

ARRL ARDF Committee Report to the ARRL Board of Directors July 2020

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 January 2020

ARRL ARDF Web Site

The ARRL web site has been launched: <http://www.arrl.org/ardf>. Thanks goes to Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, who provided Content Management System training to the ARRL Coordinators. The web site proved helpful for disseminating up-to-date information on pandemic-related ARDF cancellations, and will continue to be a big help for keeping the USA ARDF Community and others informed of ARDF matters.

2020 USA ARDF Championships

This year's USA ARDF Championships event scheduled for June 9-14 in Boston, Massachusetts, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARRL ARDF Committee made the decision March 28 after the Event Director Jennifer Harker, W5JEN recommended to cancel the event due to the risks associated with travel and lodging for competitors and volunteers.

The Committee will move forward with plans for selecting a site and Event Director for the 2021 USA ARDF Championships.

2020 IARU ARDF World Championships

The bi-annual ARDF World Championships scheduled for August 30 – September 5 in Zlatibor, Serbia were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IARU Region 1 is currently planning to hold the World Championships in 2021 at the same venue at the

same time of year. An official announcement about the 2021 event has not yet been made.

Notable Accomplishments

ARDF in Michigan Schools

On January 7, the ARRL ARDF Committee met via Zoom with Mr. Cameron Robertson, a 4th-grade teacher at E.P. Clarke Elementary School in Saint Joseph, Michigan. Mr. Robertson has worked with Thomas Chen (ARDF Committee member) in recent years to establish a club and provide ARDF learning opportunities to 4th and 5th grade students at his school. The discussion explored the successes of the ARDF club that he sponsored, and how the ARDF Committee might help propagate and support similar school-sponsored ARDF activities elsewhere.

Team Uniforms

Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG, with input from several other Committee members, designed a new Team USA ARDF uniform. The snazzy star-spangled red, white and blue design is available on several garment types, including the jacket shown below.



Kathleen Callahan, KC1MBY, Marketing Communications Manager at ARRL, expressed potential interest in offering one or more clothing items in the ARRL e-Store in 2021.

Yuma Hamfest Presentation

On February 14-15 Gerald Boyd, WB8WFK, gave a presentation on the ARRL ARDF Committee and ARDF in the USA at the 2020 Yuma Hamfest and ARRL 2020 Southwestern Division Convention. Later, a large contingent participated in a 2-meter DF antenna and offset attenuator building clinic conducted by Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, and assisted by Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK. Following that, a 5-transmitter hunt

was conducted onsite with the five transmitters following a standard ARDF transmit cycle. This provided an opportunity for attendees to try out their newly-built DF antennas using offset attenuators and 2-meter HT's.

USA ARDF Rules Document

The Rules Subcommittee crafted and received Committee approval for a rules document for use in ARRL-sanctioned ARDF events. Those rules are now available on the [ARRL website](#).

Sanctioned Events Document

Shortly before this writing, the Sanctioning Subcommittee received Committee approval for a process document describing how groups can host ARRL-sanctioned ARDF events. That document has not yet been posted to the ARRL website.

Respectfully Submitted,

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