

## Mississippi Section Report for August 2008

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District Emergency Coordinators: KD5CKP, WB5CON, KD5FUO, W4WLF, AG5Z, and N5ZNT.

Emergency Coordinators: KB5AAB, KD5CQT, WB5CON, WV5D, AD5DO, KC5EAK, KI5F, AE5FK, KD5FUO, K5FV, W5GEJ, WB5GUD, KD5GWM, W4HOZ, WB5HQB, AD5IT, KB5JN, W5JVK, KE5KTU, KD5KXJ, N5LJC, W5LMW, W5MPC, WX5N, K5NRK, KD5NMB, N5TBB, K5TV, KC5TYL, N5UDK, KD5VMV, W4WLF, K5WLP, KM5WX, KD5XG, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT, and KB0ZTX.

Mississippi was lucky dodging the hurricane bullet in 2006 and 2007, but our luck ran out as Hurricane Gustav grazed South Mississippi in late August. Most of the damage appears to have been related to torrential rain and tornadoes in the lower half of the state and high winds and flash flooding in Southwest Mississippi.

The West Gulf Emergency Net was activated 24/7 on 3873 for 94 hours to handle tactical traffic for the Louisiana, Mississippi and South Texas ARRL Sections. Our own K5WLP was the Net Manager. Health and Welfare was handled by RN5 (KB5W manager) and DRN5 (WB5ZED Manager) with a couple independent nets also helping with this traffic. Because of the numerous tornadoes, SKYWARN was activated over much of the state. In addition State RACES Officer AB5WF reports that KM5EMA was on the air from MEMA for 60 hours contacting 12 county EOCs and handling approximately 150 formal and informal messages. Some problems were experienced with the signal on 75, but the antenna problems have since been rectified.

At this point it is difficult to know exactly which Mississippi Stations were active in supporting this emergency communications response. After reports are received from all of the Net Managers and Emergency Coordinators, an addendum to this Section Report will be compiled. Of special note was a request received for communications assistance from the St. Helena Parish EOC. This was discussed with W5MPC on Sunday at 1 PM. By Monday at 1 AM Mike was on site with HF/VHF equipment at Greensburg, Louisiana. He was followed two days later by K5DSG, who relieved Mike. In addition, K5BLL and WB5TTE deployed with the MEMA MOBOPS to the Coast. Thanks to all for their efforts!

The University of Mississippi Amateur Radio Club W5UMS will operate a special event station for the 2008 Presidential Debate at the University of Mississippi campus in Oxford, MS. The special event station will go on the air starting Sunday September 21st and will be on the air until the night of the debate Friday September 26. The bands used will be 15-80 meters and other bands as conditions permit. The modes of operation will be phone, CW, and digital modes. The best frequency for Mississippi stations will probably be 3862. All stations that

make contact with the special event station will receive a special QSL card commemorating the event. No SASE required. For more information on the special event station email UMARC at [w5ums@yahoo.com](mailto:w5ums@yahoo.com). For more information on the debate go to the [official debate website](#).

W5ED notes that <http://aa9pw.com/radio/> is an outstanding tool to use when studying for an amateur license. Most sites allow the student to take sample tests over the length and breadth of the FCC questions used in the license class they are attempting to obtain. The questions are therefore random in nature. There may be other sites out there that will let you do the same thing, but of those sites W5ED has checked, only the AA9PW site allows the student to select both random tests and tests for only certain elements that they may be studying or having trouble with. For example, if the student is having trouble with the element that deals with safety they can select only that element and all the possible questions that the student might be exposed to on the exam will appear so that they can work only on that element. (from the Meridian ARC Spark Gap).

W5WAF and K5VXV had a nice front page write up in the Vicksburg Evening Post regarding CoCoRaHS, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, Snow Network now active in Mississippi. Volunteers are asked to post their rainfall amounts daily. For more information go to <http://wwwcocorahs.org>.

W5MPC reports that this summer he signed a contract with the ARRL to author a publication that will be called *The ARRL Storm Spotter's Handbook*. This handbook will be a resource for amateur radio operators that are volunteer storm spotters. This book will contain information on training, equipment, safety, information specific to tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and winter weather, what to do during the storm, and what to do after the storm. The manuscript is due to the editor in June 2009. Over the next several months Mike will be looking to other amateur radio storm spotters to talk with them about their experiences and what they have learned. He is also looking for anyone that has pictures of severe weather that they would be willing to share and contribute. If anyone would like to help please contact Mike at [w5mpc@arrl.net](mailto:w5mpc@arrl.net).

Delta Division Legislation Action (DLAC) Chairman N5TBB reminds us that the Legislative Action Program (LAP) was organized by the ARRL Board to make it possible for League members to promote and protect Amateur Radio through coordinated political action at the Federal level. In short - League members will have a stronger voice in Washington through this effort.

The program is ARRL Division wide, with each division having a DLAC, who appoints Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) in each state. The DLAC or the LAC (WB5ASP in Mississippi) then appoints Legislative Action Assistants (LAA) in each congressional district. The current appointees for Mississippi Districts 1 through 3 are W5FF, KA5HPD, and K5DWI, respectively. In Mississippi we are

in need for a LAA in Congressional District 4 (Southeast Mississippi including Hattiesburg and the Coast).

