

Mississippi Section Report for December 2012

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

Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, AE5CY, WV5D, KF5EZT KI5F, AE5FE, AE5FK, KD5FUO, W4HOZ, KA5ICO, AD5IT, K5JAW, KB5JN, KF5JOO, W5JWW, KE5KTU, KD5KXJ, N5LJC, KG6LJN, K5LMB, KE5MIS, K5MOZ, WX5N, KB5NMB, K5NRK, N9OKV, NE5P, K5PJM, WV1Q, KA1RBA, K1REZ, N5SP, N5TBB, WB5TTM, K5TV, N5UDK, KD5VMV, KE5WJN, KE5WUN, N5XZF, KE5YES, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT, and KB0ZTX.

Santa Clause came to Itawamba County again this year. For the past six years the Northeast Mississippi Amateur Radio Association (NEMRA) has undertaken a community service Christmas Project. Planning began in late summer. This year they adopted a needy family and provided them with gifts, clothing, food, and anything else they needed for Christmas. As a result they had a nice writeup in the Itawamba County Times. Kudos to the NEMRA including WX5SE and XYL, KE5MAT, and KE5SSB, who did the work on gathering the gifts!

... and Santa Clause came to Gulfport, too. An unexpected Christmas Surprise Present awaited veteran DXer K5JB at the annual Magnolia DX Association/Great Southern DX Association Banquet (MDXA/GSDXA). K5JB had been at the Top of the DXCC Honor Roll, but due to illness, lacked several new countries that had come on the air during his period of illness. The last one was Swain's Island (NH8S). Through some long term planning, arrangements were made for K9NW (who gave Joe his 20M CW QSO from Swain's Island) to fly in for the Banquet with the Icom IC-7600 that the QSO was made with. To say the least, K5JB was overwhelmed when he was presented with his Top of the Honer Roll pin and the IC-7600! Thanks to MDXA/GSDXA, Icom, K9NW, and the ARRL for facilitating this Christmas Surprise Present. The complete story is documented in the January/February Issue of the DX Magazine in an article authored by K5JZ.

Hamfest Chairman K5RDA reports that 300 plus were in attendance at the Pearl River ARC Hamfest in Poplarville at the old National Guard Armory. The Yaesu 857D Grand Prize winner was KC5KQV. Roger thanks K5WNU, KF5POH, KE5WJL, N5DOT, KF5FRI and a bunch of XYLs and harmonics, who made it all happen.

Word out of the Delta was that the World was going to end on December 21 according the the Mayan Calendar, but nothing happened. EC K5JAW notes that the Delta ARES 'Doomsday Net' was activated in anticipation of the catastrophic event, but since there was no end of the world, the Net held a training session focusing on alternate power sources, food and water requirements for families, protection of important documents, and communications outside of the local area.

Mother Nature did not treat Mississippi well on Christmas Day. Storms swept across the state with MEMA reporting damage in nine counties, but thankfully no fatalities. Skywarn was up over much of the state with weather conditions and damage reports being passed to the Jackson, Mobile and Slidell NWS. Skywarn Co-Coordinator KE5PYM reports that Central Mississippi Skywarn was on the air from 6PM until after Midnight with KF5EZT, K5GCV, KE5JKD, AD5XR, W5PRL, KF5EZW pulling themselves away from presents and Christmas Dinner to man the HF/VHF Stations. Thanks folks! In

addition, DEC AG5Z reports that the Hattiesburg ARC Net was also activated as well as the Pearl River ARES Net (EC KE5WJN reporting) and the Jasper County ARES and South Central Skywarn Net (EC WV1Q reporting).

