

# HAM RAG

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Visit our website for more club and area ham information  
in the Rockford area at <http://rara.tripod.com>

June 2004

## Field Day Tips

Here are some helpful hints that ought to help you plan and set up for your Field Day operation. Although every Field Day setup is different, and everyone has a different way of doing things, these tips should at least point you in the right direction.

### Safety Tips

**Safety First!** Follow the ARRL safety code as you set up.

Appoint one person "**safety officer**" and charge them with making sure no accidents happen. More people are killed by contact with regular 120-V line service than by any other voltage. The voltages in many power supplies can be lethal! **Don't take any chances! Ground anything and everything.** Never use "three-prong" adapters to connect your equipment to your power source.

**Have someone always on hand that is qualified in First Aid and CPR.** This is a good idea for a club project to train all your members in these valuable skills before they are needed. Contact your local Red Cross chapter for more information in your area.

**Always kill all power circuits completely before opening up a piece of equipment** and trying to troubleshoot it. Never allow anyone else to switch the power on and off for you while you're working on something. Never try to fix something while you're tired or sleepy. If you're working on older tube-type gear, or an amplifier, always unplug the unit from the AC mains and wait at least 5 minutes before you begin. When troubleshooting this kind of equipment, always keep one hand in your pocket, as a precaution against accidental shock. Never wear watches or jewelry when you're working on gear.

**Do not climb any tower without the proper equipment:** a hard hat and a climbing belt and a must. **NEVER** climb an un-guyed tower.

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The next meeting is  
**Saturday 12, 2004**  
7:30 to 11:00 am

**Breakfast in the Park**  
**Alpine Park shelter #2**

The program for this month's meeting will be:

**Field Day 2004**

You can use any of the 3 entrances to get to the shelter #2 - the main entrance off of Alpine Rd., Alpine pool or via the Bergners parking lot.

Breakfast in the Park will be held *(in place of the club's regular Friday night meeting)* on Saturday June 12, 2004, at 7:30 am in Alpine Park shelter 2.



Chairman Tom Shouler, N9VJU is in need of a couple of volunteers to help cook for the event and the use of some cookware for the breakfast. If you can help with this event please contact Tom at 877-9129.

Please be aware of the many activities starting this month that need  
Amateur Radio operators for event communications.

If you can please volunteer for this events.

Go to <http://www.angelfire.com/tv2/skywarn/> for more information.

## Presidents Log June 2004

I am looking forward to the Breakfast In The Park at Alpine Park shelter #2 on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. till around 11 a.m. I'm not sure what I will eat that has no carbs, but we will see. I am sure that Tom Shouler, N9VJU, who is getting all the food and stuff, would appreciate a few hands to help and cook. I guess if that is what I do, there will not be too many carbs for me.

The club has purchased a weather clock radio to raffle off at the breakfast. It looks pretty nice. Be prepared to buy a few tickets to get a chance at this radio. The value is around \$30.

During the breakfast, possibly around 9 a. m., we will have a short business meeting and the 'Program' will be talking about Field Day preparations.

We have our ticket booth assignment for the "On The Waterfront" festival. This year we will be at the Left Bank (over by Davis Park). It won't be Dixieland music, but it will be better than the Ethnic music we had last year. I guess it is good to have variety! Keep in mind that this event (and our dues) is how our club raises money to keep us going for another year. We need your help that weekend. Many of the positions are already filled due to people enjoying doing the ticket booth. Scott Allshouse, W9SBA (note new call sign), is chairing the event with Gary Hilker, K9LJN, assisting making phone calls and whatever. The position requires about the same number of people that we have had in the past and gives us the same earning potential. Last year we earned over \$1400 having fun, listening to music, and selling tickets. The club will buy your entrance button, which can be used all

three days. This is a great time to get the rest of your family involved with the club. There is no reason to be a member to sell tickets. Most shifts will be 3-4 hours long, and some have volunteered for more than one stretch. We appreciate all that you do!

