

Progress Report to ARRL Board of Directors

This report of the ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator to the ARRL Board of Directors covers the period January 18, 2006 to July 18, 2006.

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-orienteeing).

SIXTH USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The sixth annual USA ARDF Championships took place on the second weekend of April 2006 in the North Carolina Piedmont. It attracted radio-orienteeers from all over the USA, plus England and Germany. The competitive courses were open to anyone of any age, with or without an Amateur Radio license. Medals awaited the winners in five age categories for males and four for females, in accordance with IARU rules.

Competitions were at William B. Umstead State Park in the foothills of the Appalachians, which features 5300 acres of rolling hills and beautiful forests. Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) supplied updated course maps for the 2-meter and 80-meter events.

The Championships started on Friday at noon with an optional four-hour practice and equipment checking session, followed by an information and safety briefing. The two-meter competition took place Saturday and the 80-meter event on Sunday. In addition to the ARDF competitions, there was a picnic supper after the practice session and an award ceremony following the 80-meter hunt.

Funding was by registration fees and local sponsors. There was no cost to ARRL. Special thanks are due to organizers Charles (NZ0I) and Nadia Scharlau of Cary, NC for a very successful event.

Detailed course descriptions by the organizers and complete individual results are on the Web at <<http://home.earthlink.net/~nadia1/>>. It was the topic of my "ARDF Update" feature on ARRL Web for May at <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2006/05/05/1/>>. Many more photos are on the web at <<http://members.aol.com/joek0ov/ncpix1.html>>.

IARU ARDF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006

The 2006 USA Championships took place just in time for final selection of ARDF Team USA 2006 members, who will travel to Primorsko on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria for the 13th ARDF World Championships from September 12 through 17, representing USA and ARRL.

International rules limit each national society's team size to three persons per age/gender category. USA's team positions were filled based on performances in the 2006 national championships in North Carolina and the 2005 national championships in New Mexico. Here is a list of the 2006 team members, hometowns and categories.

NAME AND CALL	CITY	CATEGORY
Afonkin, Vadim	Boston, MA	M21
Arnett, Dick WB4SUV	Erlanger, KY	M60
Boyd, Jerry WB8WFK	Albuquerque, NM	M21
Cooley, Bob KF6VSE	Pleasanton, CA	M60
D'Epagnier, Dave K0QE	Longmont, CO	M40
Frey, Robert WA6EZV	Cincinnati, OH	M50
Hennigan, Jay WB6RDV	Goleta, CA	M50
Hunt, Dale WB6BYU	Yamhill, OR	M50
Leach, Harley KI7XF	Bozeman, MT	M60
Neal, George KF6YKN	Melrose, MA	M40
Scharlau, Nadia	Cary, NC	F35
Scharlau, Charles NZ0I	Cary, NC	M40
Thompson, Jay W6JAY	Santa Ana, CA	M21

Four family members of competitors will attend as spectators. In addition, Karla Leach KC7BLA of Bozeman, MT and Marvin Johnston KE6HTS of Santa Barbara, CA will attend as members of the international jury. All competitors, spectators and jurors will pay their own travel expenses to and from Bulgaria.

Thanks to Barry Shelley N1VXY of ARRL Headquarters for arranging currency exchange and wire transfer of team registration fees to the Bulgarian organizers. These fees are being reimbursed by the team members, resulting in no net cost to ARRL. Jury member fees will be covered by the organizing society.

The Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs Web site for the 2006 World ARDF Championships is <<http://bfra.mtt.bg/>>.

THE FUTURE

Your ARDF Coordinator is working to secure a site and hosts for the 2007 USA ARDF Championships. I anticipate an announcement of dates and location in early September 2006.

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.

Interest and participation in ARDF activities continues to grow. I welcome efforts by Board members to encourage inclusion of ARDF at hamfests, conventions, and other local and regional events within their jurisdictions.

Respectfully submitted,

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