

## Mississippi Section Report for December 2007

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Don't forget to clear your calendar for the ARRL Mississippi Section Convention and Capital City Hamfest in Jackson on February 1-2. Festivities will begin at the Trade Mart on the Fairgrounds at 5 PM on Friday and then again on Saturday beginning at 8 AM. For more information contact Hamfest Chairman K5XU at [k5xu@comcast.net](mailto:k5xu@comcast.net).

And on your long-range calendar make a note that the fourth Mississippi QSO party will be held on Saturday February 23 from 9 AM to 9 PM local time. Hams from all over will be looking for that rare Mississippi County or just a QSL to complete WAS. Make your plans to put in a few hours to make someone happy or renew acquaintances with old friends. Complete rules are on the Section Web Site.

The MSPN had another great On-the-Air New Year's Eve Party with Cajun Sage W5MLO as the MC. Some 70 plus checkins enjoyed Cajun Humor as well as a summary of the year's activities in the Mississippi Section by W5XX.

Mississippi had a good year with respect to bringing in new hams. In 2006 we welcomed 189 new hams in the State. In years past the number was less than 100 such that the 189 new hams in 2006 was attributable in part to more widespread interest in Ham Radio as result of Katrina. However, in 2007 we had 284 new hams reflecting on the continuing efforts by clubs in organizing classes and VE Teams in conducting test sessions.

On a further healthy note Mississippi had 43 license upgrades in 2006 but this number increased to 166 in 2007 indicating a large number of Techs moving up to General. However, of the 166 upgrades, 73 were KE5's showing that our new hams are not content to be Technicians forever. Again, many thanks to our class instructors and 21 VE Teams in the State, who are helping our new Hams move up the ladder. Remember, 'Elmering New Hams is Job #1.'

Mississippi recently got some good press in the November Southeastern Repeater Association (SERA) Journal and the November/December DX Magazine. The SERA Journal featured AA5ED, KD5RWF, and N5XXX on the cover in front of the Rankin County EMCOMM Bus and another shot of W5BJT and K5FLU at the 'ARRL Day in the Park' at Starkville. The lead article in this issue, authored by N5XXX, highlights the Rankin County emergency response capabilities. A follow on article, prepared by W5XX with photos by N5FQH, overviews recent Ham activity in Mississippi. Copies of this issue can be secured from N4IOZ at [editor@sera.org](mailto:editor@sera.org).

W3WL authored an article for the DX Magazine entitled 'When Life Gives You A Bunch of Lemons, Make Lemonade.' This article chronicles the recovery of the Magnolia DX Association after Katrina, and how a bad situation turned into a positive experience as MDXA members helped each other get back on the air and started classes for prospective hams. Copies of this issue can be secured from N4AA at [dxmag@dxpub.com](mailto:dxmag@dxpub.com). Way to go MDXA!

N5MZ reports that as a result of a recent Hattiesburg ARC VE Team Test Session 16 new Technicians will be on the air plus we have one new Extra (N5UDK). A special pat on the back for DEC AG5Z who taught the Technician Class which resulted in a 100% Technician student pass rate. Way to go Larry!

In a SET Report that got lost in W5XX's computer (and should have been in last month's Section Report), N5WLW reports that radio operators in Pearl River County used a scenario involving flooding in the Southern part of the county requiring activation of the three shelter facilities in the Picayune area, where hams brought up emergency communications services. With N5ELI

manning the EOC radios in Picayune, radio checks were done from the three shelters in the area, as well as from the Picayune airport which would be used as a supply point in any real emergency.

In addition, working in conjunction with the Pearl River County Emergency Operations Manager, the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club has ensured that amateur radio gear is installed and available at both EOCs (Picayune and Poplarville), Picayune Fire Station One, and the Lee Center Special Needs Shelter, and is working to make sure radios will be available at all shelters in the county, as well as the hospitals. Additionally, the club is offering technician level classes to prospective hams interested in public safety to ensure that sufficient licensed radio operators are available in case of emergency.

The Inaugural MS Blues Marathon was held January 5, 2008 in downtown Jackson and into Rankin County. The Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association provided communications for the Race. What started out as backup communications for race officials, soon became the primary source of communications. The challenge of covering the 26-mile course was ably handled by 20 licensed hams including three husband and wife teams. Net Control was handled by N5XXX, and his wife N5ZNQ, and their two sons, Griffin and Will. Other CMARA members helping out were, WM5A, KD5RWF, K5FV, and his wife KE5DHC, KE5EDO, KF5IZ, N6LYO, KE5IMJ, KE5JKD, KD5JPB, K5BLL, KA5YRK, and KA5TJW. Also helping out were, WB8BZH, and his wife, KA0SPH, KE5KTU, KM5GE, and AK5J.