We need to know who would like to upgrade to Extra. Larry Snyder, K0HNM, is willing to teach a class. Call Larry if you are interested. I think there are two that have expressed interest so far.

This fall we will have our Technician Class through Rock Valley College Continuing Education Program on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, for volunteering to teach the class. Carl has done this before and enjoys helping people get their license.

We will also have a General Class on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Mike Oberg, AB9AY, will assist Carl. If you know of anyone interested in either of these classes, please tell them to sign up through Rock Valley College Continuing Education Program after the schedules come out.

Well, enjoy the summer and get all your antenna work done.

Gene Harlan -  
WB9MMM



### Dates to Remember:

**Breakfast in the Park - June 12**

**Field Day - June 26 and 27**

**The annual picnic - August 8**

**On the Riverfront - Labor Day Weekend**

## Medical Emergency At Sea (Contributed by Tom, VE3II)

Tuesday May 25, 2004, at approximately 12:54 EDT, the MV Brandon Travis came onto the Maritime Mobile Service Network (14.300 Mhz) stating that he needed assistance. The Maritime Mobile Service Network is a group of volunteer amateur radio operators dedicated to assisting vessels at sea. This assistance can range from taking a simple position report to a vessel in distress. This group of volunteers have a high standard of professionalism and are very experienced in handling emergency traffic. (See our website at <http://mmsn.org>). It should be noted that the Captain of the Brandon Travis was not an amateur radio operator. It was later learned that he knew that if there was an emergency onboard, he could get immediate and capable help on this frequency. Under normal conditions, transmissions by non-amateur stations on this frequency is prohibited by international law. But when an emergency occurs at sea, anyone can use the frequency for assistance.

The Captain said that there had been a fight on the ship between some crew and that a 17 year old crew member had been stabbed three times. He said that the crew member had been stabbed twice in the arms and once in the back. The stab wound in the back was of the greatest concern as the knife had entered between the third and fourth rib on the right side of the back and the 7 inch blade had penetrated to its full depth.

The Captain gave his position as 16° 06' North and 080° 38' West, or approximately 2 days east of Roatan, Honduras. The Brandon Travis is an 80 foot steel hulled commercial fishing boat and is owned by company in Honduras.

The Captain requested that the net contact the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and tell them that he needed assistance with the injured person. The original call was taken by Tom Job VE3II, near Toronto-Canada, and the necessary initial information was obtained. District 7 SAR Center in Miami, Florida was then contacted and the information relayed to them. In turn, they contacted the Honduran authorities and efforts were made to have the vessel intercepted and evacuate that injured person.

As this was happening, other net control stations obtained the secondary information. Another amateur radio operator, Jim Hirschman K4TCV in Miami, Florida, was contacted and came onto the frequency. Dr. Hirschman is a physician and has extensive experience in assisting with injuries and medical emergencies over

the radio. Dr. Hirschman spoke with the Captain and passed instructions to the vessel to treat the injuries. It was determined that the person was in shock and having difficulty breathing. The injury was life-threatening and medical evacuation was of the utmost urgency.

By approximately 3:00pm EDT, all that could be done had been done and the waiting began. The Brandon Travis had been redirected from its original course to Laguna de Caratasca, Honduras. At its top speed, this port was approximately 12 to 14 hours away. Meantime, the Honduran Navy was launching a vessel to intercept the Brandon Travis and take the injured person to hospital.

The Maritime Mobile Service Network maintained an hourly radio schedule with the Brandon Travis for a position report and a medical update. Dr. Hirschman was joined by another doctor, Peter Sosnow W1KY in Niskayuna, New York. Dr. Sosnow is an ER trauma specialist. The doctors were apprised each hour of the injured persons condition and were ready to recommend changes in the treatment. This radio schedule was maintained even after the net closed at 10:00pm EDT

On May 26, 2004 at 12:45am, the net was informed by the Brandon Travis that the injured person had been moved onto a Honduran Naval vessel and was being taken to a hospital. His condition was stable. Once more, amateur radio was ready and willing to assist in an emergency situation. The Maritime Mobile Service Network stands ready to assist any mariner with any situation that may arise. Without the assistance of the net, this life-threatening situation could have resulted in the death of the crew member.

