



About ARDF at Rosaryville State Park (Sunday Nov. 22, 2020)

Radio orienteering was born in Eastern Europe around the time of the First World War when commanders communicated with troops using radios. When the radio was broadcasting you could get a bearing on the enemy. So getting an accurate bearing quickly and careful map reading was important. This use expanded in naval applications, and prominently figured in WWII's Battle of the Atlantic locating U-Boats.

This military use has grown into a popular sport called ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) but the principles stay the same: by pointing the antenna of the radio receiver and listening to the signal you can determine its direction. By getting other signal bearings, the beacon (fox) and its associated control can be found.

The ARDF beacons transmit periodically, and by listening for their signals as you move through the forest, you attempt to triangulate their locations. Participants will be issued a map with only the start and finish marked on it.

Your goal is to find at least one control and return to the finish in the shortest time. The transmitters are located within 5m from the control and may not be easily visible, so look for a control flag when you are close. For Rosaryville, we are planning on five controls. All transmitters will work in a cycle, each will be active for one minute.

Like Score Orienteering, the controls can be visited in any order. Unlike Score-O, this event requires you to figure out the approximate locations of the controls as you move through the woods, since they are not provided on the map. A flat surface (clip board or map board) and a pen or pencil are strongly recommended to help plot bearings to the controls.

Michael Kholodov is designing and setting the ARDF course using his own equipment. He will have a small number of receivers available for use at this event for pre-registered individual participants. The receivers will be sanitized and individually packaged.

We plan to have two start windows for ARDF with 5 participants each:
5 starts at 10:00 AM and 5 starts at 12:30 PM

The small number of available receiver sets requires the 10 AM starters to be back at the registration area by about 12:15 PM for sanitization prior to re-issue at 12:30 PM.

A collateral (car keys or driver's license) is required for ARDF receiver use and may be left in the package for the time on the course.

For anyone planning on bringing their own ARDF receiver, Michael is using 80 m wavelength beacons.

Register for the Rosaryville ARDF course via the link on the event webpage.

For a quick introduction to ARDF please go to www.ardfdc.org.

A video comparing ARDF and foot orienteering is [available here](#).

A short video created by QOC's Eugene Tcipnjatov showing ARDF in Maryland is available here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnKB1JIEPZ4>

Conditions permitting, a short instruction on how to use the receiver will be given before the course.