

HAM RAG

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JULY 2005

Presidents Corner - JULY 2005

Prez Sez !!!!!

Not too much to report on this month.

We haven't done anything with 147.000 or 223.880 yet. Will be coming up soon.

Field day came and went without any fanfare. One report on Field Day though, Tim P. KC9DNN made 84 contacts after he returned from his father's wedding in Chicago. Way to go Tim.

We have had a lot of opportunities for bad weather, but fortunately they have made sharp left turns in Stephenson county.

Last months meeting was at Alpine Park. Usual breakfast in the park. We covered the repeater reports and Herb, K9AMJ, reported on the general condition of the equipment. Tom Schouler, N9VJU, provided us an excellent breakfast. Thank You Tom.

Board meeting is this Tues Night. 7:00 St Anthony's

It's it for now.

73 Bill

From the desk of the Vice President...

Maybe not out loud, but we all could toot our horn a little bit. Ham Radio has been a great service with many facets. We help to further the art of "Wireless," bring disasters to a calm in the aftermath, help the community, and the world. We are Famous Stars, Astronauts, Musicians, Engineers, Philanthropists, and Common Folk. In many ways we have turned Ham Radio into a Diamond. Precious, valuable, and rare; it so small it could be easily lost forever. Yet like a diamond we must also keep our skills polished, and our reputation clean. This way we can glitter and glow in the public eye. We all must "Elmer" any Ham Radio Operator who needs help, so we will have this heirloom to pass down from generation to generation. We all need to wear Ham Radio with pride, as it is our Big "Hope Diamond" that no-one will know about unless they can see it all shiny and bright. I hope Ham Radio is still that twinkle in your eye, that can make you smile, like it has for me. Besides I've never had so many friends, 'till I got into Ham Radio, And I haven't began to meet all of my friends out there in the world. Thank You all very much, for being out there.

Truly Yours, Tim Peterson KC9DNN

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NEXT MEETING

Friday, July 8, 2005

The program for this month's meeting will be:

"SHOW AND TELL" Bring your favorite toy or project and tell us about it.

LOCATION

St. Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL

To get to the meeting room go to the main entrance, turn right at the desk- go to the end of hall to the Meeting rooms.

Secretary's Report

Rockford Amateur Radio Association June 11, 2005 General Meeting Minutes Breakfast in the Park, Rockford IL.

In Attendance

No attendance sheet was setup. There were about 30 members and family that attended this event.

The meeting called to order at 10:10 AM by Bill Peters, WB9MCZ.

Bill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes posted in the June 2005 Ham Rag. Minutes were approved as printed in the Ham Rag.

Treasurers report

Carl W9TQ read the treasurers report for the month of May as follows. The beginning cash on hand was \$5437.18. Income \$82.00 (\$12 donated to breakfast in park), Expenses \$176.74, for a net loss of \$94.74. Check book \$1663.25, savings account \$4133.57 for a ending total cash on hand of \$5796.82. Some major expenditures anticipated during the next month are for insurance, about \$580 and for the 147.00 repeater controller repair, about \$219. These receipts have not arrived yet. Treasurers report was approved as read.

Visitors to the meeting

There were 3 visitors to this breakfast/meeting. Gene Duncan, W9GD came up from Oregon, Herb, K9AMJ and Dennis, W9SS were recognized.

Old Business

Field Day - Dick Fleming, KC9BCB has encountered some additional medical problems and had to back out as field day chairman. In addition, Gene, KA9BOD who was setting up a 20 meter station had to back out due to a family medical situation and Tim KC9DNN had a family situation that came up. These major organizers for field day were unable to participate and no one came forward to take their place as of Breakfast in the Park which was the deadline to get a refund from the Park District. Shari N9SH made a motion to suspend field day and seconded by Wendy KC9BCF. The motion carried with a unanimous show of hands. Bill WB9MCZ will contact the Park District on Monday June 13 to get the \$50 refund for the areas we reserved.

Field Day Special Event – There was a rumor about another field day event at Page Park. It was confirmed that a group of “old timers” will run a special event field day 50 year reunion, under the call sign K9C, will operate on Saturday June 25 from 10 AM till dusk. About 6 or 7 will be coming into town from across the country to participate. Due to their arrangement with the Park District it cannot be publicly advertised so it was decided to put out a special edition of the Ham Rag with information about the event and also to notify our local hams to stop out for a visit. Many of these hams were the founding fathers of RARA.

