

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee Report to the ARRL Board of Directors January 2026

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 2025

22nd IARU World ARDF Championships

The 22nd IARU World ARDF Championships were held August 16–22, 2025, in Birštonas, Lithuania. Team USA competed with 19 athletes across multiple age categories and earned an individual silver medal in the W55 80m Classic event, along with a W55 team medal in the same discipline. All competitors self-funded their entry fees, travel, and lodging.

The USA results were submitted to [ARRL for publication](#). Full international results and event information are available at the [DARC website](#).

IARU Region 1 ARDF Working Group Meeting

Committee members participated in the IARU Region 1 ARDF Working Group meeting held in conjunction with the World Championships. A proposal to add M80 and W75 age categories to future World Championship competitions was presented by Joseph Huberman, K5JGH, with support from committee members in attendance. The proposal failed by a single vote, indicating substantial support and a realistic opportunity for future adoption with refinement and renewed advocacy.

25th USA Radio Orienteering Championships (2026)

The 2026 USA Radio Orienteering Championships will take place near Portland, OR, and will be hosted by Mount Hood Orienteering. The organizing club's website is <https://www.mthoodo.org/>. Event coordination is being led by Dale Hunt, WB6BYU, and Charles Scharlau, NZØI. Tony Pinkham, KA7AHP, is serving as principal map creator, and Kathleen Kerns, K7KER, is serving as registrar. Planning is underway, and

preliminary information is posted on the ARRL Radio Orienteering webpage at <https://www.arrl.org/ro>.

Radio Orienteering Equipment Initiative

As previously reported, the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) of Raleigh, NC, received a \$5,000 grant from Orienteering USA (OUSA) to support the launch of open-source radio orienteering equipment kits. Since July, BOK has procured all required components, including custom populated PCBs, and is preparing to launch sales of the SignalSlinger 80m automated transmitter kit.

In parallel, development and testing continue on the SignalStreamer 80m fox antenna design, and the SignalSnagger 80m receiver remains positioned for a subsequent release. These efforts are intended to reduce equipment barriers and support broader participation in the sport.

No ARRL funds have been allocated to radio orienteering equipment, events, or outreach.

Notable Accomplishments

Rules Update

The committee completed a comprehensive update of the USA Radio Orienteering Rules, effective January 1, 2026.

The Radio Orienteering Event Planning document was also updated to include standardized required wording for pre-event briefings.

Antenna Investigations

Committee members continued investigations into improved 80m fox antenna designs aimed at providing a complementary kit to pair with the SignalSlinger kit. Multiple designs have been prototyped and tested, with ongoing evaluation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Boyd – WB8WFK

Charles E. Scharlau – NZØI

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee Co-coordinators

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