

Mississippi Section Report for April 2011

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Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, AE5CY, WV5D, W5DYC, KI5F, AE5FE, AE5FK, K4FMH, KD5FUO, K5FV, W4HOZ, WB5HQB, KA5ICO, AD5IT, KB5JN, W5JWW, KE5KTU, KD5KXJ, N5LJC, KG6LJN, K5LMB, KE5MIS, K5MOZ, WX5N, KB5NMB, K5NRK, N9OKV, NE5P, K5PJM, KA1RBA, N5SP, N5TBB, WB5TTM, K5TV, N5UDK, KD5VMV, KE5WJN, KE5WUN, N5XZF, KE5YES, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT, and KB0ZTX.

Mississippi ARES/RACES leadership spent a good part of March and April planning to support the FEMA/MEMA New Madrid Earthquake Exercise (known as NLE-11) scheduled for May 16 - 19. The Final Planning Meeting was held in Oxford on April 26. The next day a major tornado outbreak developed across North and Central Mississippi impacting 51 of Mississippi's 82 counties with EF-5 tornadoes reported at Smithville and Philadelphia. These storm events were followed the next day with warnings that a major flood was developing on the Mississippi that would require that the Steel Bayou Control Structure (which empties the Yazoo Basin) be closed resulting in a major backwater flood in the lower Yazoo. This ominous warning was enough for FEMA to cancel NLE-11. (With all of this bad news don't even think about the H word.)

As of this writing in early May, record or near record flooding is predicted on the Mississippi along the entire western boundary of the State. Of additional concern, many of the levees that were put in place after the Flood of 1927 have not been tested against record floods. Additionally, there are no levees on the Mississippi side of the River from Vicksburg downstream. This will lead to major backwater flooding in Southwest Mississippi in addition to the backwater flooding in the Yazoo Basin. AB5WF reports that KM5EMA will be on the air on 3862 to take any reports for MEMA. Further, the National Red Cross has asked for possible support for operating the Ham Stations in their commo vans, provide communications for their Disaster Assessment Teams, and communications among shelters. DEC KB0ZTX will coordinate efforts in Northwest Mississippi, OES K5JAW in the Delta, EC K5NRK in the Vicksburg Area, and EC KB5JN in the Natchez Area. DEC KE5KTU will provide backup resources for the Delta, Vicksburg, and Natchez areas.

Tornadoes impacted Mississippi during most of April. It seems SkyWarn was on the air more than it was off. Jasper County EC WV1Q reports tornadoes were on the ground on April 27, but the big event in Jasper County was super-cell thunderstorms on April 15 with severe straight line winds which necessitated activating emergency operations for the Jasper County ARES Group and the County EMA. ARES provided storm spotting, search and rescue details, and assisted with traffic control during road clearing throughout Jasper County working under the direction of Jasper County EMA and local authorities.

DeSoto County EC KD5VMV reports that the week of April 25 started off with severe weather. The County received 11 plus inches of rain in a 36 hour period (4-26 to 4-27). The EOC was manned almost constantly from noon on Monday until Sunday Evening (5-1-11). DeSoto County had a record flood event and an extraordinary number of severe weather warnings. Those manning the EOC were KD5VMV, KE5EOQ, KA5JNK, KE5NBD, KE5OPL, KB0ZTX, N5UOV, N5PYQ, and KE5EOR, and

at NWS – Memphis KI4QAQ. Net Control Stations were KE5NBC, KB0ZTX, N5PYQ, W5LJD, and KD5CKP. In the field reports were provided by KF5HRD, W9IK, KE5RHM, K5OMC, KD4NOQ, KE5TMY, KE5GYQ, KD5PIT, KF5JAK, W5GD, AC4JB, KF8PD, KD5ONH, KF4QFH, W5KK, KE5MXY, and KE5JIX.

KB5GT reports that the Yazoo County ARES Net was activated twice during the storm event of April 26 – 27. Many reports were received related to trees down and power outages though out the night and the during next day as thunderstorm warnings and tornado warnings were issued. NCS W5PKN reports the following provided reports KB5GT, KE5YES, KF5DJS, KC5VTE, KC5MUV, and KC5QON.

