

# **ARRL ARDF Coordinator**

## **Report to the ARRL Board of Directors**

### **January 2018**

#### **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 4, 2017 to January 8, 2018.

#### **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 2018**

Your ARDF Coordinator has selected northern California for the site of the Eighteenth USA ARDF Championships. Classic radio-orienteering courses will be set in the forest near Little Truckee Summit at 6400 feet elevation, north of the town of Truckee. Competitors will utilize an excellent recent map provided by Bay Area Orienteering Club.

Plans are for five days of ARDF activities, starting with a practice day on Wednesday, June 13, then foxoring and sprint competition days on Thursday/Friday, followed by classic two-meter and 80-meter competitions on the weekend. Awards will be presented at a group dinner on Saturday night and also on Sunday after the final competition.

This will be the second USA ARDF Championships to be held in northern California. The 2007 championships took place near Camp Concord, on the southern shore of Lake Tahoe.

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 other countries are expected to attend.

Latest updates about these championships will be posted at <http://www.homingin.com>. Competitor and visitor registration will begin soon, 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.

## **IARU ARDF World Championships 2018**

The 18th IARU ARDF World Championships will take place near Sokcho, Korea from September 2 - 8, 2018. For the eleventh 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 sprint 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 Korea. As in years past, I will ask the ARRL CFO to execute the currency exchange and advance transfer of entry fees to the organizers.

Invitations to join Team USA 2018 will be issued in late June, based on performances and standings in the Seventeenth USA ARDF Championships (Ohio, August 2017) and the Eighteenth USA ARDF Championships (June 2018, see above). Non-competing visitors may also accompany the team. Additional training events are being planned for several localities to help USA's competitors prepare for the championships.

## **Other ARDF Activities**

Mongolian Radio Sport Federation hosted the Eleventh IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from August 20 - 25, 2017. Because ARRL is a member society of IARU Region 3, USA was entitled to enter a team of competitors. Representing USA and ARRL on the courses were Dale Hunt, WB6BYU and Kuon Hunt, KB7WRG.

## **ARDF in Scouting**

The 2017 update of Scouting's Radio Merit Badge (RMB) includes an option for Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) activities. Scouts and their leaders are being encouraged to experience the fun of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting as part of their introduction to the world of Amateur Radio.

The new RMB has resulted in an increase in ARDF activity for Scouts during camporees and Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA). At the 2017 National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia last July, an ARDF course and equipment were available to Scouts of all ages. Leaders reported that over 200 Scouts experienced ARDF firsthand at that Jamboree. Dozens of Scouts went out on ARDF courses during JOTA in southern California and elsewhere.

## **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.

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,

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