

ARRL ARDF Committee

Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

January 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.

ARDF Committee Membership

In July 2019 the ARRL Programs & Services Committee (P&SC) approved the ARRL ARDF Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) that established this Committee. In the five months that followed Committee work ramped up and a list of nominees for positions on the subcommittees was compiled.

The ARDF community in the USA is active and enthusiastic, and that is reflected in the response to our call for members to participate on the newly-established ARRL ARDF Committee. Attached to this report is a list of those who have accepted nominations for appointment starting in 2020. The committee membership reflects the diversity within the sport: ages range from 18 to 70+, it is more than 25% female, and six ARRL Divisions are represented.

Urgent Needs

ARDF Committee Recognition

After P&SC reviewed and approved the ToR in July 2019 that document was presented and discussed at the July 19-20, 2019 ARRL Board Meeting. On August 14, 2019, Mr. Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Great Lakes Division Director and P&SC Chairperson informed the USA ARDF Coordinator in an email that, although an ARRL Board decision was not captured in the Board Meeting minutes, it would be appropriate for the new ARRL

ARDF Committee to be assembled and to begin business in accordance with the provisions of the ToR.

No further confirmation of the new ARRL ARDF Committee has been forthcoming, and so far as we can ascertain the ARRL web site makes no mention of the new committee. Some acknowledgement by the ARRL Board of Directors in the January 2020 ARRL Board Meeting minutes, and on the official ARRL web site, would be helpful for establishing confidence amongst the USA ARDF community in the new committee's purpose and responsibilities.

Web Site

In July 2019 the ARDF Coordinator requested and was granted permission to maintain a web site on the [arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) domain: <http://www.arrl.org/ardf>. Unfortunately, major initiatives underway in the ARRL IT Department delayed the necessary Content Management System training and server configuration. The new Committee continues to wait patiently, but the lack of an official web site is seriously impacting our ability to engage with the ARDF community.

Terms of Reference

Several versions of the ARRL ARDF Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) were in circulation at the time that the P&SC approved the document in July 2019. So there is some doubt within the ARDF Committee as to precisely which version was approved. The latest version, dated March 9, 2019 (see Attachment 2), included changes to make the committee positions (e.g., "Chairperson" versus "Coordinator") more consistent with other ARRL Board committees. The committee nominations (see Attachment 1) use the position names defined in the March 9, 2019 ToR.

To avoid confusion, and enhance consistency among ARRL committees, we would like to request that the March 9, 2019 version be approved as our effective document, if that is not in fact the version that P&SC has already approved.

Notable Accomplishments

2019 USA ARDF Championships Results

A very successful Nineteenth USA and Tenth IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships were held in Raleigh, NC, August 1-4, 2019. The Backwoods Orienteering Klub sponsored the event. Veteran ARDF competitors and medalists Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG, and Joseph Huberman, K5JGH, were lead organizers and hosts.

Separate youth and adult courses provided appropriate competitions for fox hunters of all ages, with 36 competitors attending from the USA. Visiting competitors from Australia, Germany, and China practiced and competed alongside Team USA hopefuls. Competitors ranged in age from 8 to 73. A full summary is available in the ARRL News: <http://www.arrl.org/news/results-posted-for-usa-iaru-region-2-ardf-championships-in-north-carolina>

A detailed list of lessons learned from the 2019 Championships was documented and will be utilized to improve future events.

2020 USA ARDF Championships Venue Selected

The Committee voted informally to select the proposal of Jen Harker W5JEN to hold the 2020 USA ARDF Championships in the vicinity of Boston, MA. Courses will be set in various parks and forest areas just outside Boston from June 9 - 14. Competitors will utilize maps provided by the [New England Orienteering Club](#). The Event Director will be Jen Harker W5JEN. A web site for the 2020 Champs is up and running: <https://ardfusa.org/>. A Google Groups mailing list for participants and others interested in these (and future) championships is at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/usa-ardf-championships>.

ARDF Initiatives

The subcommittees are busy working on important initiatives with plans to launch in 2020:

- New ARDF Rules for USA Championships.
- A Ranking System for USA ARDF Athletes.
- A Process and Guidelines for Sanctioned Events.

The entire Committee is grateful and pleased to serve the USA ARDF community in the name of the ARRL.

Respectfully Submitted,

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