many thanks to the ARRL Board members and staff members

whose efforts have made it possible for clubs to use the new insurance plan to cover their ARDF activities.

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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