

Clubs and groups across the country are enjoying a new navigation sport that combines traditional orienteering with radio.

Is it lots of fun or is it educational? Is it a foot race or an adventure hunt? Is it maps and compasses or radios and antennas? The answer to all of these questions is a resounding YES!

The sport of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is all of those things and more. It involves taking a map, a compass, and a direction-finding radio into the woods for an adventure race. Competitors track down transmitting radio stations stashed among the trees as quickly as they can. The competitor finding the most transmitters in the least amount of time wins. There are



AMATEUR RADIO DIRECTION FINDING



ARDF HAS CATEGORIES FOR YOUTH TOO!

categories for men and women of all ages, and youth too.

ARDF arrived in the USA more than two decades ago and has been growing in popularity ever since. Each year there are championships held in countries across the world, including in the USA.

American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctions a USA ARDF Championships each year to determine the national radio direction-finding champions in each age/gender category. The results are used to determine who is invited to represent the USA at the bi-annual ARDF World Championships.

The USA ARDF Championships usually attract two to three dozen ARDF experts seeking to qualify for membership on Team USA. But the Championships aren't

just for the experts. They are a great opportunity for beginners to get introduced to the sport and to learn from the best in the land. ARDF practice sessions and introductory classes are often held just prior to the days of competition. Everyone is welcome!

The USA ARDF Championships are held at a different US venue each year. The site is chosen from among those clubs and organizations who have applied to sponsor the event. Any orienteering club, Amateur Radio club or similar organization may apply. The Championships provide a group activity to which each club member can contribute. They also draw attention to the sponsoring club locally, nationally, and even internationally. Most years the USA Championships attract several visitors from as far away as Europe, Australia and China.

The main requirements to sponsor a USA ARDF Championships are enthusiasm, a forested venue, and a good map. All specialized equipment and technical expertise can be provided for clubs that apply to host the Championships well ahead of time.

Get your club involved in a fun new activity and see where it leads. It might just take your club's membership to a lifetime of sporting adventure.

Contact email: ardf@arrl.org

FIND OUT MORE

arrrl.org/ardf

<https://www.ardf-r2.org/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio_direction_finding

<http://www.homingin.com/farsnews.html>

<https://orienteeringusa.org>



VISIT THE ARRL WEB SITE



SCAN TO SEE THE ARDF MOVIE



**Bring Radio
Direction-Finding
to Your Club!**

