

**2015 Second Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – July 17-18, 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 January 16, 2015 to July 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-orienteering), but not mobile hidden transmitter hunting.

USA ARDF Championships 2015

Preparations continue for the Fifteenth USA ARDF Championships, August 27 - 30, 2015. By agreement with the ARDF Coordinators of Canada and IARU Region 2, this event is also 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 three days of optional training (Monday through Wednesday), followed by competitions in foxoring and sprints on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

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, Colorado, which is about 40 miles southeast of downtown Denver and 30 miles northeast of Colorado Springs. I am organizing this year's championships with support from hams in the Denver Scout council and members of Rocky Mountain Orienteering Club. Course Designer will be Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS. Excellent orienteering maps of the entire site have recently been completed.

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.

Category winners of the 2015 USA championships will be under consideration for membership in ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Bulgaria for the 18th ARDF World Championships in September 2016.

The championships are the subject of a news item on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/colorado-to-host-us-amateur-radio-direction-finding-championships-in-august>. Latest updates about these championships and a link to registration can be found at <http://www.homingin.com>. Competitor and visitor registrations are now being accepted online.

Attendance at ARDF Championships by ARRL section and division leaders is welcomed and encouraged.

Other ARDF Activities

All three IARU regions are holding ARDF championship sessions in 2015. In addition to the Eighth Region 2 championships in Colorado described above, the Twentieth IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships will take place August 17 - 23 at Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic. One person from USA is planning to be a visiting competitor.

Japan Amateur Radio League will host the Tenth IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships at Shibukawa, Gunma from September 6 - 12. Because ARRL is a member society of IARU Region 3, USA is entitled to enter a team of competitors. So far, our team for this event has three registered competitors plus one member of the international jury.

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
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