On the public event support side, K5BLL reports that the Jackson ARC provided communications for the 2011 Magnolia Meltdown 5K run/walk on Saturday, April 2nd. The event, sponsored by several health-care affiliates of St. Dominic Hospital was laid out through the Fondren and Woodland Hills sections of North Jackson. The 202 runners and 110 walkers finished the event in about an hour. JARC members were spaced around the course to report any problem areas. The event was completed without any reportable incidents. The 147.000-W5IQ repeater located atop St. Dominic Hospital was used. The following operators worked the event: K5XU, K5KKD, K5GCV, K5CID, K5BLL, K5LEM, KE5JKD, KE5WAC, and KA5TJW.

Bill, K5BLL, also notes that the Jackson ARC also provided communications for the 2011 Natchez Trace Century Ride, organized by the City of Ridgeland, Recreation, and Parks Department on Saturday, April 9th. This event, in which 438 bicyclists participated, is sponsored by several bicycle dealers, TV and FM broadcasters, soft drink bottlers, and other businesses in the Jackson area. The ride started at the Old Trace Park on the Barnett Reservoir and went about fifty miles up the Trace, nearly to Kosciusko, and then back to the starting point. There were five rest stops and four turn-around points for the bicyclists choosing to ride 25, 50, 62, or the total 100 miles. The Ride started at 7:30 am and the course was cleared about 3:30 pm. JARC members K1REZ, W5JMJ, K5CID, N5GT, WS7EOC, K5LEM and WM5A manned those locations. KD5JPB, K5GCV, KE5JKD, KE5WAC, K5RWB and NC5Y were Rovers while KA5TJW rode with the Bike Repair Truck. Due to the length of the course, JARC utilized the Sharon-145.45-W5PPB and the Brandon-145.345-K5RKN repeaters. Net Control was manned by N5DU and K5BLL using a rig for each of the two repeaters.

EC WX5N relays that the Tishomingo County ARC conducted 'Radio Day' on April 16 from the heights of Woodall Mountain (the highest point in the state of Mississippi at 806 ft. ASL) for a little fun and communications. The TCARC EmComm trailer was on site from which club members made a few contacts, ironically mostly on 2 meters simplex even though there were HF rigs in the trailer with a new DX Engineering 43' multiband vertical mounted outside (that TCARC is very proud of.) They did make some contacts on HF, but the bands were not in the best of shape. TCARC members arrived on the mountaintop 7:30 am and stayed until noon. The objective was to test the new antenna and discuss improvements in the trailer and and to plan upcoming club activities. Radio Day Event planner WX5N reports that a good time was had by all including the hot dogs and cake for lunch.

The Steel Magnolias, Susan G. Komen Run For The Cure, was held on April 16 in downtown Jackson. A day after severe thunderstorms and tornadoes impacted the area, the Race For The Cure was held under, what could only be described as, perfect conditions. The Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association along with help from the Jackson Amateur Radio Club provided communications for the race organizers. Participants included WX5H and his wife Susan, WM5A, KE5JKD, KE5WAC, KE5DHC, KF5EZT, KD5JPB, K5BLL, K5GCV, K5LEM, W5UQT, and K5FV.

W5MR reports that the Mississippi State University VE Team conducted a marathon VE session on April 17 lasting over three hours. A total of 31 candidates were tested for a total of 55 exams yielding 17 new technicians and 3 generals. Mike admits that the VE Team was not expecting this many candidates, and the room used for the testing only held 20 at a time, so as one candidate would finish the exam another would take his seat. Thanks to the VE Team for doing such a fine job with this long session: AE5OC, AE5IO, AE5LG, AE5PY, and W5MR.

