

**2014 Second Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
July 21-22, 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 January 16, 2014 to July 8, 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 2014

The Fourteenth USA ARDF Championships took place June 5 - 8, 2014 near Boston, Massachusetts. 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 Breakheart and Blue Hills Reservations. Those classic ARDF events were preceded by two optional events: a sprint event on 80 meters and a foxoring event on 80 meters. Organizing and hosting was Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI, assisted by members of Cambridge Sports Union (CSU) and the New England Orienteering Club.

USA's national championships are open, meaning that visitors from other countries are welcome. They compete for individual medals in an overall division that includes everyone. This year, competitors came from Canada, Germany, Russia and Ukraine. Although they were invited to be visitors and award presenters, no ARRL section or division elected leaders attended.

A report listing the first-place winners of all events is in the ARRL Web site at this URL:
<http://www.arrl.org/news/ardf-enthusiasts-win-medals-at-14th-annual-usa-national-championships>

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, the ARRL CFO will execute the currency exchange and advance transfer of entry fees to the organizers.

Invitations to join Team USA 2014 were 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). As of this writing, there are seven men and five women on this year's ARDF Team USA, ranging in age from 29 to 72.

Other ARDF Activities

"Training camps" will take place this summer to help Team USA members prepare for the World Championships and to introduce others to the sport. First will be the Birkhead International ARDF Competition and Training Camp near Asheboro, North Carolina for seven days beginning July 17, sponsored by Backwoods Orienteering Club. Then on the weekend of July 19-20, west coast radio-orientees will gather at Mt. Pinos near Frazier Park, California for competitions on two meters and eighty meters plus a barbecue cookout. A second Mt. Pinos training camp is being planned for an August weekend. Finally, several training courses will be provided in the Boston area during the last week of August.

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-orienting 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,

Joe Moell KØOV
ARRL ARDF Coordinator
homingin@aol.com