The amateurs who participated directly in this rescue were:

- ? Tom Job VE3II
- ? Rick Jones WB6LNH
- ? Jim Hirschman K4TCV
- ? Peter Sosnow W1KY
- ? Bob Botik K5SIV
- ? Mike Pilgrm K5MP

There were many other amateur operators and net control stations on the frequency during the time of this incident and ALL stations should be commended for their assistance in keeping the frequency clear so that the traffic could be passed rapidly.

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS By K9LJN & W9GD			
CALL-SIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
FT1ZL	AMSTERDAM	NOW	F5CW
HI9/ G4WFO	DOMINICAN REP.	JUNE 12 TO 24	G3SWH
J2/ JA2BCM	DJIBOUTI	FOR NEXT 3 YEARS	JA2FB
JW/ CT1BW W	SVALBARD	NOW TO JUNE 14	CT1BW W

Recently Heard/Worked DX From the Rockford Area By K9LJN & W9GD		
CALLSIGN	QTH	QSL VIA
3B9FR	RODRIGUEZ ISLAND	DIRECT
4L3Y	GEORGIA	DK6CW
5B4AHA	CYPRUS	DIRECT
5H3EE	TANZANIA	DL4SM
8Q7AV	MALDIVES	DK6AV
9K2MU	KUWAIT	WA4JTK
9V1VV	SINGAPORE	DIRECT
AP2IA	PAKISTAN	DIRECT
EZ8BO	TURKMENISTAN	BURO
JT1CO	MONGOLIA	DIRECT
OY9OY	FAROE ISLAND	ON5UR
SV5/ GM3YOR	DODECANESE	GM3YOR
TU2/F5TLN	IVORY COAST	F5TLN
UK/JI2MED	UZBEKISTAN	"JA" BURO
VK9NL	NORFOLK ISLAND	DIRECT
VQ9LA	CHAGOS	QRZ.COM
VR2YTK	HONG KONG	DIRECT
VU2UR	INDIA	DIRECT
XU7ARA	CAMBODIA	ES1RA
XV1X	VIETNAM	QRZ.COM
YI9ZF	IRAQ	SM1TDE

## Operating Tips

Years ago, before I developed hearing loss, I accidentally discovered that I could hear much better using headsets versus the rig's internal speaker. **WOW, what a difference it made on weak signals, especially those surrounded by interference (QRM) when I used headsets!** In my opinion, the rig's internal speaker has poor audio range, sends the sound in every direction except toward your ears, and has poor audio quality (especially after years of use).

I use three types of headsets with the following results:

1. A Kenwood headset that completely covers my ears and cuts out all outside noise. It has excellent audio range and audio quality. Its two disadvantages are that it is uncomfortable to wear when it's 90 degrees outside (such as Field Day) and it has a tendency to pinch down on your eyeglass bows when used for an extended period of time and might eventually give you a headache.
2. A Heil mini-headset and boom microphone combination is lightweight and easy to use with good audio range and audio quality. Its only disadvantage is that it does not eliminate loud outside noise when used in an extremely noisy environment.
3. A Radio Shack mini-headset is extremely lightweight and easy to use with very good audio range and audio quality. The other major advantage is that it is cheap (economically priced) when compared to the other two choices. It has three disadvantages: it also suffers when used in an extremely noisy environment; it usually comes wired with a 1/8" plug, so you either have to buy a 1/8 to 1/4" adapter or rewire it with a 1/4" plug; and it might not be exactly the correct impedance value, but all you have to do is increase the AF gain on the rig to compensate for the resulting audio loss.

I also have used external speakers sold by the radio manufacturers with mixed results (and they are also expensive). Of the three headset choices above, I prefer No. 3 because it is so lightweight and comfortable to use, performs well, is economical and I don't have to be as careful when handling it because of the replacement cost. There is also a courtesy factor involved that I'm sure your family will appreciate with less Ham Radio QRM in the house when you use headsets.

