

**2016 Second Meeting  
ARRL Board of Directors  
Windsor, Connecticut – July 15-16, 2016**

**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 11, 2016 to July 11, 2016.

**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 2016**

The Sixteenth USA ARDF Championships took place April 6 - 10, 2016. The primary site was Parrie Haynes C5 Youth Ranch and Equestrian Center, about ten miles southwest of Killeen, Texas. April dates were selected for weather reasons and to insure that there was sufficient time afterward to select USA's team for the upcoming World Championships. Radio-orienteeers came from fourteen states to compete.

Events began on Wednesday, April 6 with optional practice courses. Thursday was devoted to foxoring, a sport that combines RDF and classic orienteeing. The sprint event took place on Friday, followed by a catered lunch and informational meeting. Saturday was the day of the classic two-meter ARDF competition with a catered lunch following and an awards banquet at the Parrie Haynes clubhouse in the evening. Then the classic 80-meter ARDF competition got off to an early start on Sunday morning, followed by another lunch and awards ceremony, concluding in time for those who must catch evening flights home.

Primary organizers of this year's championships were Kenneth and Jennifer Harker, WM5R and W5JEN. Assistance with mapping, transmitter placement and electronic scoring was provided by members of Austin Orienteering Club. Representing ARRL at the awards banquet was North Texas Section Manager Nancy McCain, N5NLM.

A report listing the first-place winners of all events is in the ARRL Web site at this URL: <http://www.arrl.org/news/us-ardf-champions-now-looking-toward-september-world-championships-in-bulgaria>. Complete results and many photos are online at <http://www.homingin.com>.

## **IARU ARDF World Championships 2016**

The 18th IARU ARDF World Championships will take place in Albena, Bulgaria from September 3 - 9, 2016. For the tenth time, a delegation of radio-orientees will represent USA and 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 of the eleven IARU age/gender categories. Team members are responsible for their own registration/room/board fees and for transportation expenses to and from Bulgaria. As in years past, thanks are due to the ARRL CFO and Controller for executing the currency exchange and transfer of individual advance entry fees to the organizers during June.

Invitations to join Team USA 2016 have been issued, based on performances and standings in the Fifteenth USA ARDF Championships (Colorado, August 2015) and the Sixteenth USA ARDF Championships (Texas, April 2016). Non-competing visitors may also accompany the team. As of this writing, there are 10 OMs and 6 YLs planning to travel on this year's team, representing eight states and ranging in age from 27 to 75.

Special training events are being planned for several localities to help USA's competitors prepare for the championships.

## **USA ARDF Championships 2017**

Your ARDF Coordinator has selected the Cincinnati area for the site of the Seventeenth USA ARDF Championships. Members and associates of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Club are selecting competition sites and making other plans. The competitions are expected to take place in mid-August 2017. By agreement with the ARDF Coordinators of Canada and IARU Region 2, this event will also be designated as the Ninth ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2.

OH-KY-IN ARC members organized the very successful USA ARDF Championships in 2003 and 2010. There are many excellent sites for ARDF in the Cincinnati area, and it is expected that new sites will be selected for the 2017 competitions.

As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone, at any ARDF skill level. Medals will be awarded in IARU's six age categories for males and five categories for females. Visiting competitors from outside Region 2 are expected to attend.

Latest updates about these championships can be found at <http://www.homingin.com>. Competitor and visitor registration will begin several months before the events, at which time I will send a news item for QST and the ARRL Web site.

Attendance at USA's 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 <http://www.homingin.com>.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Moell KØOV  
ARRL ARDF Coordinator  
[homingin@aol.com](mailto:homingin@aol.com)