

# HAM RAG

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In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, inc

JUNE 2005

## SPECIAL EDITION PRIORITY INFORMATION

### BAD NEWS—RARA 2005 FIELD DAY STATUS

The lead article on page one under “2005 FIELD DAY STATUS” reported that a couple of key organizers for operating field day had to cancel due to family medical circumstances. The RARA board of directors decided in the 5/31/2005 board meeting to make an effort to recruit others to come forward and organize field day with the final decision to be made at the Breakfast in the Park meeting on June 11, 2005. No one came forward, so a motion was presented and seconded to officially cancel the RARA 2005 field day operation. The members present voted unanimously to cancel the 2005 field day operation.

As a result of this vote, Bill WB9MCZ will contact the Rockford Park District for a refund of the reservation fee for Alpine Park on June 25 and 26.

As reported from the club meeting minutes on June 11, 2005 Gene KA9BOD

### GOOD NEWS —FIELD DAY SPECIAL EVENT STATION K9C

About a day after the June Ham Rag was published by mail and email, I became aware of a “SPECIAL EVENTS STATION” that has been in the planning stage for about 3 years and too late to get the information into the Ham Rag before the event.

Forest City Amateur Radio Club  
And  
Klix, Chirp and Splatter Society  
Of Rockford  
Golden Anniversary Field Day  
Reunion  
June 25, 2005  
Special event call sign – K9C

This 50 year reunion was discussed at the Breakfast in the Park meeting on June 11, 2005 with the determination that it warranted a special edition of the Ham Rag to bring it to the attention of all of the RARA membership.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is an excerpt from an email sent by Don Jackson EA5K (former W9BQC) to Shari N9SH ARRL Central Division Section Manager.

“Let me introduce myself ... I am AE5K, and many years ago (1953-1974) was W9BQC living in Rockford. (I live in Arkansas now.) Since you are the SM for Illinois, I thought that I should contact you and apprise you of our planned activity for this coming Field Day.

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.

The bunch of us teens decided that the next year, we'd do our own Field Day without the "help" of the older hams. So, in 1955, we carefully planned and executed our own Field Day operation at 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.

In the years following, we had organized officially as a club, known as (in typical teen rebellion) the Klix, Chirp and Splatter Society of Rockford (KCSSR). The club continued, admitting only those under 21 as new members, until at least 1963 or so, operating Field Day as our main event. In 1961 the name was changed (for better PR?) to the Forest City Amateur Radio Club (FCARC) and we met twice a month at the studios of AM radio station WRRR. I can recall one meeting having around 45 in attendance! (Some of us were also charter members of RARA too.)

As you can see, our first FD in 1955 was 50 years ago. My most recent visit to Rockford in July of 2002 included a quick visit to Page Park, sparking memories of our Field Day there. I thought it might be nice to celebrate the golden anniversary in 2005 of that event.

To make a longer story shorter, we have a webpage, we've come up with something like 57 names of former members, and have managed to locate a good number of them. We are planning to hold our reunion on Field Day, June 25 at Page Park, within a few hundred feet of where we pitched the tents and strung the antennas in 1955 (near the parking lot and rest room area at hilltop). It appears only about 6 or 7 of our former members can make it.

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. “

Excerpt from the webpage <http://ae5k.us/fd2005>

**Proposed Schedule of Events - subject to change!**  
Saturday - June 25 - 10 am - meet at Page Park for setup  
noon - potluck lunch at site  
1:00 pm - Field Day operations begin  
5-7 pm - potluck dinner at site  
9-10 pm - pack up and leave

For more information visit Don's websites: <http://ae5k.us> or <http://azaark.com> or <http://ae5k.us/fd2005>

The "old timers" planning to attend this event are coming from Maryland, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.

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Editors note:

Since the RARA Field Day event has been cancelled, lets try to stop out at **PAGE PARK on Saturday June 25, 2005** to welcome back these "old timers" to the Rockford area. Some of these gentlemen were part of the original founders of our club.

Gene KA9BOD

## 147.000 and 223.88 REPEATERS WILL BE OFF THE AIR

Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ just received a call from Precision Automotive at Alpine and Sandy Hollow Rd, which is the location of the 147.000 and 223.88 repeaters. Precision Automotive has sold their property to Al's Motor Homes. Al's will be demolishing the front building along with the tower that the repeaters are on very soon. As a result, these two repeaters will be taken off the air. Bill, WB9MCZ and Herb, K9AMJ will be talking with Precision Automotive and Al's to see if it is possible to locate the tower and repeaters at another spot on the property this coming week. Wayne, KA9IMX has agreed to assist with removing the antennas from the current tower.

In addition, Herb, K9AMJ will be working with the Repeater Council to notify them of the temporary outage so that we retain the coordination of the repeater pairs. It is possible, that the repeaters may be put up temporarily on one of Herb's, K9AMJ towers. No decision has been made at this time.

Consideration is also being given to possibly relocating the repeaters to a new location within the Rockford area. If you know of possible tower space available or have questions, please contact Bill, WB9MCZ at 543-6338.

Gene KA9BOD for B. Peters WB9MCZ

## ON THE WATERFRONT FUNDRAISER

Comments and discussion from the Breakfast in the Park meeting June 11, 2005.

On the Waterfront is RARA's bread and butter fund raiser for the year. We still are in need of a chairman for this event so **please help** us if you can.

We require a supervisor and assistant supervisor who must work all day and then additional workers for 4 hour shifts for each of the days. Everyone that works will receive a button (\$12) for the event free as well as \$5 off toward the RARA awards banquet in January. The club will pay the total fee for the awards banquet for the supervisors and assistant supervisors.

At this time, Friday night September 2 is already covered with supervisors and workers. One four hour shift is covered with workers on Saturday September 3. **We need a chairman, supervisors and workers for the rest of Saturday and Sunday.**

The chairman and supervisors will be trained by the On the Waterfront committee on the handling of the ticket booth money and then be responsible for training their workers. We must have a work schedule completed with names by the end of July and the training will occur during August.

Everyone who has worked at this event have totally enjoyed the experience and have continued to volunteer. **It is a lot of fun.** One group has friends and family that come into town specifically to help because it is so much fun. Last year, 75% of the people working for us WERE NOT HAMS.

Submitted by Gene KA9BOD

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Nets

Monday 8PM	2 Meter	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

**JUNE 2005**  
**SPECIAL EDITION**

**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