

**2013 Second Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – July 19-20, 2013**

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, 2013 to August 12, 2013.

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

Preparations continue for the Thirteenth USA ARDF Championships, October 9 - 13, 2013 in central North Carolina. This will be combined with the Seventh ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather for two weekend days of intense competition, first on two meters and then on 80 meters, in the Birkhead Wilderness Area of the Uwharrie National Forest. That will be 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. As always, visiting competitors will be welcome from any nation. So far, persons from Canada, China, Sweden and Ukraine have made plans to attend.

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

The USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone, at any ARDF skill level. Medals for the weekend competitions will be awarded in IARU's eleven age/gender categories.

Registration for the 2013 USA championships is now open. I am preparing an "ARDF Update" feature article with more details for submission ARRL for use on the ARRL Web site, etc.

Attendance at the USA ARDF Championships by ARRL staff, section and division leaders is welcomed and encouraged.

Other ARDF Activities

All three IARU regions are holding ARDF championships in 2013. In addition to the Seventh Region 2 championships in North Carolina described above, the Nineteenth IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships will take place September 9 - 15 at Kudowa Zdroj, Poland. One person from USA is planning to be a visiting competitor.

Korean Amateur Radio League will host 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. So far, our team for this event has four registered members.

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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