On The Waterfront fund raiser – This is the clubs bread and butter event which provides us the funds to operate. We are still in need of a chairman for the event as well as supervisors and workers. Supervisors and assistant supervisors must work all day and the workers in 4 hour shifts. The club buys buttons for all workers (\$12 advance & \$14 at the gate). Currently Friday night Sept 2 is totally staffed by Scott, W9SBA and his friends and family. Carl, W9TQ has a group of 8 people setup for a 4 hour shift on Saturday Sept 3. We need to fill the rest of Saturday and Sunday with supervisors and workers. The ticket booth that we man is next to the Left Bank Stage. Last year, 75% of the people that worked were not hams. Gene, WB9MMM said he does not understand why we don't get more volunteers because this is the most fun event of the year. If you can help please contact Bill, WB9MCZ.

New Business

147.000 & 223.88 repeaters – Herb, K9AMJ got a call from Precision Automotive on Alpine and Sandy Hollow, the location of these repeaters, telling him that they sold the building to Al's Motor Homes who is going to tear down the building and tower in the near future. The repeater will be off the air and the antenna's removed from the tower by Wayne, KA9IMX within the next week or so.

There is concern about possibly loosing the repeater pairs so Herb, K9AMJ will be contacting the Repeater Council to arrange a temporary coordination. Herb, K9AMJ and Bill, WB9MCZ are going to meet with Precision Automotive and Al's Motor home to see if the tower can be relocated on their property so that the current coordination can be kept. There was also discussion about moving the repeaters either to a temporary location on Herb, K9AMJ tower or to some other location in the area. An attempt will be made to have a new home for these repeaters within the next 6 months. (It would be too difficult to put the repeater on the 147.195 tower because this tower is County owned.)

Continue on page 3

Boy Scout Encampment at Rockford Airport – Shari, N9SH had an email from Steve James, KA9NPT requesting assistance for a BSA Large encampment at the Rockford Airport on the first weekend in October with about 5,000 to 6,000 in attendance. There is a possibility that RARA and other clubs in the local area may be asked to set up a ham station or multiple ham stations with operators for the event. Set up Friday October 7 with limited operating, operate 8 AM – 6 PM on Saturday October 8, with breaks for lunch and dinner. If you are interested in helping with the event contact Bill, WB9MCZ. Shari will be working with other local clubs in the area and specifically, Dave Whiteside, N9BSA of Marengo to see if they can use his call for the event.

Need help finding QSL cards – Dennis, W9SS has asked for help finding Gene Duncan's, W9GD QSL cards which were misplaced or lost in the process of selling his property after he became disabled. Gene's old call was K9IKP under which he worked over 330 countries. Gene needs the cards to get the Worked All Zones award. If you know of anyone who may have the cards, please contact Dennis, W9SS, any of the RARA officers, or the Ham Rag.

Kids Day – Next weekend, June 18, 2005, is Kids Day an event intended to encourage young people to enjoy Amateur Radio. See the June QST for details.

Thank you – Thanks to the cooks who made the Breakfast in the Park possible. Tom Shouler, N9VJU Chairman, food organizer and pancake maker, Gene Harlan, WB9MMM sausage and bacon, Shari, N9SH scrambled eggs and Dan Hunt, KC9ATR coffee. Thank you all for a great job. Also, thank you to all those who showed up for the event.

Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tim Peterson, KC9DNN. Meeting closed at 11 AM.

Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD acting secretary

NEWS EXTRA

Dick, KC9BCB reports that the JUNE 2005 issue of the National Geographic Magazine has an article “**Fire and Rain**” forecasting the chaos of weather. The article shows the first ever pictures inside of a tornado. Skywarn people and others interested in weather might enjoy reading this article.

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
C91EP	MOZAMBIQUE	NOW TO JULY 5	SM0EPU
CY9SS	ST. PAUL IS.	NOW TO JULY 7	VY2SS
TT8PK	CHAD	NOW TO JULY 20	F4EGS
JW2TOA	SVALBARD	NOW TO NOV 1	LA2TOA
SU8BHI	EGYPT	NOW TO DEC 31	HA3JB
ZD8I	ASCENSION IS.	NOW TO MARCH 2006	G4LTI
3DA0KDJ	SWAZILAND	JULY 8 – 18	W5KDJ
OH0Z	ALAND IS.	JULY 9 – 10	OH5DX
S79JAG	SEYCHELLES	JULY 22 TO AUG 7	OE3JAG
3V8SM	TUNISIA	JULY 26 – 31	EC4DX
CY0AA	SABLE IS.	JULY 27 TO AUG 3	K8LEE
FP/K9OT	ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON	JULY 29 TO AUG 7	K9OT
OX/EA3EKS	GREENLAND	AUG 2 – 5	EA3EKS
TF/EA3EKS	ICELAND	AUG 6-13	EA3EKS

Note: Sources for this column include the 425DXN, ARRL, NG3K and NJDXA websites.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

June 18 there was 1 applicant resulting in 1 new Technician.