600 Meter DXer WD2XSH/6 (W5THT) reports that the QRN has measurably decreased with the onset of the Winter Solstice. Pat made 23 QSOs with other experimental stations in December, mostly in New England. He says 505 to 510 in the evening sounds like the low end of 20 during a contest.

AA5SG and Crew report that they placed third world wide in the IRLP 'Reflector 9200 New Year's Around the World QSO Party.' Congratulations!

N5WLW reports that the first Pearl River ARC Hamfest was a success with several hundred hams in attendance from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Another Hamfest is already in the planning for next year.

Congratulations to the new officers of the Simpson County ARC: W5EKB, President; N5DTW, Vice-President; KB5PMN, Secretary; K5EJY, Treasurer; and KE5LQB, Activities Director. Also to new officers of the Meridian ARC: KD5GBQ, President; W5MAV, Vice-President; KB5ASR, Secretary; and KD5JYJ, Treasurer.

Applications for the ARRL Mississippi Scholarship are due to Mary Hobart, K1MMH, at ARRL Headquarters no later than February 1, 2008. Complete information is on the Section Website under 'What's Up.' We had no applications last year, so there was no scholarship awarded to a worthy Mississippi student. Let's don't let that \$500 slip through our fingers again.

Welcome to the following new Mississippi Hams: KE5RRT, Christopher – Long Beach; KE5RSH, Gary – Booneville; KE5RSX, Jimmy – Belmont; KE5RUD, Kelly – Tupelo; KE5RUX, Tracy – Columbus; KE5RWM, Michael – Steens; KE5RXB, Robert – Jackson; KE5RXC, Victor – Lena; and KE5RXN, Randy – Golden.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KE5QQH – Tishomingo; KE5RHF – Biloxi; N5SPL – Pelahatchie; and N5YAB – Wiggins.

Welcome to the following new ARRL Members: KB5AGW – Vancleave; W5IQ – Jackson; KE5LPZ – Hattiesburg; WB5LVA – Tillatoba; WA5MUE – Southaven; KE5RJN – Hattiesburg; KE5RJQ – Hattiesburg; KE5PRL – Oxford; KE5PXB – Bay Saint Louis; KE5PXF – Long Beach; KE5RHF Biloxi; KD5SDX – Soso; and KC5VQF – Biloxi.

Newsletter/Club Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Itawamba County ARC (KB5NMB), Jackson ARC (K5XU), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), and Pearl River ARC (N5WLW).

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: Alcorn/NE MS (WB5CON); Jackson (KD5CQT); Lauderdale/Clarke (KD5GWM), Lowndes (KD5FUO), Newton (WB5GUD); Pearl River (KC5EAK), and Tishomingo (WX5N).

Net Reports: Session/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)

DRN5 62/MS 100% rep by W5XX, KA1ZIA, WB5ZED, W5MLO, and WA5FB (WB5ZED)

MSPN 31/2519/43 (K5NRK)

Magnolia Section Net 31/884/6 (AD5J)

MS TFC Net 31/124/0 (KB5W)

Jackson Co ARES 30/505/6 (KD5CQT)

MS Slow Net 20/26/0 (W3TWD)

Hattiesburg AEN 5/113/0 (N5MZ)

MS Baptist Hams Net 5/34/0 (WF5F)

MLEN 5/37/0 (K5NRK)

Alcorn County ARES 5/41/0 (WB5CON)

Metro Jackson ARES 4/41/0 (AB5WF)

Meridian AEN 4/37/0 (KD5GWM)

Itawamba County ARES 4/32/0 (KB5NMB)

Newton County ARES 4/30/0 (WB5GUD)

Magnolia DX Assc 4/72/0 (N5FG)

NE MS ARES 4/55/0 (W5LMW)

South MS YL Net 4/76/0 (KB5CSQ)

Tishomingo County ARES 4/124/9 (WX5N)

MS Coast ARA CARES 4/34/0 (KA2KMU)

Stone County ARES Net 3/87/0 (N5UDK)

Monroe County ARC 3/22/0 (AD5DO)

Lowndes County ARC 3/24/0 (AD5DO)

Jackson ARC EN 3/36/0 (AB5WF)

Pearl River ARES 3/24/1 (KC5EAK)

UMISS ARC 3/22/1 (W5MPC)

PSHR (minimum 70): WB5ZED 150, AB5WF 135, and KA1ZIA 114.

Traffic: WB5ZED 3736 (BPL), KA1ZIA 106, and W5XX 10.

Compilation of Net and Traffic statistics provided by KB5RCJ.