

Mississippi Section Report for August 2013

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District Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, KD5FUO, KE5KTU, K1REZ, K5XXV, AG5Z, N5ZNT and KB0ZTX.

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The upcoming big event for Mississippi Hams is the annual ARRL Day in the Park scheduled for September 21 at Shiloh Park in Brandon. This year's event will be hosted by the Central Mississippi ARA. Shiloh Park has a paved area next to the Picnic Pavilion, so bring your pickup truck full of goodies for tailgating. The CMARA VE Team will be on site, if there is anyone who wants to take a test. Shiloh Park is just South of downtown Brandon. Specific Directions will be provided in a follow on email. In addition, after the Day in the Park, NWS-Jackson will host a tour of the facilities at Thompson Field. Contact kf5ezt@arrl.net or w5xx@vicksburg.com for more info.

The Mississippi Section held its Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on August 10. Normally the SET is held at the same time as the MEMA Hurricane Exercise, but the MEMA event was canceled this year. Therefore, the Mississippi SET was rescheduled immediately before the active Hurricane Season with the objective of get a better feeling of what we could be up against propagation wise on 40, to check 40 meter station equipment operation, and, equally important, to give County ECs an opportunity to conduct a local SET parallel with the Section SET.

The Mississippi ARES Emergency Net conducted sessions on 7238 at 9 AM, 1 PM, and 4 PM. The 9AM Session was bad news propagation wise. Propagation was great for 1 PM session; however by 4 PM the long skip was starting to come in along with significant QSB and relays were necessary. Later reports from stations around the state since the SET confirm this general cycle of daily propagation on 40. Hopefully, we will have 60 meters available someday to fill in the daytime propagation gap between 40 and 80.

In SET Reports from the counties, DEC K1REZ notes that Scott County ARES activated their VHF Net at 8:00 AM to test response to a simulated emergency with extensive property damage, casualties, and injuries which might be sustained due to a tornado strike in one or more of the communities in Scott County. ARES had several fixed team members reporting from various communities in Scott County and from other counties. In addition, they deployed several mobiles to test communications capabilities in the farthest reaches of the county where there are no Hams. With these SET assets in place they tested the response of the SKYWARN Team, the ARES Team, and the Scott County Severe Weather Net. Further, they tested HF and VHF Simplex as well as served agencies capabilities in Scott County and completed the exercise by sending NTS formatted messages. For interoperability ARES contacted the ECs in Rankin and Hinds Counties as well as the Section Manager in Vicksburg, the State RACES officer, and the State EOC at MEMA.

Lauderdale/Clarke Counties EC AE5FE reports that ARES activated the Lauderdale County EOC

WX5MEI for the SET. This simulated activation was the result of tracking Tropical Depression 12 which developed into simulated Hurricane Dante on August 4. Landfall occurred at 0630 on the day of the SET at the LA/MS state line area. By 0830 East Central Mississippi began experiencing winds from CAT 3 Hurricane Dante.

The WX5MEI Lauderdale County EOC was manned by WB5BNV (AEC Ops for Lauderdale County) and EC AE5FE. The Clarke County EOC at the time did not have a functional Radio Station so KF5MWE (AEC Ops for Clarke County) operated as the Clarke County EMA from his home QTH. (AE5FE notes that as of September 6 the Clarke County EMA EOC now has a operational station and to look for KF5MWE to start checking in from the EOC.)

WB5AKR served as the NTS Liaison as well as W5MLO. WB5AKR additionally served as the Remote Site (RS) Relay Station. During the SET the 40m band proved to be less than desirable at the Lauderdale EOC for SSB; however, all stations were able to send and receive WinLink traffic as well as packet traffic. The 'Remote Site Relay Station' concept incorporated into the Lauderdale/Clarke CommPlan proved to be a wise decision. No preplanning was required. The RS Relay Station knew what and how to do what was required and performed successfully. The WB5AKR RS was operating all EMCOMM associated equipment on 100% emergency power. AE5FE says this in itself was an amazing feat!

Further, reports from the ECs indicate that local SETs were conducted in DeSoto and Itawamba Counties by VHF and simplex net activation and operation from the county EOC.

New Lee County EC WA5TEF and his Assistant EC KE5UFZ met with the Lee County Emergency Manager. They discussed getting his assistance in putting a repeater on one of the county E911 towers. Also, they discussed running table top exercises for all the county agencies, completing on line training, work with the Red Cross and Salvation Army, obtaining photo ID tags for all Tupelo ARC club members, and the upcoming SKYWARN training session on September 12 th. Further, Lee County is renovating its EOC with space set aside for a ARES radio area. Jim has prepared a list of equipment from three vendors and has presented the list to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

EC KC5IIW advises that the Scott County ARC provided communications for the Bailey Benefit 5K Run in Forest on August 24 th. No problems were reported.

Certificates and Results for all Mississippi County Winners for the 2013 Mississippi QSO Party have been mailed. Results have also been provided by email or regular mail to all other participants, who submitted a log. The results are also available on www.arrlmiss.org. See you in April 2014 for the next QSO Party!

NE MS DEC WB5CON reports the the Alcorn County ARES will have a work day at their tower site to return the club 2 meter repeater to the air. The main projects are to get power properly run to the base of the tower and to raise the antenna higher on the tower. Corinth currently has one 2 meter repeater and one 440 repeater. The club repeater will give them two repeaters on 2 meters.