Kylie Day

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, July 16, 2005.

Location: St. Anthony Hospital
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

1. Your original Amateur License (unexpired or within the 2 year grace period) and a copy to attach to the paperwork.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for credit. Again the VE's have to see the original and have a copy to attach to the paperwork.
3. Two forms of Identification with your signature on them. One must be a picture ID (drivers license, passport, school ID, library card, credit card, etc.)
4. Test Fee \$14.00 cash or check. (please make checks payable to W5YI-VEC)

Contact Information
Randy Scott, W9HL
W9HL@arrl.net
815-877-4328

On the WATERFRONT Fundraiser

RARA involvement is manning a ticket booth in which the volunteers work in 4 hour shifts.

Please contact Scott W9SBA or Bill WB9MCZ if you can help.

ITEMS FOR SALE

430-450 Mhz FM-SSB RF Power Amplifier
10 watts in / 100 watts out
RF Concepts Model RFC 4-110 (Alpha/Crosslink)
Condition: New Asking: \$200

4-1000A Eimac transmitting tubes
2 new in original boxes Asking: \$195 each

Transformers (new)
Stancor P-6457 7.5 V., 21 A. Filament (4-1000A, 3-1000Z)
Asking: \$65
Heathkit SB-220 Linear, Filament/low voltage supply
Asking: \$65
Heathkit SB-220 High Voltage Supply Asking: \$125
Heathkit SB-220 Linear, Power transformer Asking: \$125

Various Eimac transmitting tubes available:
(4-250A, 4X150A, 4CX250B, 8875, 250th, 304TL)

Tube sockets and chimneys available for Eimac transmitting
Tubes: (3-500Z, 4-250A, 4-400A, 4-1000A, 3-1000Z, 8875)

Contact Jim W4JR 815-397-4602

To place an ad, please email the Ham Rag editor at:
KA9BOD@ARRL.NET

Dates to look forward to

Family Picnic, August 14th at Alpine Park shelter #2
On the Waterfront, Sept 2, 3, & 4 Club Fundraiser

RARA Repeaters

146.610 -	pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	pl 114.8	W9AXD
223.8800 -	pl none	W9AXD
ATV input 1250 Mhz/	434 Mhz	W9ATN
output	421.25 Mhz	

*** HELP ***

It is important to us to have accurate addresses for both home and e-mail. Please let us know if there is a problem.

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ka9bod@arrl.net.

Cut-off for the August 2005 issue will be Friday August 26, 2005.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

RARA BREAKFAST IN THE PARK, JUNE 11, 2005



News just in from:

From: "John Auerswald"

Date: Tue, 28 Jun 2005 22:21:30 -0500

Well, Mikayla Auerswald (11), KC9HVQ, and Karl Auerswald (9), KC9HVR, they studied every night for 2 weeks while they were down at their grandparents who are ham's. They did this unknown to their parents. They took their test with 2 others on the 22nd instead of on Field Day due to a VE examiner schedule issue. I don't know if their club Radio Amateur Downstate Illinois Organization, Inc. Mt. Carmel, Illinois, W9GH, will get points for it or not. Didn't believe it till we saw the VE certificates and its official today.

RARA Officers and Directors - 2005

President – Bill Peters, WB9MCZ

Vice President – Tim Peterson, KC9DNN

Secretary – Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW

Treasurer – Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Directors: Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM

Scott Allshouse, W9SBA

Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

Newsletter—Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD

Web Master—Paul Franklin, K9RNR

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Additional **volunteers are needed** to help provide communications for these upcoming events. Its an opportunity to help other organizations in the Rockford community by providing communications to help with the management and control of the events. It is an opportunity to put our communication skills and equipment to good use and also helps promote amateur radio. The typical event usually takes a couple of hours of our time and gives us an opportunity to observe the event up close. Usually the only equipment needed is a 2M handheld or 2M mobile radio.

Listed below are the events and the coordinator organizing the amateur radio operators.

