

**2005 Annual Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors**

Report of the ARDF Coordinator

This report of the ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator to the ARRL Board of Directors covers the period July 9, 2004 to January 12, 2005.

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, fox-teering, and radio-orienteering). It is not on vehicular transmitter hunts, search/rescue or volunteer enforcement.

IARU ARDF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

A 21-member delegation represented USA and ARRL at the Twelfth World Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding. The 2004 championships attracted 327 competitors from 28 countries to Brno, a town about 110 miles southeast of Prague, Czech Republic. Events took place from September 7 - 12, 2004.

International rules limit each national society's team size to three persons per age/gender category. ARRL's team positions were filled based on performances in the 2004 national championships in California and the 2003 national championships in Ohio. Our competitors ranged in age from 19 to 62.

Here is a list of the team members, categories and hometowns, in alphabetical order.

NAME/CALL	CATEGORY	HOMETOWN
Vadim Afonkin	M21	Boston, MA
Dick Arnett WB4SUV	M50	Erlanger, KY
Jerry Boyd WB8WFK	M40	Albuquerque, NM
Bob Cooley KF6VSE	M60	Pleasanton, CA
Bob Frey WA6EZV	M50	Cincinnati, OH

NAME/CALL	CATEGORY	HOMETOWN (continued)
Jay Hennigan WB6RDV	M50	Goleta, CA
Harley Leach KI7XF	M60	Bozeman, MT
Karla Leach KC7BLA	D50	Bozeman, MT
Gyuri Nagy KF6YKN	M40	Melrose, MA
Matthew Robbins AA9YH	M21	Brookville, IN
Charles Scharlau NZ0I	M40	Cary, NC
Nadia Scharlau	D35	Cary, NC
Csaba Tisztartó	M21	Long Island, NY
Jay Thompson W6JAY	M19	Santa Ana, CA

In addition to the above, Richard Thompson WA6NOL of Santa Ana, CA and Dennis Schwendtner WB6OBB were Team USA Trainers. Dale Hunt WB6BYU of Portland, OR and Marvin Johnston KE6HTS of Santa Barbara, CA represented USA and IARU Region 2 on the International Jury overseeing the competitions. Each was assigned to be a Course Marshall at one of the radio foxes. Three non-competing visitors also accompanied the team.

The competition areas were very large (about 4800 acres) and forested, with occasional thickets, slopes, and cliffs. One seasoned competitor described the Saturday course as the toughest he has ever done. A shallow river ran through the middle of that site. It was in a deep ravine that had to be scaled to cross it, even on the trails. The Thursday finish corridor crossed a stream, resulting in relatively lengthy times from the electronic punch at the start of this corridor to the finish line.

European and former Soviet countries have been holding ARDF events for over 30 years, so it is no surprise that they dominated the standings. The overall medal count was led by Czech, Russia, and Ukraine with 34, 28 and 26, respectively.

Two Team USA members had top-ten individual finishes in their categories. Nadia Scharlau placed 6th out of 22 on Thursday. Her Saturday time was much better, only 10:10 above the first place finisher in her category. Unfortunately, on that day the battery fell out of her 80m receiver on the way to her final transmitter. She had to find the last fox and get to the finish using her previous bearings. That time loss put her in 11th place instead of perhaps earning a trip to the medal podium. Bob Cooley KF6VSE placed 9th out of 34 in M60 category on two meters. Gyuri Nagy KF6YKN was in 16th place out of 46 in M40 on Thursday and improved to 12th place in M40 category on Saturday with a time that was 25 minutes better.

Many thanks to the ARRL Foundation and the Colvin Award Fund for providing a portion of the entry fees and in-country food/lodging/transportation expenses of the USA team. The remainder of these fees, along with training expenses and domestic/international airfares, were paid by the individual team members.

Thanks are also due to CEO David Sumner K1ZZ and CFO Barry Shelley N1VXY for arranging funds transfers and other administrative support to the team.

FIFTH USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Your ARDF Coordinator has selected Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club (AARC) to host the fifth annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). Activities will take place from August 1 through August 6, 2005. Besides separate on-foot direction finding competitions on the two-meter and 80-meter bands (August 3 and 5), there will be opening ceremonies, practice sessions, a sightseeing day, and a closing banquet with awards presentations.

The event center will be on the campus of the University of New Mexico, where competitors will be housed. Bus transportation to the competition sites will be provided. Entry fees will cover the competitions (including transportation), housing, and meals.

Although most participants will be licensed hams, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone of any age, with or without an Amateur Radio license. Visiting competitors from outside the USA are welcome. If agreement is obtained from the ARDF Coordinator of Canada, the events may receive the additional designation of IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships.

Competitors will be divided into five age categories for males and four for females, with medals for top finishers in each category. Stateside winners will also be under consideration for positions on ARDF Team USA to the 2006 World Championships in Bulgaria.

Co-chairs of the AARC organizing committee are Jerry Boyd WB8WFK and Mike Pendley K5ATM. Other core team members of the committee are Scott Stevenson KC5VVB and Jack Stump KD5OEO. AARC hosted the First USA ARDF Championships in 2001.

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, the North American ARDF Task Force and the ARRL ARDF Coordinator is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to ARRL Headquarters, especially QST and ARRL Web staff, for publicizing ARDF activities and events.

More information about ARDF in the USA, including details and photos of Team USA's performance at the 2004 World Championships, can be found at <www.homingin.com>.

Albuquerque ARC has a Web site for the 2005 USA ARDF Championships at
<www.ardf.us>.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Moell K0OV
ARRL ARDF Coordinator
homingin@aol.com
<http://www.homingin.com>

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