73 & DX, Gay - K9LJN

**Rockford Amateur Radio Association  
Monthly meeting of the membership  
May 14, 2004**

St. Anthony Hospital

**Members present:** 23 present.

RARA Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

**Minutes:** Jim Miller, W4JR moved to accept the minutes as written, second by Rich Ludwig, K9PK motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Wendy reported a club balance of \$6,130.75 as of April 30, 2004. Bill Peters, WB9MCZ moved to accept the report as presented, second by Tim Peterson, KC9DNN motion carried.

**Old Business**

Breakfast in the Park will be held (in place of the club's regular Friday night meeting) on Saturday June 12, 2004, at 7:30 am in Alpine Park shelter 2. Chairman Tom Shouler, N9VJU is in need of a couple of volunteers to help cook for the event and the use of some cookware for the breakfast. If you can help with this event please contact Tom at 877-9129.

The monthly Board of Directors Meeting are held at Saint Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. *Except for December.*

***RARA Officers for 2004***

**President: Gene Harlan WB9MMM**  
**Vice President: Scott Allshouse W9SBA**  
**Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF**  
**Treasurer: Carl Cacciatore W9TQ**  
**Director: Dan Hunt KC9ATR**  
**Director: Gary Hilker K9LJN**  
**Director: Nicolas Lager KB9SKW**  
**Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM**  
**Newsletter and Web Site:**  
**John Auerswald KA9SOG**

**Field Day:** Chairman Dick Fleming, KC9BCB asked if anyone was interested in working the 40 or 80 m bands at the event. He will discuss more about field day at the June breakfast meeting.

**Ham Rag:** Members were encouraged to receive the monthly email reminder to access the newsletter on the club website instead of receipt by postal mail. Please forward any suggestions or comments to any member of the board concerning this matter.

**New Business**

Sue Peters, KA9GNR thanked Gene Harlan, WB9MMM and Wayne Hansen, KA9IMX and other volunteers who helped with the Emergency Preparedness Conference event at the Clock Tower Resort earlier in May.

Bob Davidson, WA9NTT asked that names be submitted to him for his article featuring a RARA member in future Ham Rag issues.

Bill Peters has some equipment from another amateur operator that he is trying to sell. A listing of the equipment is in the May Ham Rag. All equipment is in excellent condition. Contact Bill if interested.

Gary Hilker, K9LJN moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:52 pm, second by Tim Peterson, motion carried.

Gary presented Techniques for Chasing and QSLing DXpeditions for the remainder of the time.



Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Owano, RARA Secretary

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**NEVER** work on a tower alone. **Always** have someone on the ground to watch you. **Always** make certain that all mechanical connections are tight and secure before erecting a tower or an antenna. What may be easy to fix on the ground could be dangerous in the air. When erecting a tower, take your time and be safe! It's far too easy for someone to get caught on something, or have fingers or toes in the wrong place at the wrong time. Make certain any "spectators" are a safe distance away should anything untoward happen.

**Alcohol and towers do not mix! If you drink, don't climb! If you climb, don't drink!**

**Always make sure your guys are securely anchored**, and that the guys themselves are sufficiently taut. Tying flags to guy wires in strategic spots will help prevent people from walking into them (especially visitors!). Make certain that the tower bases are secure and unlikely to shift in high winds.

**Watch out for overhead power lines!** Make certain they are at least twice the height of any antenna's height in distance away: an antenna 50' high should be at least 100' from any overhead line, for example.

**Make certain** that your group has enough fire extinguishers, and that everyone knows where they are. **Always keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher by the generator.** Never fuel a running generator. Never smoke around a generator. Keep the fuel in a separate place. Charge one or two people with the responsibility of monitoring the generators. As a rule, **generators should always be kept outdoors in an area with good air circulation.** This will prevent the possibility of exhaust and gas fumes building up.

**Check all your extension** cords prior to setup for signs of wear or fraying. Discard any that show even the slightest wear. Guard all outlets from any water. Make sure the wire sizes are adequate enough to handle the load.