- 4th of July Run - N9CCE/KA9IMX
- 4th of July Parade - N9CCE
- Roscoe Rail Road run - July 23 - N9OCW
- YMCA Triathalon - August 13 - N9CCE
- Girl Scout Mint Cookie Run-Sept 17-ka9bod
- CROP Hunger Walk - Columbus Day wknd
- Head of the Rock Regatta - Columbus Day wknd

All amateur operators are welcome to help out. You do not have to be a member of RARA or ARES to participate. No special training is required. All it takes is a willingness to participate. Don't be shy, give us a hand.

Gene KA9BOD

Tech Class at Rock Valley College

I just received conformation and schedule today from RVC for the Tech class to be scheduled this Fall. The class, COM-812-RV, will be head on 10-22-05 and 10-29-05. The class will start at 8:00 AM and End at 4:00 PM with testing taking place the afternoon of the 29 TH Aprox at 2:00 PM.

Carl W9TQ

ON THE WATERFRONT FUNDRAISER

September 2, 3 & 4

The club mans a ticket booth on all three days.

Typically in 4 hour shifts. **Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer some time.**

**** WE NEED YOU ****

ON THE WATERFRONT is a MAJOR fundraiser for RARA.

We man a ticket booth near one of the stages so that you have good music while you work. Due to the handling of money, we have to have a **scheduled list of volunteers by the end of July** prior to a leader training session the first week of August.

Volunteers receive the following benefits:

- Free On the Waterfront button (\$12 value)
- Reduced rate at the RARA awards banquet
- Listen to good music while you work
- Opportunity to work with fellow hams & friends
- Family members 18 & older can work with you
(All workers get a free button)



Free Technical advice for hams.
WB9LHU Earth Works 965-9841

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST— Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am at the **Morning Glory Restaurant**, 408 7th St, Rockford (An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.)

Golden Anniversary Field Day Reunion—K9C

First, some history: in 1954, several of us high school age hams (mostly West High School) participated in our first Field Day as "unwanted" tag-alongs with the Gene Hubbell, W9ERU, group. It was a disaster. For instance, even though I had passed my General (with 13wpm code test before the FCC examiners in Chicago) license test a couple months before, I was not allowed to operate with the W9ERU group and was delegated to a novice station setup.

So, in 1955, the bunch of us teen-age hams (radio amateurs) in the Rockford, Illinois area formed a group and participated in the annual ARRL (American Radio Relay League) Field Day without the "help" of the older hams, we carefully planned and executed our own Field Day operation at Anna Page Park, northwest of Rockford. We camped out in tents and operated in the two transmitter class. We had about 10 participants, several were unlicensed teens who helped out as loggers. We had a GREAT time! Even made the Rockford newspaper.



Pat, Judy, Bill W0MZN, Don AE5K, Dennis W9SS & Carol W5CSJ Photo by Gene KA9BOD

For the next several years, the group adopted the name "Klix, Chirp & Splatter Society of Rockford" and participated in the Field Day event at various locations around Winnebago County (Illinois). In 1961, the group started regular club meetings throughout the year and voted to change the name to the "Forest City Amateur Radio Club". (Rockford had a nickname of the "forest city" due to the abundance of trees -- that is, before the Dutch Elm disease wiped many out in ensuing years.) Membership was restricted to interested persons under 21 years of age, but former members were allowed to continue non-voting membership in the club after reaching age 21. At one time, the club had over 40 active members and met twice a month at the old radio station WRRR studios located on the west side of the courthouse square. Last known participation in Field Day was in June of 1963.

A few of the "older" adults who helped out the club during those years included Jay Hart, K9QYY (now SK), Mr. Woody Coul, and Clyde Downing, W9HSY (now SK).

As you can see, our first FD in 1955 was 50 years ago. Don Jackson, AE5K currently lives in Arkansas and while on a visit to Rockford in July 2002 included a quick visit to Anna Page Park which sparked memories of his 1955 Field Day there. He thought it might be nice to celebrate the 50 year or golden anniversary in 2005 of that event. Between 2002 and 2005, Don created a website and started the process of trying to find many of the approximately 57 former members, and has managed to locate a good number of them. His plan was to hold the Field Day reunion, June 25 at Anna Page Park, within a few hundred feet of where they pitched the tents and strung the antennas in 1955 (near the parking lot and rest room area at hilltop). The former members that responded to Don's search are spread across the USA and as far away as Germany and Bulgaria. As field day 2005 drew near, Don was expecting about 6 or 7 former members to make it.