And in a detailed report from Stone County EC N5UDK, the ARES/SkyWarn group was activated on December 20 and 25. No damage was reported on December 20. However, on Dec. 25th. the National Weather Service Office (NWS) in Mobile asked the Stone County ARES/SkyWarn Group to activate for an unusual 'Moderate Risk' severe weather event. By noon on Christmas day, the Storms Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma issued a Tornado Watch for the area that included the highest of alerts of a 'PDS' Particularly Dangerous Situation. EC N5UDK doesn't recall there ever being issued a 'PDS' watch in the past for the area so this REALLY got ARES/Skywarn attention. The Stone County ARES/Skywarn routine activation includes manning the ARES station K5STO at the Stone County 911/EOC Center in Wiggins and to monitoring the 147.165 repeater in McHenry for local Skywarn traffic. ARES/Skywarn also monitors the 145.210 repeater in Poplarville as an early warning for any severe weather coming in from the West.

At about 3:10 PM, the NWS office in Slidell, LA issued a Tornado Warning for Pearl River County. While monitoring the 145.210 repeater in Poplarville, N5UDK begin hearing reports of structural damage in the McNeil community in central Pearl River County and knew the tornado was headed for Stone County. The NWS Mobile issued a Tornado Warning for Stone County. At this point, the Stone County ARES/Skywarn net was open to emergency traffic only. At about 3:45 PM, the Stone County 911 dispatch started receiving multiple call of structural damage caused by a Tornado in the northwestern part of the county. This information was relayed on the ARES/Skywarn Net and for anyone to report any damage. By 4:10 PM, the Tornado had exited Stone County into Forrest County. At the request of Net Control, KF5AGC, N5YAB, and K5CBS went mobile to help with damage reports. While KF5AGC and N5YAB issued a 'No Damage' report for the Bond community, K5CBS reported trees and power lines down along with some structural damage in the northwestern part of the county. K5CBS is also a volunteer fireman and assisted in initial search and rescue of tornado victims.

The official Tornado damage report for Stone County was seven homes destroyed, five homes with major damage, and seven homes with minor damage. No deaths or injuries were reported. The Tornado was rated at a strong EF-2. The tornado segment in Stone County was part of a 61 mile long track from central Pearl River County to western Greene County.

Sixty plus Hams enjoyed an On-the-Air New Years Eve Party on 3862 beginning at 11 PM on December 31. NCS W5MLO passed out Cajun Humor and W5XX summarized the year's Mississippi Section activities which turned out to be much more information than could be fit into an hour's net session. These topics covered major events, EMCOMM activities, public service, awards, statistics on new hams and upgrades in Mississippi, and silent keys. A complete copy of the W5XX Summary is available from w5xx@vicksburg.com.

The next upcoming event on the Mississippi Ham Calendar is the Capital City Hamfest on January 25-26 at the Trade Mart in Jackson. Our guest from ARRL Headquarters will be Mike Corey, K1IU, who is the ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager and formerly W5MPC from Oxford. Mike was just graduating from Ole Miss when he got the job at Headquarters. An additional Trade Mart Bay will be open again this year to ensure that enough Flea Market tables are available. The festivities will start at 5 PM on Friday Night when the Flea Market opens. Also on Friday Night the 599 DX Association will conduct the 'DX College.' VE Exams will start at 8 AM on Saturday followed by the ARRL Forum at 10 and an EMCOMM Presentation by K1IU at 11. In the afternoon there will be MARS, Flex SDR,

Winlink, and Club Leadership forums. QSL Card checking for DXCC/VUCC/WAS will be available. The Hamfest will conclude with the main prize drawings. Wi-Fi will be available in the Trade Mart. For more information see hamfest@msham.org. See you there!

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in December: KF5SYJ, Yolanda – Picayune; KF5SZU, John – Diamondhead; KF5TAV, Dorothy – Horn Lake; KF5TAW, Michael – Lamar; KF5TCW, Donald – Pascagoula; KF5TEK, Vincent – Brandon; KF5TEL, Donald – Jackson; KF5TEM, David – Clinton; KF5TEN, Eric – Clinton; KF5TEO, Delois – Jackson; KF5TEP, Wallace – Jackson; KF5TEQ, Michael – Jackson; and KF5TWE, Randall – Picayune.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in December: AE5H – New Albany; KD5ALE – Hernando; KE7BUD – Picayune; K5DBM – Carriere; KF5ELL – Ocean Springs; K5JCL – Liberty; K5LCH – Pontotoc; N5MCI – Jackson; KD5NYV – Terry; KX5M – Waveland; KC5MNM – Lumberton; KF5PLO – Pelahatchie; KF5RGR – Tupelo; KF5SEE – Ridgeland; KF5SQF – Bay Saint Louis; KF5TEK – Brandon; and N9TXS – Fulton. The Mississippi ARRL Membership is now 1,136. Up five from last month, and another new record. Thanks for your membership recruitment efforts!

