

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee Report to the ARRL Board of Directors July 2023

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 2023

2024 USA Radio Orienteering Championships

The ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee approved the proposal submitted by Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR, to hold the 23rd USA Radio Orienteering Championships in Michigan in October 2024. The Southern Michigan Orienteering Club (SMOC) will host the 2024 championships. KE8MKR has established a Facebook page for the event ([facebook.com/2024USRadioO](https://www.facebook.com/2024USRadioO)) and posted Bulletin 1 (tinyurl.com/2p9fmw27).

2023 World Youth ARDF Championships

USA Radio Orienteering Champion *Adalia Schafrath-Craig* from Raleigh, NC, was designated a USA competitor at the 5th IARU World Youth ARDF Championships. Adalia completed all three event formats, finishing in the top ten in the 2m Classic competition. Held June 26-30, 2023, in Városlod, Hungary, the Hungarian Radioamateur Society hosted the event. This year, ten nations from all three IARU regions sent teams to the youth championships. Complete results are available on the World Youth ARDF Championships website: <https://wyac2023.mrasz.org/>

2023 World Championships USA Team Invitations

Nadia Scharlau, KO4ADV, Team Selection subcommittee co-chair, submitted the Letter of Intent for the World Youth ARDF Championships held in June (see above), and ensured payment to organizers was provided on time.

Twenty invitations were distributed to qualifying individuals to compete on this year's Team USA at the 21st IARU World ARDF Championships. If they can all make the trip, this will be the largest US contingent since the USA began sending teams in 1998, and includes members from seven states. Fully half of those accepting invitations are from North Carolina. The 2023 WC will be held from 27 Aug to 2 Sep 2023 in Liberec, Czech

Republic. A training camp will be held from 24-26 Aug 2023. Visit the official website (ardf2023.cz) for the latest announcements.

2023 USA Championships Held Successfully

The 22nd USA Radio Orienteering Championships were held 19-23 Apr 2023 in Cooper Lake State Park, near Dallas, Texas. New Mexico Orienteers (NMO) sponsored the event, and Gerald Boyd, WB8WFK, served as event director. A summary of the event was disseminated via the ARRL Letter and is provided in Attachment 1 of this report.

Notable Accomplishments

On the Air Article & Podcast

The Thrill of the Chase, an article describing the sport of Radio Orienteering, made the cover of ARRL's Mar/Apr *On the Air* magazine. The article was written by Charles Scharlau, NZØI, and featured the 2022 World Youth ARDF Championships' USA athlete Liza Afonkin on the front cover. Proceeds from the article were donated to the ARRL ARDF Fund. Charles also worked with Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, to record the [Mar 9 ARRL On the Air audio podcast](#) on the same subject.

Equipment Initiative

A versatile 80m/40m QRP radio transmitter kit is in its final design stage: when built, each kit will function as a QRP CW transmitter on either band. It is compatible with the End-Fed Half-Wave Antenna Kit currently offered in the ARRL online store and simple enough for beginners to construct. The kit targets the Teachers Institute (TI) and QRP amateur radio enthusiasts. Not coincidentally, the transmitter's firmware allows it to function as a regulation automated radio-orienteering transmitter - so it will help address the lack of affordable radio-orienteering equipment. Sample kits are targeted to be ready for evaluation by Q4 2023.

Radio Orienteering Presentations

Robert Frey, WA6EZV, as part of his committee duties, delivered three Zoom presentations on radio orienteering to clubs between April and June. He also delivered radio orienteering demonstrations at the Dayton (Xenia) Hamfest and the OCIN orienteering club in Cincinnati.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Boyd – WB8WFK

Charles E. Scharlau – NZØI

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee Co-coordinators

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