

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee Report to the ARRL Board of Directors January 2024

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 2023

2024 USA Radio Orienteering Championships

Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR, will direct the **23rd USA Radio Orienteering Championships** in Michigan, October 7-13, 2024. The IARU Region 2 organization has 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 Southern Michigan Orienteering Club (SMOC) will host the 2024 championships. KE8MKR has established a Facebook page for the event (facebook.com/2024USRadioO) and posted Bulletin 1 (tinyurl.com/2p9fmw27). This information is also posted to ARRL.org/Radio-O.

2023 World Championships Team USA

Twenty-four Americans (21 competitors and 3 visitors) represented the USA at the 21st IARU World ARDF Championships, held from August 27 to September 2, 2023, in Liberec, Czech Republic. This was the largest US contingent since the USA began sending teams in 1998, with members from seven states. More than half of the competitors were from North Carolina. Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG, brought back a silver medal in W65 Foxoring, Nadia Scharlau, KO4ADV, and Natalia Leoni took the team bronze in the W55 Classic 2m competition. But medal counts don't tell the whole story. The USA had seven first-time WC competitors, all performing well and finishing all their courses without disqualification.

Notable Accomplishments

First Region 2 International Class Referee

The committee nominated Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI, to be a candidate for approval as an IARU ARDF International Class Referee. The nomination was approved at the 45th Ple-

nary Meeting of the IARU Region 1 ARDF Working Group held at the IARU 21st World ARDF Championships, Liberec, Czech Republic. An IARU ARDF International Class Referee is an experienced ARDF official supervising the strict observation of the Rules at international ARDF events. Vadim is the first such referee nominee from outside Region 1. After completing his examination, Vadim will be certified to serve as a Jury member at international ARDF events. This is an honor for Vadim and a step forward for radio orienteering in Region 2.

Radio-O Equipment Initiative

The Radio Orienteering Committee believes the lack of affordable, quality radio orienteering equipment is holding the sport back from broader participation. To address that need, committee members have resolved to develop two easy-to-build kits: an 80m transmitter and an 80m receiver designed for radio orienteering.

SignalSlinger: A versatile 80m QRP radio transmitter kit design is complete. When built, each kit functions as a regulation Radio Orienteering “fox.” Fifteen prototype boards have been built and tested, and the [Owner’s Manual](#) is available online. The kit is a simple-to-build, low-cost, open-source radio orienteering transmitter to help address the lack of affordable radio-orienteering equipment.

SignalSnagger: The 80m Radio Orienteering receiver design has been developed, prototyped and tested. Field tests indicate the receiver will perform well as a simple-to-use, low-cost, competition-grade DF receiver. It should pair nicely with the 80m fox transmitter kit and help address the lack of affordable high-performance receivers for radio orienteering. The receiver kit is in the design stage, and is targeted to be ready for its first production build in Q4 2024.

Obtaining funding to launch initial builds of both kits is a primary committee goal in 2024. Approximately \$20,000 is the estimate to create 100 of each kit.

Radio Orienteering Presentations

Robert Frey, WA6EZV, as part of his committee duties, delivered a Zoom presentation in August to the Barnstable Amateur Radio Club (BARC), Cape Cod, Maine. 35 attendees. They do much work with Boy Scouts and are enthusiastic about getting Scout hunts going.

Gerald Boyd, WB8WFK, delivered two presentations at the 2023 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention: An Introduction to SignalSlinger (the 80m Radio-O Tx kit), and an Introduction to Radio Orienteering. David Minster, NA2AA, ARRL CEO, who attended the convention, was invited but could not attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

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