**Watch out for lightning! Storms can arise and move quickly.** At the first sign of a storm, disconnect all antennas from the rigs, shut down the generators, and head for shelter. You don't have to take a direct hit in order to sustain damage, or electrical shock. Summer thunderstorms are accompanied by high winds and rain.

### **Play it safe!**

During an overnight operation, **make sure that there is adequate security for those involved.** More than one Field Day operation has discovered too late that equipment has been permanently "borrowed" from an operating position left unattended during the wee-hours of the morning.

### **Setup**

Check out your operating site ahead of time. **Avoid confusion on Field Day by preparing a work plan.** You'll want to determine where antenna, power sources, and operating positions should be placed. Coordinate in advance the order for each task. Make sure that all essential items will be on hand when they are needed. Don't forget the essential creature comforts, such as trash cans, toilet paper, flashlights, bug spray, first aid kit, etc. Nothing can kill the Field Day enthusiasm faster than not having sufficient help to set-up and tear-down the site.

**Sign up your volunteers early.**

**Always have a designated "tour guide";** that is someone to guide around any visitors who might happen by and show an interest in ham radio. This is also a good way to drum up interest in a class. Besides, not only is this a chance to show off your hobby in a favorable light, but it is also worth some bonus points! Set up a table with some handouts about ham radio, your club, Field Day, whatever. Type up a sheet that describes your club, the operation, and include a person to contact for more information. When giving a tour, make sure not to lapse into "ham speak": try to explain what people are looking at in as easy-to-understand language as you can. If media comes by, **make certain that something is going on.** TV, radio and print journalists will be much more impressed to see antennas going up and people making contacts than they will by a group of guys sitting around drinking beer. Many clubs "turn out the operators" by combining Field Day with family activities, such as a picnic. Others send a mailing to all their area hams with a map to the FD site along with some information. **Be creative!** There are likely a number of hams in your community who'd love the chance to come and help out.

**Give everyone something to do.** Newer hams can do 2-meter talk-ins, help setup a GOTA station, or help assemble antennas. The more people are involved, the better time you'll have. This is also a great chance to give some of your newer hams some practical experience.

**Keep a handy list of ARRL section abbreviations at every operating position.** This will eliminate possible confusion later on. If everyone uses the same abbreviations, you'll save yourself some headaches when it comes time to check the logs over. Make sure everyone keeps up the dupe sheets. More than one club has lost contacts by not keeping the dupe sheet up-to-date with the log at all times. If you have operators who have

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never used one, sit them down with someone beforehand to show them how it's done.

**Consider a club program before Field Day to familiarize your members with the necessary forms for logging, duping and operating.** Before the actual start of operating, have a final "participant briefing" so that all involved know the necessary safety and operational information.

## **Operating**

**Keep an ever-constant eye on 10 meters.** If 10 opens up, you should have lots of stations to work. If the band is quiet, don't assume that it's dead-give a call or two. Everyone else could be listening, too!

**Try to listen around on the bands the week before the contest.** This could give you a good idea of what to expect in the way of propagation during Field Day. Check your logs from previous years and see if you can spot any trends, i.e. hours when certain bands were open, or had a high level of activity. Certain bands in certain areas can be extremely important in working up a good score. For example, 40 meters on the East Coast is a bread and butter band for Field Day. Decide which bands are going to be the most important to your score and try to maximize your effort on them by using the best antennas possible combined with your best gear and best operators.

**Don't ignore one mode for another.** Many groups have concentrated on CW only to miss out on some easy Phone contacts, and vice versa. Always keep in mind that every contact counts, no matter what the mode.

**Read the rules very carefully.** Look over the bonus points available. A number of these could be relatively easy to earn. If your club has any traffic handlers, they could easily help you earn the NTS message bonus. Copy the W1AW bulletin! This is an easy 100 points. W1AW comes on the air several times each day to give you an extra chance to copy the message. Remember! Every 100 bonus points you earn are that many QSOs you wouldn't need to make to have the same score.

