

# ARRL ARDF Committee

## Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

### January 2022

## Committee Purpose

*The ARRL ARDF Committee serves to fulfill, in the name of the ARRL, those responsibilities assigned to IARU member societies that participate in Amateur Radio Direction Finding as administered by the IARU regional organizations. Those responsibilities include assigning a society representative to represent the League in an IARU regional ARDF administrative committee or working group, and delegating single competitors or teams to participate in international competitions. When authorized by its corresponding IARU regional organization a member society may organize a World or Regional Championship.*

## Developments Since July 2021

### 2021 USA ARDF Championships a Success

The 20th USA ARDF Championships and 11th IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships were held near Asheboro, NC, October 14-17, 2021, with 27 competitors in attendance. The Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) was the sponsor, with Joseph Huberman, K5JGH, serving as Event Director, and Ruth Bromer, W4QZG serving as Registrar. Practices and training sessions were held October 10-12 near Durham, NC. Details of the very successful event are summarized in a [news release](#) submitted to ARRL. These 2021 competitions were put on by a small crew of volunteers with the competitors pitching in to help with some of the duties. Despite the small crew, everything went smoothly. This approach will serve as a model for conducting future championships and will be used again in 2022.

### 2021 European Championships

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the bi-annual ARDF World Championships were canceled in 2020, as were the rescheduled event and the World Youth ARDF Championships planned for 2021.

The 23rd European ARDF Championships, 18th Youth Championships, and the Euro Cup were held in Bulgaria in August 2021. Elizabeth Afonkin from the USA competed in the W16 category in the Euro Cup competition.

### 2022 USA ARDF Championships on Track

The Committee has approved the 21st USA ARDF Championships to be held in Prince William Forest Park, near Quantico, VA, April 7-10, 2022. The Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) will once again be the sponsor. Maps and advisory assistance will be provided by the Quantico Orienteering Club (QOC) which is local to the event venue.

These championships will follow the 2021 organizational model, requiring only a small crew of volunteers with the competitors pitching in to help.

### **2023-2024 USA ARDF Championships**

Planning for the 22nd and 23rd USA ARDF Championships is well underway. Discussions for a Texas venue in 2023 are proceeding smoothly.

A detailed proposal by Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR, to have the Southern Michigan Orienteering Club (SMOC) host the 2024 championships has been received and will get a Committee vote on sanctioning early in 2022.

### **Future IARU ARDF World Championships**

An official announcement about the 20th IARU ARDF World Championships 2022 has not yet been made, but the IARU Region 1 ARDF Working Group is now targeting the same host society (Serbia), venue, and August timeframe as was planned for 2020/21.

The 21st IARU ARDF World Championships are currently targeted to be held in 2023, near Liberec, Czech Republic.

## **Notable Accomplishments**

### **USA ARDF Sanctioning Documents**

The Committee approved a set of sanctioning documentation describing in detail how organizers go about planning, requesting sanctioning for, and conducting a USA ARDF Championships event. All approved documents are now posted on the [ARRL website](#).

### **ARDF Equipment Development**

ARDF Co-coordinators continued to work toward developing open-source low-cost ARDF equipment. Their current focus is on [Arducon](#): a device that transforms most standard 2m FM handy-talkies into bona fide ARDF transmitters. An article submitted to QST in July was rejected but was published in [CQ Magazine's Dec. 2021](#) Technology Special issue, p.22. A [Kickstarter campaign](#) to support the build of 100 Arducon units for the ARDF community is underway at the time of this writing. A summary of Arducon has been submitted to ARRL's On-The-Air blog for dissemination to ARRL members.

Respectfully Submitted,

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