Don AE5K operating

Photo by Bob WA9NTT



Dave K9PAK & Mark N9UVP Photo Bob WA9NTT

In an email just prior to field day, Don, AE5K said "We are all "old timers" now and most of us do not care to push ourselves with all-night operating any more, so we've decided to abbreviate our operation and shut things down after dark on Saturday and before the park closes at 10 p.m. We will operate with the special event call of K9C. I expect to be in an older motorhome and we will most likely have two stations (plus maybe VHF) set up. We will welcome any visitors, hams or just interested/curious people, to visit. My wife, Carol W5CSJ, has "volunteered" to be the official greeter to visitors and we will have a guest book to sign in."

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At 10 AM on June 25, 2005, Don, AE5K and other members of the reunion field day started to arrive and setup for operation. In addition, several observers and well wishers arrived throughout the day to visit and "guest operate".

A total of 34 people signed the "Guest Book" sheets and a few may have slipped by without signing in. Don, AE5K associated 17 former members and spouses of which 11 were former members at one time or another. Out of the original 10 members who held Field Day in 1955, 5 were present, 2 are known silent keys, one could not make it (lives in New England) and 2 have never been located.



50 year reunion members and guests

Photo by Gene KA9BOD

Here is a list of calls/names on the Guest book list that I associate with being former members of our group and their spouses:

Don AE5K, Carol W5CSJ, Mel W9RXU, Dave K9PAK & s.o., Bill N3DCI & s.o., Bill W0MZN & wife, Dennis W9SS & wife, Bill WA9GRN, Bob W9IGB, Jim ex-W9WPF, Larry K9LC, Marv K9RUK, and Harry ex-WN9BKP.



Harry ex-WN9BKP, Bill W0MZN, Mel W9RXU, Don AE5K and Bill N3DCI

Photo by Bob WA9NTT

Here is a list of calls/names on the Guest book list that I do not associate with being former members of our group:

Shari N9SH, Gene WB9MMM, Chuck WB9UMC, Dan KC9ATR, Larry KA9BQR, Gene KA9BOD, Jim WA9PLW, Gary K9LJN, Mark WB9APZ, Karl W9UIJ & wife, Jerry KU9S, Brad N9EN, Mark N9UVP, Bob WA9NTT, Herb K9AMJ, and Steve Salvato.

Don, AE5K reports the following field day activity. "I have not finished going over the logs, but phone operation started shortly after the 1 pm CDT and ended at 7:05 pm, while CW started at 2:25 pm and ended at 7:55 pm. Phone on 40, 20 and 2 meters, CW on 40 meters. Most of the CW contacts were made by guest ops Gary, K9LJN and Brad, N9EN, two very good operators. Totals (unofficial) include 84 phone

contacts and 55 CW contacts. We had PSK31 set up but little was done and no contacts were made using that mode -- it was mainly for demo to several interested members. Just after taking down the CW antenna, there was a loud thunderclap, and it started raining shortly after we pulled out of Page Park. Nice timing! It appears that contacts were made in 39 states plus two Canadian provinces."



You have to have a cake.... Photo by WA9NTT

Don, AE5K also adds that "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the publicity and to the RARA members who came to meet us or operate. Special thanks to Dan KC9ATR and others who helped us get the skywires up in the trees."

Many pictures were taken at the event. Don has requested that those of you who did take pictures to please email them to him as email attachments to his email address: don1103@azark.com He would also like to know if the pictures files were reduced for sending via email. His intended use of the pictures is to put them on his website and he also intends to write up a story for possible QST or ARRL Web News publication. Don also said "If anyone's picture is used for QST or ARRL website, I will get back with them for uncompressed file and their permission. Of course he will be glad to give credit to the photographer in all cases." Don, AE5K can be reach at: <http://azark.com> or <http://ae5k.us>

By Gene KA9BOD

(Editors note: The information for this article is from emails between Don, AE5K and other hams in the Rockford area as well as from Don's website pertaining to the 50 year field day reunion. Gene KA9BOD, editor)

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00
Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20
Student: \$15.00

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email.

Ham Rag Via U.S. Postal Service: \$12.00 extra

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

Other Interests _____

Suggestions: _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126



Don AE5K operating
by Bob WA9NTT
Photo

<u>Nets</u>	
Monday 8PM	2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES 147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN 146.610 - 114.8

JULY 2005

place address label here