## **On Using Computers**

Computer logging has become the reality of Field Day. Computer logging, when it works, can make operating much more enjoyable and shrink your after-event paperwork to virtually nothing. When it doesn't work, you can have a lynch mob out for blood. Here are some handy suggestions for making everything run smoother.

**Check out your software ahead of time.** Make certain that it works on all the computers you'll be using. If you're using a software package that allows linking stations (i.e. more than one computer tied together) make sure that they can communicate with each other before Field Day starts. Have a handy sheet available with the most commonly used commands. Consider a meeting where everyone can sit down and become familiar with the computer and software before Field Day. Whatever software you use should have an "auto-save" feature. This allows the computer to save every QSO to disk as it happens, so that nothing is lost should the power fail. Others allow you to keep a printer on-line to provide you with a running paper tally of your contacts.

**Finally, make sure your computer has the proper date and time set before operating.** This will save you many problems in the long run.

## **Field Day Tips for 30 MHz and Above** **By Steve Ford, WB8IMY, Editor, QST**

When most hams think of Field Day, they automatically envision a stampede of activity on the HF bands. While this may be true, there is a potential gold mine of contact points on the bands above 30 MHz.

### **CW/SSB**

You will find the greatest amount of CW and SSB activity on the 6 and 2 meter bands. On 6 meters, CW/SSB stations tend to gather around 50.125 MHz and above. The popular hangout on 2 meters is centered around 144.200 MHz. If propagation is especially good, 6 meters can burst wide open and yield contacts spanning several thousand miles. During Field Day weekend, you can usually count on average conditions with a range of up to 200 miles on 2 meters and 400 to 500 miles on the 6-meter band. However, be on the lookout for propagation enhancements such as sporadic E. During a good sporadic E opening, you'll work stations 1500 miles away, if not farther. You'll also find some CW and SSB activity on the higher bands such as 222 and 420 MHz. If you are strapped for equipment, however, concentrate your resources on 6 and 2 meters. For CW/SSB oper-

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ating, beam antennas are your best bet—the more elements the better. Make sure your antennas are horizontally polarized (the antenna elements must be parallel to the ground.) Horizontal polarization is the CW/SSB custom. The penalty for using the wrong polarization is a tremendous loss of received signal strength.

### FM

For Field Day operating, FM is probably the easiest VHF mode to implement. You'll have little trouble finding FM rigs to use; even a hand-held transceiver can make a fine Field Day rig. FM doesn't have the range of CW or SSB, but it is the most popular communications mode on the VHF and UHF bands. You'll find the greatest amount of FM simplex activity on the 2-meter band, although 6 meter FM may be worth a try as well. Remember that Field Day rules prohibit the use of repeaters. This means you'll have to hunt for contacts on the recognized simplex frequencies. Unlike CW and SSB, most FM operators use vertically polarized antennas. To maximize your signal coverage, you'll want to use vertical polarization, too. A small beam antenna mounted in the vertical-polarity position (elements perpendicular to the ground) is one suggestion. An alternative is a simple omni-directional antenna such as a ground plane. Since most of your contacts will be local, an omni-directional antenna may be nearly as effective as a beam.

### SATELLITES

Do you have a dual band VHF/UHF FM rig that can receive below 437 MHz? Try AO-27—the FM repeater satellite. Just use the frequency table below to program the radio's memories so that you can compensate for Doppler shifting by simply changing memory channels.

**Note: At the time of this writing, AO-27 was only operational in the late afternoon and evening. Try to pick passes accordingly.**

Satellite AO-27

Time Transmit Receive

AOS (start) 145.850 436.805

AOS+3 Minutes 145.850 436.800

Zenith (maximum) 145.850 436.795

Zenith+1 Minute 145.855 436.790

LOS (end) 145.855 436.785

If you can transmit SSB on 2 meters and receive on 70 cm, try OSCAR 29. This satellite isn't particularly active, even on Field Day, but it has excellent range and solid signals.

