

## **Sixth IARU Region II ARDF Championships**



**Region II championship Pre-event newsletter.**

**May 2011 Status update on pre event planning**

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.

### **Course design**

Scouting and vetting control locations is now in progress as first pass draft courses have been designed. To ensure you have a good championship experience, testing will be conducted at both venues to ensure that all transmitters can be received at the end of the starting corridor.

### **Event center Hotel**

It's very important that competitors stay at the event center hotel. In addition to reducing Logistics issues on both event days for the organizers this will ensure that we have a meeting room for registration & practice day. The hotel is providing us the meeting room, providing that a minimum number of people stay at the hotel. Otherwise the Meeting room will cost several hundred dollars. Please use the URL provided on the championship website to book your accommodations. This URL was set up by the Hotel IT department so that the Hotel knows that you are part of the ARDF group and that your registration counts toward the free meeting room.

### **ISDR**

Has anyone built an 80 meter receiver based on ISDR? More info can be found at <http://digitalconfections.com/> this receiver runs on different apple platforms.

Please let the organizers know in advance if you will be using one of these receivers.

### **Scorekeeping**

A new feature for US hosted events will be introduced at this year's championships. After you cross the finish line and have finished downloading your SI, you can use your Wi fi equipped portable device to view results in real time as runners download their sticks.

Instructions for connecting and using this feature will be posted in the finish area on each event day. The wepkey will be changed for each event day to address any concerns relating to viewing the results from the field. All efforts will be made to limit Wi fi coverage to the finish area.

This feature has recently been tested and is made possible by the FjWW ARDF scorekeeping software built-in web server. For those that don't have a Wi fi equipped portable device there will be a computer located in the finish area connected to the event LAN for competitors and visitors to use for real-time results viewing. FjWW has been used at world championships and this is its first use at a US sponsored championship.

### **Forest conditions**

Conditions at all venues are currently very dry. Arizona, New Mexico and Texas are experiencing dry conditions. The US forest service has not issued any closures, but have put fire restrictions in place. Conditions will improve if the monsoons start in July.

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.

Parking is limited at the venues so we will restrict the number of vehicles to the Bus and event volunteers to prevent traffic congestion (hence the mandatory use of the bus) and aid in quick evacuation escape. At registration please provide the organizers information indicating if you are carrying a Cell phone (its phone number) or a 2 meter HT.

If possible we recommend that you carry both as one venue has good Verizon coverage and cell coverage one venue is intermittent.

We recommend that if you will be carrying a 2 meter HT, please set its frequency to 146.520 MHZ, mode to simplex and enable the frequency and PTT lock feature to prevent accidental transmission on 146.52

and the fox frequency. This will prevent a stuck PTT issues and ensure you can receive an emergency broadcast from the organizers if the need should arise.

### **Battery testing**

To ensure that the batteries used for the fox transmitters are competition ready, a computerized battery tester is being used by Mike Pendley, K5ATM to test the state of health of all the batteries that were recently donated to power the transmitters. The amp hour rating for all battery piles will be verified and data in the form of discharge curves verses time will be provided to the organizing committee for review.

### **Hardware testing**

All hardware used for the event is undergoing testing to verify that's its competition ready. Results of testing will be reviewed by organizers before it is used.

### **Registration**

Registration is open. Please register as soon as possible. If for some reason you cannot register until after June 1<sup>st</sup> please send the organizers an email indication you do plan to attend. It is necessary to have 19 registered persons received in the mail by the website posted date so that we can make arrangements to lock in contracts with external vendors. To date we only have one registered person.

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The 2011 region II ARDF championships organization committee.