

**2017 Second Meeting
ARRL Board of Directors
Windsor, Connecticut – July 21-22, 2017**

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 5, 2017 to July 3, 2017.

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.

ARDF at Scouting's National Jamboree

As mentioned in my last report, the 2017 revision 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 2017 National Scout Jamboree will take place at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve near Glen Jean, West Virginia from July 15 through 28. A two-meter ARDF course and equipment will be available to Scouts of all ages. Jamboree staff will provide training, encouragement and assistance. The goal is for 100 two-Scout teams to complete the ARDF course and for 300 to 400 Scouts to qualify for the new RMB during the Jamboree.

USA and IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships 2017

Final plans are being made for the Seventeenth USA ARDF Championships, which will also be designated as the Ninth ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2. The OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Club is organizing these championships with assistance from members of Orienteering Cincinnati.

There will be three optional ARDF practice days on July 31, August 1 and 2. The foxoring and sprint competitions will be August 3 and 4, followed by the 2m and 80m classic competitions on the weekend of August 5 and 6. Awards will be presented at a banquet on Saturday night and at a luncheon on Sunday after the final competition.

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. As in the USA and IARU Region 2 Championships of 2015, the organizers are expecting participation by a large group of middle- and high-school students, along with several adult chaperones and a translator, from Guangzhou No. 2 High School in southern China. Also already pre-registered for these championships are competitors from Australia, Germany and Ukraine.

Prior to the championships, informal ARDF training sessions are taking place at Mt. Pinos in California on the weekend of July 8 - 9 and near Asheboro, North Carolina from July 24 through 28.

Latest updates about the championships and training events can be found at <http://www.homingin.com>. Competitor and visitor registration is now open. Attendance at USA's ARDF Championships by ARRL section and division leaders is welcomed and encouraged.

IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships 2017

The eleventh IARU Region 3 ARDF championships will take place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from August 20 through 25, 2017. Representing and competing for USA will be Dale Hunt, WB6BYU and Kuon Hunt, KB7WRG of Hillsboro, Oregon.

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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