Fuji-OSCAR 29 145.900 -- 146.000 435.800 -- 435.900

### Some Final Considerations

When it comes to VHF/UHF operating, antenna height is everything (the only exception is satellite operation). To make the most of your VHF/UHF capability, you'll need to mount your antennas on portable supports or select a hill or mountain for your Field Day site. Feed line loss is substantial at VHF and UHF, so use the best coaxial cable you can find. If you exploit the VHF/UHF bands to their full potential, you'll be surprised at how many points you'll add to your score. And if the HF bands are dead, VHF and UHF may save the day!



## Alpine Park

Area 7

June 26-27

Setup starting about 9:00 am on Saturday

The fun starts at noon for

24 hours of excitement.

Chairman Dick Fleming, KC9BCB, asks if anyone is interested in working the 40 or 80 m bands at the event to please contact him. Remember any type of help you can give will mean a lot, it may be operating, dupe sheeting, set up, tear down and cleanup. But also remember that the behind the scenes work does a lot too like running errands, policing the area, keeping an eye on safety issues, fueling the generators, and pure socializing with other hams and visitors that show up. **Lets make this a great event for RARA this year.**

**Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL**

**on  
Saturday, June 19, 2004.**

**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 till 10:30 AM. We require two ID's with your signature on them (one must be a photo ID).

If you are a licensed amateur radio operator bring your original current license and a copy. If you are using a CSCE for an element credit bring the original and a copy.

(We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit.)  
The test fee for 2004 is \$12.00. Walk-ins welcome.

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

**Have anything or would like to submit an article to be put in the Ham Rag or the website?**

**Contact me by e-mail at [ka9sog@arrl.net](mailto:ka9sog@arrl.net) and visit <http://rara.tripod.com> for any late breaking news and information. Please submit any articles before the 1st of each month.**

This issue of the HAMRAG was made possible by their article or photo submissions:  
Gary Hilker, K9LJN, Gene Duncan, W9GD, Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Randy Scott, W9HL, NJDXA, 425DXN, ARRL, Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

## **An ABC Guide to Field Day 2004**

- A** – Agencies... assisting those who serve when needed.
- B** – Bonus Points... plenty of them to broaden your Field Day experience.
- C** – Community Service... the core concept of Field Day.
- D** – Digital modes... a chance to experience new modes of communication.
- E** – Emergency Preparedness... what we practice.
- F** – FUN... need we say more?
- G** – GOTA... bring the hobby to the next generation.
- H** – Hungry Hams... what's Field Day without camaraderie?
- I** – Ingenuity... How you keep Murphy at bay.
- J** – Junk Box... there's an answer to just about any Field Day problem.
- K** – Kids... watch the face of a youngster making their first contact.
- L** – Lightning... safety is always a priority during the weekend.
- M** – Mosquitoes... citronella anyone?
- N** – Nets... traffic to make sure we get the message through.
- O** – Operators... the more the merrier.
- P** – Publicity... putting the face on what we do
- Q** – QSOs... making contacts and finding new friends.
- R** – Radios... the chance to try different models.
- S** – Solar power... alternate power "just in case"
- T** – Thunderstorms... Mother Nature has a tendency to play too.
- U** – Uplink frequencies... satellite communications.
- V** – Volunteers... How we are able to do what we do.
- W** – W1AW... don't forget the annual Field Day message.
- X** – "X"-bands... VHF / UHF / Microwave communications
- Y** – Yagis... we all need antennas
- Z** – ZZZZZZZ... the sleep that you get after a successful Field Day!

**Rockford Amateur  
Radio Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126  
Phone: (815) 398-2683  
E-Mail: w9axd@arrl.net  
Web Site - <http://rara.tripod.com>

Mailing  
Address  
Goes Here

**This Month's event's  
Breakfast in the Park  
Field Day 2004**

**June 2004**

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO  
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION

Single \$30.00 Family \$35.00  
Senior \$15.00 Senior Family \$20.00  
Student \$15.00 HamRag Only \$10.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RETIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RADIO INTEREST \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_  
SUGGESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

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

