

**2014 Annual Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – January 17-18, 2014**

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 August 13, 2013 to January 15, 2014.

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 2013

The Thirteenth USA ARDF Championships took place October 9 - 13, 2013 near Asheboro, North Carolina. They were combined with the Seventh ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2. Almost 50 radio-orientees of all skill levels gathered for two weekend days of intense competition, Saturday on two meters and Sunday on 80 meters, in the 5025-acre Birkhead Wilderness Area of the Uwharrie National Forest. Those classic ARDF events were 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.

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

USA's national championships are open, meaning that visitors from other countries are welcome. Visitors compete for individual medals in an overall division that includes everyone. This year, visiting competitors came from China, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

USA ARDF Championships 2014

Your ARDF Coordinator has selected Boston, Massachusetts as the location for the Fourteenth USA ARDF Championships, June 5 - 8, 2014. Classic five-transmitter competitions will take place on the weekend, two meters on Saturday and 80 meters on Sunday. Prior to that will be optional competitions in sprints and foxoring on Thursday and Friday.

Organizing and hosting the 2014 championships is Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI, one of USA's most accomplished radio-orientees. As a youth, he learned ARDF and won awards for it in his native Russia. After coming to America, he first participated in USA's national championships in 2003, where he won silver and bronze medals in the five-fox M21 category. As a member of ARDF Team USA, he has been to every World Championships since 2004. At the 2012 World Championships, he won a gold medal for USA in the classic 80-meter competition, M40 category plus three other medals. Vadim will be assisted by members of Cambridge Sports Union (CSU).

As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone, at any ARDF skill level. Visiting competitors from outside USA are welcome. Medals will be awarded in IARU's five age categories for males and four categories for females.

Winners of the 2014 USA championships will be under consideration for membership in ARDF Team USA, which will travel to the mountains of Kazakhstan for the 17th ARDF World Championships in September.

Registration for the 2014 USA championships are now open online at www.bostonardf.org. Attendance at ARDF Championships by ARRL section and division leaders is welcomed and encouraged.

IARU ARDF World Championships 2014

The 17th ARDF World Championships will take place in Burabay, Kazakhstan from September 6 through 13, 2014. For the ninth 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, there will be sprints and foxoring 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 Kazakhstan. As in years past, I will ask the ARRL CFO to execute the currency exchange and advance transfer of entry fees to the organizers.

Invitations to join Team USA 2014 will be issued in June, based on performances and standings in the Thirteenth USA ARDF Championships (North Carolina, October 2013) and the Fourteenth USA ARDF Championships (Massachusetts, June 2014). Non-competing visitors may also accompany the team. Additional training events will take place in several localities to help USA's competitors prepare for the championships.

Other ARDF Activities

All three IARU regions held ARDF championships in 2013. In addition to the Seventh Region 2 championships in North Carolina described above, the Nineteenth IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships took place September 9 - 15 at Kudowa Zdroj, Poland. Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI and Leszek Lechowicz, NIIL represented USA as visiting competitors.

Korean Amateur Radio League hosted the Ninth IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships at Hongcheon Gangwon Province, September 1 - 6. Because ARRL is a member society of IARU Region 3, USA is entitled to enter a team of competitors in that regional event. The following persons were on Team USA: Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI; Bob Cooley, KF6VSE; Nicolai Mejevoi and Alla Mezhevaya. In the 80-meter competition, Vadim and Bob captured individual gold medals. Also a team gold medal was earned by Vadim and Nicolai in M40 category.

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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