This is not a time consuming position. The appointee will be asked to write letters from time to time and have at least one face-to-face visit with your congressman when he is in your area. Amy says she is working with ARRL HQ now to develop some material to put in each congressman's hands.

The Delta Division made 42 contacts last year. The LAP, as a whole, wrote over 600 letters. This is a very important endeavor. We want our Senators and Representatives to know that Amateur Radio is a valuable resource. If you are interested in helping send an email to [amy@bullock.org](mailto:amy@bullock.org).

Itawamba County EC KB5NMB reports that the EOC Station move to new quarters has been completed including having to relocate a 50 ft tower. Those helping with the move were W5RDP, N5FP, KE5MAT, K5SEH, N5SPG, and KB5NMB. Also NE MS DEC/Alcorn County EC WB5CON notes that 51 were in attendance at the SKYWARN lass in Corinth! Good Show.

Welcome to new Mississippi Hams: KE5VUZ, William – Gulfport; KE5VVA, Blake – Saucier; KE5VXO, Jamey – Corinth; KE5WAC, Cheryl – Crystal Springs; KE5WAD, Anthony – Pearl; KE5WAU, Kaitlyn – Gulfport; KE5WAV, James – Gulfport; KE5WAW, James – Gulfport; KE5WAZ, Brent – Gulfport; KE5WBA, Daniel – Gulfport; KE5WBB, Betty – Gulfport; KE5WBC, Curtis – Gulfport; KE5WBD, Cecile – Gulfport; KE5WBE, Patricia – Gulfport; KE5WBF, Elizabeth – Gulfport; KE5WBG, Bradley – Ocean Springs; KE5WBH, Elizabeth – Gulfport; and KE5WBI, Christopher – Gulfport.

Also welcome to KE5KTU as EC for Hinds County

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KC5BQM, Dumas; N2PKW, Ocean Springs; KE5TPQ, Hernando; KE5UBV, Madison; KE5VBT, Okolona; KE5VRN, Dundee; KE5VXP, Dumas; KE5VXQ, Dumas; N4XFJ, Brandon; and KB5ZKU, Mize.

Also congratulations to K5CID, who completed ARRL ECC-001 and ECC-002, and KE5PYM, who completed ECC-001. Also congrats to the new officers of the Ole Miss ARC N5RB, President, W5MOC, VP, WB5VYH, Treasurer, and W5JMO and K5DSG, station and repeater trustees, respectively.

Welcome to new ARRL members: KE5JQZ, New Albany; KA5LGP, Jackson; AA5ME, Saucier; KE5OWY, Madison; KE5PXD, Ocean Springs; AB5TT, Petal; KE5UIH, Gulfport; KE5ULW, Poplarville; KE5UTI, Ripley; KC5VTN, Vicksburg; KE5VUZ, Gulfport; and KE5WBE, Gulfport. Our section membership dropped to 992 from 1000 during August. It's time to go to work again, folks!

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Jackson ARC (K5VU), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Pearl River County ARC (N5WLW), Northeast Mississippi ARA (KB5NMB), and the Vicksburg ARC (W5WAF).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), KD5CQT (Jackson), KC5EAK (Pearl River), K5FV (Rankin), KG6LJN (Greene), WB5GUD (Newton), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clark), KB5JN (Adams), W5MPC (Lafayette), WX5N (Tishomingo/Prentiss), KB5NMB (Itawamba), N5TBB (Tippah), KC5TYL (Lamar), KD5VMV (DeSoto), W5WLF (Gulf Coast/Harrison), KM5WX (Panola), KD5XG (Forrest), and AG5Z (SE MS).

Regret to report the passing of Leon Smith, N5OCF, of Richton, Mississippi.

Net reports: sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)

DRN5 62/Miss 100% Rep by W5XX, KA1ZIA, W5OXA, W5MLO, WA5FB and WB5ZED (WB5ZED)

MS Section Phone Net 31/3056/25 (K5NRK)

Magnolia Section Net 31/806/0 (K5DSG)

MS Traffic Net 31/171/8 (KB5W)

Jackson County EN 31/500/0 (KD5CQT)

MS Section Slow Net 22/33/0 (W3TWD)

Stone Co ARES Net 6/88/0 (N5UDK)

MS Baptists Ham Net 5/31/1 (WF5F)

MS-LA EN 5/41/1 (K5NRK)

Alcorn Co ARES 5/54/0 (WB5CON)

MCARA Net 4/52/0 (KA2KMU)

Tishomingo County ARES Net 4/138/4 (WX5N)

Rankin County ARES 4/58/0 (K5FV)

Itawamba Co ARES 4/46/3 (KB5NMB)

South MS YL Net 4/58/0 (KB5CSQ)

Newton County ARES 4/32/0 (WB5GUD)

Meridian Area EN 4/49/0 (KD5GWM)

Pearl River ARES 4/63/0 (KC5EAK)

NE MS ARES 4/70/0 (W5LMW) July Report 4/66/0

MDXA 3/57/0 (N5FG)

HAEN 0/0/0 (K5MIQ) report not arrived yet

PSHR: October - WB5ZED 200, W5XX 123.

Traffic: WB5ZED 3234, W5XX 4.

Compilation of Net and Traffic Statistics provided by KB5RCJ