And last but not least welcome to KE5OVX and KF5RYK as new Assistant ECs in Jones County.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KF5JTK – Diamondhead; KF5MPN – Biloxi; KF5MYP – Hernando; KF5PJU – Perkinston; KF5POF – Picayune; N9RQX – Perkinston; and KF5TAU – Hattiesburg.

Also congratulations to EC K5JAW, who completed the ARRL Level 1 EMCOMM Course, to K2FF, who had an article on CW Sweepstakes published in the current DX Magazine, and to N5VEI on the great write ups in the Clarion Ledger and the Madison County Herald on the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) classes he teaches at Olde Town Middle School in Ridgeland.

And lastly congratulations to the new officers of the Jackson County ARA: K5KDO – President; AF5AQ – VP; N9RQX – Secretary; and AE5JG – Treasurer, and the Lowndes County ARC: KF5EVR – President; KE5LUP, VP; KF5KEQ, Secretary; and AD5DO, Treasurer.

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Lowndes County ARC (AD5DO), Mississippi Coast ARA (KB9ZR), and the Northeast Mississippi ARA (KE5SSB).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), KF5EZT (Rankin), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), K5JAW (Delta), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), WV1Q (Jasper), N5UDK (Stone), KE5WJN (Pearl River), and AG5Z (SE MS).

Regret to report the passing of KE5K of Vicksburg. Ed had just reached the top of the DXCC Honor after contacting 7O6T during the Yemen operation last Spring. He was a past President of the Vicksburg ARC. Also regret to report the passing of W5DYC of Magee. C.D. was the Emergency Coordinator for Simpson and Smith Counties and a decorated Vietnam Veteran.

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/1130/8 (K5DSG)
MS Baptist Hams Net 4/17/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 32/2507/34 (K5NRK)
MS Slow Net 20/46/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County ARES Net 3/28/0 (WX5N)
Capital Area Em Net 5/70/2 (K5XU)
Central Mississippi Skywarn 1/45/2 (KE5PYM) One Skywarn Activation
Delta ARES Net 6/35/0 (K5JAW)
Grenada/Yalobusha ARES Net 4/22/0 (KE5MIS) One Skywarn Activation.
Itawamba County ARES 4/64/3 (KB5NMB)
Jackson ARC Em Net 4/29/0 (N5DU)
Magnolia DX Assn 3/48/0 (K5OAZ)
Meridian Area EN 4/44/0 (AE5FE)
Metro Jackson ARES Net 5/35/0 (K5GCY)
Miss/Lou Em Net 5/41/0 (K5NRK)
NE MS Skywarn 4/39/0 (W5LMW)
Olive Branch Tech and Info Net 13/124/0 (KD5CKP)
Panola County ARES 2/14/0 (KC5DPJ)
Pearl River County ARES 4/48/0 (KE5WJN)
Pearl River ARC Net 4/92/0 (K5RDA)
Rankin County ARES 4/53/0 (KF5EZT)
Scott County ARES Net X/XX/X (W5JMJ/K1REZ)
South MS YL Net 3/15/0 (K5IJ)
South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES 4/33/0 (WV1Q) One Skywarn Activation (QNI 20)
Stateline Skywarn Net 4/56/0 (KB5NMB)
Stone County ARES 5/54/0 (N5UDK) Two Skywarn Activations (QNI 18)
Tishomingo ARC Net 4/63/0 (WX5N)
UMARC Net 5/41/0 (K5LMB)

Public Service Honor Roll: W5XX 75

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.