

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee

Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

July 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 January 2026

25th USA and 13th IARU Region 2 Radio Orienteering Championships

Planning continues for the 2026 USA and IARU Region 2 Radio Orienteering Championships near Mt. Hood, Oregon, August 12-16, 2026. Mount Hood Orienteering is hosting the event. Dale Hunt, WB6BYU, and Charles Scharlau, NZØI, are event coordinators; Tony Pinkham, KA7AHP, is preparing maps; and Kathleen Kerns, K7KER, is registrar. Registration opened in May, and the organizing team continues to finalize maps, logistics, scoring, and event operations.

2026 IARU Region 3 Radio Orienteering Championships

Information about the 2026 IARU Region 3 Radio Orienteering Championships in Japan has been circulated to U.S. radio orienteers. As of this writing, approximately ten USA competitors are planning to travel to Japan to compete. The committee continues to support communication with prospective participants and monitor issues affecting international categories and team participation.

2027 USA Radio Orienteering Championships

The committee has begun reviewing a prospective bid from New Mexico Orienteers to host the 2027 USA Radio Orienteering Championships. The proposed competition dates are June 10-13, 2027, with venues in the mountains southeast of Albuquerque and an event hotel in Albuquerque.

International Category Advocacy

The committee continues to support creation of W75 and M80 categories for international radio orienteering competitions. After the close but unsuccessful 2025 proposal in the IARU Region 1 ARDF Working Group, committee discussion has focused on renewed advocacy, including outreach to relevant Region 3 contacts.

Radio Orienteering Equipment and Software

The [SignalSlinger](#) 80m automated transmitter has moved toward practical deployment. In May, 15 ready-to-use units were transferred to Rob Haddow, VE3JT/VE3RXH, the Radio Amateurs of Canada ARDF Coordinator. Development and testing continue on [SignalStreamer](#) 80m fox antennas and SignalSnagger 80m receivers. No ARRL funds have been allocated to radio orienteering equipment, events, or outreach.

[Radio-Oracle](#) and [SerialSlinger](#) are now available as open-source radio orienteering software tools. Radio-Oracle provides event scoring and results support and is planned as the primary results system for the 2026 USA and IARU Region 2 Championships. SerialSlinger provides companion software support for SignalSlinger transmitters.

Committee Administration

Robert Frey, WA6EZV, resigned from the committee in January. Bob has spent more than 25 years in radio orienteering, supported teaching efforts in his area, and competed at USA and World Championships. He was a member of Team USA at the 2000 World Championships in Nanjing City, China, and has been deeply involved in the sport ever since. The committee thanks him for his contributions.

Other Notable Accomplishments

Committee members met in person with Rob Haddow, VE3JT/VE3RXH, the new Radio Amateurs of Canada ARDF Coordinator, maintaining positive cross-border cooperation. Work on both the 2026 championship and a prospective 2027 bid supports continuity in the national championship schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Gerald Boyd – WB8WFK

ARRL Radio Orienteering Committee Co-coordinators
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