

Riverland Amateur Radio Club (RARC) is a non-profit public service organization that serves La Crosse and the surrounding area. Amateur radio operators are federally licensed radio operators; part of the amateur radio service concerns emergency communications.

Field Day is a nationwide event that has been held annually since the 1930s on the last full weekend in June. It is an emergency exercise, but with a public relations component. RARC has participated in Field Day on privately-held land for years, but that makes the public relations efforts more difficult. We would like to operate from a city park in order to be closer to the community that we serve. We include a Get On The Air station for guest operators to talk with other radio operators from around the world.

Field Day is a 24-hour event beginning Saturday afternoon and ending Sunday afternoon. We generally set up equipment the Friday before. We do not serve food to the public, but often cook food for our own use.

Our typical setup for Field Day consists of a communications trailer (about 20 feet long), and some tents or canopies in which to set up radio operating positions. We could use a building that might be available at a park, but that would not be essential. The antennas that we use are wires held up by telescoping fiberglass poles designed for portable use.

We assign a Safety Officer and clearly mark guy wires, antenna wires, or any safety hazard.

We carry a \$2Million Commercial Liability policy with Mercer Insurance.

We use batteries and solar panels to power the radios and computers, but use a small gas generator to supplement that after dark.

Our biggest needs for parks are open areas in which to erect antennas.