

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

24th USA Radio Orienteering Championships

Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) hosted the 2025 USA championships at Morrow Mountain State Park, NC, June 19-22. The results factored into USA team selection for the World Championships in August. A summary is available on the [ARRL radio orienteering website](#) with full results available on the [BOK website](#).

22nd IARU World ARDF Championships

Twenty U.S. athletes have accepted places on Team USA for Birštonas, Lithuania, 16–22 August 2025; a 21st awaits employer approval, which would match our all-time roster record. Entry fees have been paid to the Lithuanian Amateur Radio Society. All competitors self-fund their fees, travel, and lodging.

25th USA Radio Orienteering Championships (2026 bid)

The Committee is assisting an Oregon working group exploring venues for the 2026 Nationals. Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK, will report later this month on his reconnaissance of Dutchman Flat, a leading candidate.

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 open source easy-to-build kit designs: an 80m automated transmitter (SignalSlinger) and an 80m receiver (SignalSnagger).

As reported in January, the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) of Raleigh, NC, had its 2024 ARRL Club Grant Program request for project seed money rejected. But a separate application to Orienteering USA (OUSA) has resulted in a \$5000 grant being awarded. This committee will collaborate with BOK to help ensure that the funded kits will be distributed for maximum benefit to the sport in the USA. **No ARRL funds have ever been allocated to Radio Orienteering equipment, events, or outreach.**

Notable Accomplishments

Antenna Investigations

Three committee members have been investigating improvements to the 80m fox antennas used for this sport. Three resulting designs aim to improve portability and efficiency. Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK, will provide a report on his design in July and a sample for testing. Charles Scharlau, NZØI, and Joseph Huberman, K5JGH, are still testing their designs.

Respectfully Submitted,

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