Scott County WC KC5IIW advises that W5JMJ, AEC for Scott County, has been presenting a 12 part training series on Message Handling during the weekly Scott County ARES Training Net. McLeod's goal is to encourage, equip, and train Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County for appointments as Official Relay Stations (ORS) and Official Emergency Stations (OES).

Southern Mississippi YL Net Manager KB5CSQ reports that their Net Control for the last two net sessions in August was Hailey, KF5WTU. She is only 11 years old and has been operating Field Day for the last 3 years on the MDXA GOTA station. Hailey attended a Technician class taught by AE5RI at the Garden Park Hospital and took her test the first of August at the MCARA VE Test Session, where she passed the test. A couple of weeks later she was a Net Control Station. Way to go, Hailey!

WD2XSH/6 (aka W5THT) reports having his 630 Meter Beacon on the air now for 11,513 hours with no complaints from other services (that's a lot of time on the air considering that the standard work year is 2080 hours!)

Information for the monthly Section Report needs to be to W5XX by the 9th of the month following the reporting period. ARRL Headquarters likes to have the reports submitted by the 10th of the month. Late section reporting causes delays.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in May: KF5WTN, Scott – Olive Branch; KF5WTU, Hailey – Gulfport; KF5WVA, Johnny – Clinton; KF5WVB, Robert – Madison; KF5WVC, Michael – Clinton; KF5WVD, Michael – Madison; KF5WVE, Bruce – Brandon; KF5WVJ, Richard – Nesbit; KF5WYI, James – Oxford; KF5WZD, Christopher – Columbus; and KF5WZL, Diana - Carriere

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in May: W5BXY – Brandon; KF5IXR – Hattiesburg; KD5NDU – Water Valley; K5ROB – Tremont; KF5WKZ – Corinth; KF5WDL – Richland; KF5WVC – Clinton; KF5WVE – Brandon; KF5WVJ – Nesbit; and KC4YNL – Summit. ARRL Membership in Mississippi is 1,129 as of July 31.

And last but not least, welcome to KE5UFZ as Assistant EC for Lee County

Congratulations to N5MZ, Information Technology Teacher at Petal High School, who was recognized by his school board for receiving the Mississippi Professional Educators Classroom Grant Award for the 2012-2013 School Year. Using the grant, Brad purchased a D-Star Transceiver as part of integrating digital technology into his classroom curriculum. As a result of Brad's efforts during the last school year, seventeen students received their ham licenses.

Also, congratulations to the following on their upgrades: WD5CCA, Rex – Taylorsville; KF5PLO, Kathy – Pelahatchie; N5SPL, Charles – Pelahatchie; and KD4YMI, John – Brandon.

And lastly, congratulations to the new officers of the Scott County ARC: K1REZ, President; KC5IIW, VP; KF5VVU, Secretary; KF5UBZ, Treasurer; and W5JMJ, Board Member.

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Lowndes County ARA (AD5DO), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Mississippi Coast ARA (KB9ZR), and the Northeast Mississippi ARA (KB5NMB).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), KB5EZT (Rankin), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), KC5IIW (Scott), KE5KTU (Hinds), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss/Tishomingo), KB5NMB (Itawamba), WV1Q (Jasper), K1REZ (EC MS), WA5TEF (Lee), KE5WJN (Pearl River), and KB0ZTX (NW MS/Marshall).

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/1215/14 (K5DSG)
MS Baptist Hams Net 3/16/0 (WF5F)
MSPN 31/2323/28 (K5NRK)
MS Slow Net 19/21/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County ARES 4/49/0 (WX5N)
Capital Area Em Net 4/73/0 (K5XU)
Delta Simplex ARES Net 4/19/0 (K5JAW)
Itawamba County ARES 5/53/2 (KB5NMB)
Jackson ARC Em Net 4/49/0 (N5DU)
Jackson Co ARES Net 27/438/0 (K5MOZ)
Magnolia DX Assn 4/61/0 (K5OAZ)
Meridian Area EN 5/62/21 (AE5FE)
Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/52/2 (K5GCY)
Miss/Lou Em Net 4/23/0 (K5NRK)
Mississippi Preparedness Project EN 5/49/0 (WX5H)
NE MS Skywarn 4/58/0 (W5LMW)
Olive Branch ARC Tech and Info Net 11/106/2 (KD5CKP)
Pearl River County ARES 4/47/0 (KE5WJN)
Pearl River ARC Net 5/82/0 (K5RDA)
Rankin County ARES 5/85/0 (KF5EZT)
Scott County ARES Training Net 4/54/1 (W5JMJ) One severe weather activation; 8 reports.
Scott County Simplex Net 2/13/0 (W5JMJ)
South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES 4/34/0 (WV1Q)
Southern MS YL Net 4/36/0 (KB5CSQ)
Stateline Skywarn Net 5/45/0 (KB5NMB)
Stone County ARES 4/56/0 (N5UDK)
Tishomingo ARC Net 4/54/0 (WX5N)
UMARC Net 4/28/0 (K5LMB)
Yazoo County ARES 4/22/0 (KF5DJS)

PSHR: W5XX 70

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.