

**2015 Annual Meeting  
ARRL Board of Directors  
Windsor, Connecticut – January 16-17, 2015**

**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 July 9, 2014 to January 15, 2015.

**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.

**IARU ARDF World Championships 2014**

The 17th ARDF World Championships took place in Burabay, Kazakhstan from September 6 through 13, 2014. For the ninth time, a delegation of radio-orientees represented ARRL at the World Championships. 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 Serbia. As in years past, ARRL CFO Barry Shelley executed the currency exchange and advance transfer of entry fees to the Serbian organizers during July.

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). The 2014 team had four male competitors and three female competitors, ranging in age from 29 to 72.

## USA's Delegation

NAME AND CALL	CITY	CATEGORY
Afonkin, Vadim KB1RLI	Newton, MA	M40
Bromer, Ruth WB4QZG	Raleigh, NC	W60
Harker, Jennifer W5JEN	Austin, TX	W35
Harker, Kenneth WM5R	Austin, TX	M40
Huberman, Joseph K5JGH	Raleigh, NC	M60
Huberman, Lori	Berkeley, CA	W21
Johnston, Marvin KE6HTS	Santa Barbara, CA	International Jury
Lechowicz, Leszek N1IL	Bridgewater, MA	M40

The 2014 USA team was considerably smaller than usual, for several reasons. As an example, an injury sidelined Bob Cooley, KF6VSE of Pleasanton, California. He won four medals in Serbia two years ago, including three golds.

The 17th ARDF World Championships attracted 277 competitors from 25 nations. Team USA medaled on the first day of competition. Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI of Boston, Massachusetts took silver in M40 category during the two-meter event on September 8. Then in the 80-meter sprint competition on September 11, Vadim took fourth place. His sprint time was just four seconds greater than the bronze medalist from Lithuania and it was just one and a half minutes greater than the gold medalist from Hungary.

### **USA ARDF Championships 2015**

Your ARDF Coordinator has selected eastern Colorado as the location for the Fifteenth USA ARDF Championships, August 27 - 30, 2015. By agreement with the ARDF Coordinators of Canada and IARU Region 2, this event will also be designated as the Eighth ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2. 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 sprint and foxoring on Thursday and Friday.

The championships site will be Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch, a beautiful 3300-acre facility at 7000 feet elevation. It is just east and south of the town of Elbert, which is about 40 miles southeast of downtown Denver and 30 miles northeast of Colorado Springs. Excellent orienteering maps of the entire site have recently been completed. Working with the Denver Scout Council, I expect to have final arrangements in place for use of the ranch very soon. Registration will begin in early spring.

I am organizing this year's championships with support from hams in the local Scout council, plus members of Rocky Mountain Orienteering Club and Los Angeles Orienteering Club. Course Setter will be Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS.

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

Latest information on these championships can be found at <http://www.homingin.com>. Attendance at ARDF Championships by ARRL section and division leaders is welcomed and encouraged.

## **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,

Joe Moell KØOV  
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