DEC WB5CON advises that the Alcorn County ARES (ACARES) group provided communication for the Coca-Cola Classic 10k foot race on Saturday, May 7. This was the 30th year of the race and the turnout was the second highest ever, with 1,291 entries with 1,130 finishing! ACARES members were stationed at each mile marker and the finish line to relay the first, second, and third position of the male, female, and wheelchair divisions. APRS was used to track the lead runner, and provided a moving map display to the race announcer at the finish line. The APRS equipment was in a car in front of the lead runner that also had a radio announcer for the local Supertalk Mississippi FM station. The hams volunteering for the race were KD5LAP, K0RIS, KJ4IHT, W5OA, and K5WHB.

Lafayette County EC K5LMB reports the the University of Mississippi Amateur Radio Club provided communications and race marshaling for the Double Decker Spring Run 2011. Amateur Operators participated in directing 10K Runners and 5K Runners/Walkers on the course route and communicating to race organizers the status of participants as they passed multiple check points along the route. UMARC members also assisted two runners in need of medical assistance. Double Decker Spring Run organizers expressed their appreciation for the valuable services provided by UMARC. K5LMB says those supporting this event were W5MPC (ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager), K5DSG, WB5VYH, N5RB, K5PTM, KS5U, KE5NQP, KF5IMA, KF5IVD, KE5EOP, and KF5KPG. Also assisting UMARC were Frances Sullivan-Gonzalez, Jake Clemons, and Eric Freimark.

The listings of new Hams in the State in April, the upgrades, and new ARRL Members are not available this month. We'll catch up next month. The ARRL did report that ARRL Membership in Mississippi is now 1083. Down 3 from last month. Keep working. 1100 is actually in site!

And in more EMCOMM news, welcome to N5XZF as EC for Wayne County.

Congratulations to KB5ZEA who became the second ham in Mississippi to complete the ARRL EO-16 Course - Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs. The first to complete the course was KA5DON. In addition, congratulations to WB5TTM, who completed IS-802.

Club Newsletters/Reports: Chickasaw ARA (KE5RHM), Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Pearl River County ARC (N5WLW), and the Northeast Mississippi ARA (KE5SSB).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), KD5FUO (Lowndes), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), WB5TTM (Union), WV1Q (Jasper), KD5VMV (DeSoto), and KE5WJN (Pearl River).

Regret to report the passing of KM5GE of Jackson, WV5C of Ellisville, AB5EG of Southaven, K5LEM of Florence, and former K5KIP of Laurel.

HF Net Reports - sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)

Magnolia Section Net 30/1078/24 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/19/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 30/2676/21 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 17/17/0 (W3TWD)

MTN/OZK 28/89/19 (AA5J)

VHF Net Reports - sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)

Booneville and Prentiss County ARES 4/53/0 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 4/110/1 (K5XU)

Delta ARES Net 4/19/0 (K5JAW)

Grenada/Yalobusha Counties ARES 4/36/0 (AD5IT/KE5MIS) (plus 5 WX Net Activations)

Hattiesburg AEN 4/98/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES 4/51/2 (KB5NMB) (plus 3 WX Net Activations)

Jackson ARC Em Net 4/44/2 (N5DU)

Jackson Co ARES Net 18/238/2 (K5MOZ)

Jasper County ARES 5/40/3 (WV1Q)

Magnolia DX Assn 4/54/0 (K5OAZ)

Meridian Area EN 7/65/4 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 3/49/10 (K5GY)

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/50/0 (K5KMU) (plus one WX Net Activation)

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/27/0 (K5NRK)

NE MS Skywarn 8/151/5 (W5LMW) (plus 3 WX Net Activations); March Report: 5/86/1

Panola County ARES 4/28/0 (KC5DPJ)

Pearl River County ARES 4/47/0 (KE5WJN) (plus one WX Net Activation)

SCMSRG Net 4/42/0 (AE5JG)

Scott County ARES 6/61/11 (K1REZ) (plus 2 WX Net Activations)

South MS YL Net 4/30/0 (K5IJ)

Southern MS Friendship Net 21/219/0 (WB5OHN)

Stone County ARES 4/91/0 (N5UDK)

Tishomingo ARC 4/118/8 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 4/33/0 (K5LMB)

PSHR: W5XX 133

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.