

Sixth IARU Region II ARDF Championships



Region II championship Pre-event newsletter.

July 2011 edition

To help our competitors know what is going on with pre-event activities the organizers of the 2011 ARDF championships will be issuing a series of pre-event monthly newsletters up to the start of the championships in September.

VHF Transmitters

The Ohio - Kentucky - Indiana club (OH - KN - IN) will be providing the AM keyed carrier transmitters that will be used to support the VHF championships race day, equipment checkout day and the pre event training camp.

Brian, K4BRI has provided the following technical data for the transmitters.

“The transmitters are all currently configured for .75 watts AM keyed carrier. MOE-MO5 are on 144.525, and the MO beacon is on 145.565”

Brian also provided some photos that show how the transmitters are packaged into a single integrated unit that includes the transmitter, controller battery and horizontal antenna assembly.



I would like to acknowledge the OH - KN -IN group as an official event sponsor since they are providing these transmitters to support this event.

The Albuquerque HF transmitters will be used for the 80 meter event.

Please plan on using the below listed frequencies on VHF race day, equipment checkout day and the pre-event training camp.

Modulation mode	AM keyed carrier
MOE through MO5 transmitters	144.525 MHz
MO beacon	145.565 MHz

The following frequencies will be used for the 80 meter transmitters at the championships HF race day, equipment checkout day and the pre-event training camp.

Modulation mode	CW
MOE through MO5 transmitters	3579.5 KHz
MO beacon	3546.8 KHz

Pre event training camp

For those people who will be attending the 2011 US ARDF Championships, registration is now open for the training camp. The Training Camp link is:

<http://ke6hts.com/training-camp>

To prevent spam issues the registration page needed to be password protected.



Please do not post the password in plain text on any website or email reflector.

This two day training event will be held on September 14 and 15 near Albuquerque, NM. While registration is not strictly required, people who will be attending are encouraged to register as it will help with the planning process. After filling out the online registration, you will receive an email confirmation.

Marvin Johnston is the training camp organizer and will be supported by both non local and local volunteers. More details will become available in upcoming pre-event newsletters and via email as they develop.

The tentative camp location is on USFS land south of I-40 and east of Albuquerque. A waiver will be extended to attendees to enter the embargo area to attend the training camp on September 14 and 15th. Directions and the approved access route will be provided to camp attendees.

Event center Hotel

Some of our runners have indicated that they have not been able to get the group rate at the event hotel for the training camp dates. After talking with the hotel it's our understanding that another event has booked rooms before our event date. Because of this rooms may not be available for the dates before our event start date. Some folks that registered early did get rooms for the group rate during the pre event training camp days.

Important news

If you have not yet booked your rooms with the event hotel please do so this week. We will be releasing the block of rooms that we had on hold so that event organizers won't be held financially responsible for any rooms not sold. We had a block of 40 rooms on hold and as of July 15, 2011 less than 10 rooms were sold. After this week rooms will be on an as available if hotel is not booked up. If you plan to stay at the hotel please book this week to ensure that you can get a room.

The hotel is providing a full breakfast for our attendees with made to order items as part of your group rate. The hotel requested that we verify the number of breakfast coupons needed for each room. If you are staying at the hotel, please send us an email indicating the number of persons in your group so that we can have the hotel print coupons for each day of your stay and have them ready for you at room check in. This will ensure that you won't get charged for breakfast at the hotel Restaurant.

Safety net

For your safety we will encourage everyone to carry some type of communications device when on the course. This will aid the organizers in the event conditions are still dry in September and need to contact everyone quickly to start an evacuation if a lightning triggered fire would occur. At registration please provide the organizers information indicating if you are carrying a Cell phone (its phone number) or a 2 meter HT.

Registration update

As of July 17th there are ~24 persons listed (registrations received or registrations are on the way). Please visit the event website for the current listing of persons registered and registrations that are on the way. Also please let us know if any items in your listing needs changed.

Dry conditions

As most of you already know from national news reports some wild fires events have occurred this year and some are currently in process in the southwest US. Recently one fire, the largest in New Mexico state history that has expanded to over 150,000 acres of forest is still active.

This fire was started by a tree falling into a power line on a windy day. We won't know for a week or so if any damage to areas where our runners are expected to be traveling has occurred. For now the area is closed to any access.

Your event organizers are staying on top of this current ongoing event, and if necessary we will activate a backup plan to recover from any loss of a venue. Last reports are that the fire is now 60% contained and rain has occurred in the area. Rain is in the forecast again this week for all of our venues.

We will have more to report in the August newsletter. However the latest news is as soon as enough rain is received the forest will be re-opened for access.

Course Vetting

Late in June before the stage 3 fire restrictions went into place, one venue was vetted. All control locations have been checked on this venue to ensure that they are good safe locations and it was also verified that a transmitter located at each control location can be received at the starting line. The other venue will be vetted within a week after stage 3 fire restrictions are lifted.

ARRL ARDF fund grant

Some very good news was received in late June. The ARRL become an event sponsor and has provided a grant from the ARRL ARDF fund to help support the operational expenses of the 2011 region 2 ARDF championships. As soon as all operational expenses are finalized and the books are closed, we will determine if there are any post event rebates to our competitors. If so refunds will be made.

73's

The 2011 region II ARDF championships organization committee.