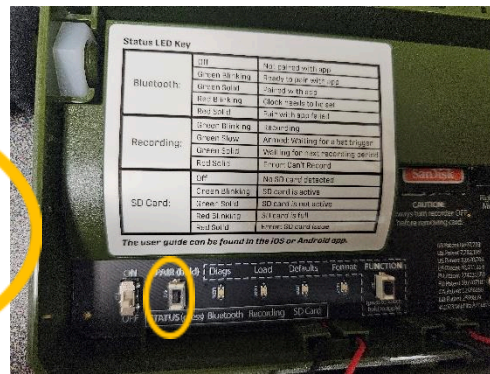# ARU Deployment Instructions

We use Song Meter Mini 2 ARUs and the Song Meter Configurator app on your smartphone device. This application is available for free on Apple and Android products. [Download link.](#)

All ARUs should come pre-equipped with 8 AA batteries and an SD card. It is good practice to verify before deploying the device.

Pair button location

Programing

1. Turn on your smartphone's Bluetooth capabilities
2. Press and hold the "pair" button on the ARU for ~4 seconds.
   a. If this is your first time pairing this particular ARU with the phone, look for the ARU's serial number to appear in the main menu of the app.
   b. If you've previously paired this ARU with your phone, the ARU will already be listed in the main menu. However, you will still need to press and hold the "pair" button on the ARU
3. A "pair" icon should appear in the app next to the ARU ID. Click it to create a connection between the ARU and the phone.
4. To adjust the settings, click "configure".
5. Change the "recorder name" according to the following conventions "Unit ID-Point ID". The Unit ID is the 4 digit code found on the front or side of the ARU. The point ID is the 4 digit code provided to you for the location list. E.G If I am deploying ARU 1234 at point 4567, then I rename the recorder name to "1234-4567."
6. Go to the "location and time zone" settings and adjust them accordingly.

a. In the field, you may click the "set" button if you have cell service, but make sure the map shows the correct area where the ARU will be placed.

b. Or you can program ahead of deployment using the point coordinates.

7. Return to the main settings.

8. No need to set a delayed start, but you may turn the Bluetooth beacon option on to get status updates from the ARU if you wish.

   Additionally, because in-person covey counts are to be paired with a recording ARU, it is recommended that you not set a "date range". This ensures that the ARU will continue to record each morning in case weather or unexpected scheduling conflicts prevent you from surveying during the originally anticipated deployment dates.

9. Record data for 3 hours every morning the ARU is deployed (30 minutes before sunrise to 2 hours and 30 minutes after sunrise). Adjust the recording windows in the app so they resemble the following settings:

		hours	minutes
·	Start time		
·	Rise -	00	30
·	Time Duty Cycle = Always		
·	End time	hours	minutes
·	Rise +	02	30

10. After setting the schedule, click the "estimated battery and SD card life". Make sure the dates are as expected.

11. After configuring the ARU, return to the main menu (i.e., the list of previously paired ARUs).

12. Click on "status" to double-check storage and battery levels. This is also where you can check to make sure the SD card is properly seated. Then click the return button to return to the main menu again.

13. When you have completed the programming for the song meter, click "unpair". The lights will turn off on the Song Meter as the connection between the phone and ARU is disconnected. The lid to the song meter has a list of definitions for what the different lights mean when you click the "function" button on the song meter. At this point, the song meter should be properly programmed and ready for the next recording window.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Please double check your SD cards as a last step of ARU deployment. Pair the ARU with your phone and click "status". If you see a "no SD card" warning message under "storage info", this means the SD card is not seated properly
- Ensure the lid snaps on tightly during deployment.

o Be sure the thin rubber weather strip on the ARU's outer edge remains clean.
o The lids can be deceiving by snapping on loosely; so please press on the lid to make sure it is snapped on all the way.
- Squirrels sometimes like to nibble on the microphone covers. If you have a location where squirrels are a problem, you can try lightly dusting the microphone cover with ground red cayenne pepper or a similarly hot spice.

Field Deployment

At the survey point the ARU should be deployed as follows:

1. Make sure the programming steps have been done and the ARU is ON
2. At survey point locate a sturdy tree or utility pole off the well-walked areas.
3. Face ARU away from the paths to minimize curious passersby and use the bike lock to wrap the device around the tree.
    a. Zip tie the loop near the hinge to prevent people from opening the ARU

4. Note the ARU number and site name in notes

5. Take photos and geotag ARU for later access