

## Radio Orienteering at Cabin John Regional Park

Radio orienteering originated in Eastern Europe during the First World War. Commanders used radios to communicate with their troops. While the radio was transmitting, opposing forces were able to take a bearing and train their weapons on the enemy. Careful map reading and the ability to take quick and accurate bearings became vital military skills.

Today it's called ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding), but the principles are the same as they were 100 years ago. By pointing the radio receiver's antenna and listening for the transmitted signal, you can determine its direction, hone in on its location, and find its associated control box.

At Cabin John, we will offer a 3-control FoxOring training event. It's orienteering with a twist. The map is a normal orienteering map, but the on-map controls lead you to the *vicinity* of the low-power radio beacon. Once you reach the control location, you will be able to hear the beacon's signal. Your task is to find the beacon located within 30-50 meters in any direction from the control. The radio beacon transmits continuously, but there is no flag, only an e-punch control box.

The goal is to find the beacons in a specific order and return to the finish in the shortest time. Please note, the beacons do not have control descriptions, or represent any feature, so pay attention to the control numbers when punching.

ARDF enthusiast Michael Kholodov will have a small number of sanitized and individually packaged receivers available for rent for a fee of \$10 cash, payable directly to Michael. **For insurance purposes, only people who have pre-registered for a regular Cabin John orienteering course will be allowed to participate in the ARDF training event.** Pre-register and pay for a normal orienteering course just like always. You can run it in addition to taking part in the ARDF training if you'd like, but run it or not, you must pre-register for a regular course.

The ARDF event will be first come/first served. There will be two start windows with 5 participants each at 10 AM and 12:30 PM. The 10 AM starters must be back at the registration area by 12:15 PM so the equipment can be re-sanitized before the 12:30 PM starts.

Collateral (car keys or driver's license) is required to use an ARDF receiver.

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

For a quick introduction to ARDF, please go to [www.ardfdc.org](http://www.ardfdc.org).

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

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

Conditions permitting, Michael will give a short instruction session on using the receiver before you head out to the course.