

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee Report to the ARRL Board of Directors January 2025

Committee Purpose

The ARRL Radio Orienteering 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 2024

2024 USA Radio Orienteering Championships Success

The 23rd USA Radio Orienteering Championships were a resounding success. Held in Michigan, October 7-13, 2024, Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR, was the event director. The IARU Region 2 organization designated the 2024 competition as the 12th IARU Region 2 Radio Orienteering Championships, allowing Region 2 competitors to vie for the title of Region 2 Champion. The official event website (<https://radioorienteeingchamps.us/>) has been updated with the results, which have also been posted on ARRL.org/Radio-O.

22nd IARU World ARDF Championships

The Lithuanian Amateur Radio Society will host the ARDF World Championships in Birštonas, Lithuania, from August 16 to 22, 2025. ARRL is organizing Team USA to compete and has already begun preparations to submit the Letter of Intent in early February. Early indications suggest that ARRL will designate a record number of USA team members to compete this year.

24th USA Radio Orienteering Championships

The Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) will host the 2025 USA championships at Morrow Mountain State Park, NC, June 19-22. Joseph Huberman, K5JGH, and Charles Scharlau, NZØI, will serve as event directors. The results will factor into USA team selection for the World Championships in August. Bulletin 1 is available on the [BOK website](#).

Radio Orienteering Equipment Initiative

The Radio Orienteering Committee recognizes that a lack of affordable, high-quality radio orienteering equipment limits broader participation in the sport. To address this

need, committee members have developed two easy-to-build kit designs: an 80m automated transmitter (SignalSlinger) and an 80m receiver (SignalSnagger). The Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) of Raleigh, NC, applied for a grant through the ARRL Club Grant Program in 2024 to fund the launch of both kits. The committee was prepared to collaborate closely with BOK to ensure that the funded kits would be distributed for maximum benefit to the sport in the USA. Unfortunately, the BOK grant application was rejected, and the committee continues to search for alternative funding sources to launch these kits.

Notable Accomplishments

Radio Orienteering Training at the 23rd USA Championships

A training camp, led by Nadia Scharlau, KO4ADV, was held the weekend before the 2024 USA Championships in Chelsea, MI. Twelve registrants participated, learning and practicing the sport. Three registrants, all newcomers to radio orienteering, completed the camp and went on to win high honors in the competitions, outperforming some of the sport's veterans and even one Training Camp instructor. All three high-achieving training camp graduates were ham radio operators who entered the sport through their interest in radio: Rose Ganim, W1RBG; Roland "Carey" Woodward, KQ4QYZ; and Vincent Melling, N1VJM.

Radio Orienteering Presentations

Robert Frey, WA6EZV, fulfilled his committee duties by delivering several presentations on Radio Orienteering. He gave an in-person presentation for the Bellbrook ARC in Ohio in September 2024, with approximately 30 attendees, and a Zoom presentation for the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association in New York on October 21, 2024, with approximately 25 attendees.

Respectfully Submitted,

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