

## Mississippi Section Report for February 2006

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Good News from Jackson! SGL AB5WF reports that HB 736 unanimously passed the Senate on March 1 and is headed for Governor Barbour's Desk. After considerable maneuvering and anxiety, the three-sentence version got through! Assuming that Governor Barbour signs the bill, this will be the culmination of a six-year effort. Thanks to AB5WF, KB5KKI, AK5J, and W5XX for hanging in there in spite of multiple adversities and to the many hams around the State who contacted their legislators in person, sent emails and letters, and made phone calls to rally support for the bill. And special thanks to Senator Tom King (Hattiesburg) and AB5WF, who really put their shoulders to the wheel in the last minute push.

In spite of a solar flare on Friday and torrential rain on Saturday, the Third Annual Mississippi QSO Party was a resounding success according to comments received from out of state. Because of the flare 20 was really spotty, at best, but 40 was great. It sounded like 20 should be all day long. The rain was especially tough on the mobiles, who were activating rare counties. Thanks to W5WMU, W5PFR, KK4TA, WB5BNV, KK5K, and W5XX, who braved the elements on the road and portable operations by the MDXA (W4HOZ, KD5RHB and W5VK). Seems like the QSO Party gets better every year. More info next month's section report after the logs have come in.

By coincidence, the CUSEC (Central US Earthquake Consortium) Exercise was conducted on the same day as the QSO Party. The objective of this exercise is for state EOC's in earthquake prone states to check communications circuits among themselves. AB5WF represented Mississippi operating from MEMA.

The Mississippi Section is now a party to a disaster response Memorandum of Understanding with Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee (the ARRL Delta Division). The purpose of this MOU is to pool communications resources in the event of a wide area weather event such as an ice storm, hurricane, outbreak of tornadoes, etc. The MOU with Louisiana and South Texas remains in effect.

Congratulations to WA5TMC on being appointed to the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee. The goal of this Committee is to develop a comprehensive national/regional emergency plan such that more effective response to events such as Katrina can be more systematically dealt with.

Repeater Trustee KB5W reports that the Jackson County ARA Repeater Antenna that was destroyed by Katrina has been replaced, and W5WA is back on the air. The original antenna was mounted on the Jackson County EMA communications tower. Insurance considerations required that licensed/bonded personnel climb the tower to put up the new antenna which represented a major expenditure. Fortunately, due to the efforts of K1MMH at ARRL Headquarters, grant money was secured to fund the replacement antenna and tower crew. Thanks, Mary!

Mississippi Baptist Hams Fellowship President KB5JN reports that the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Communications Team is reorganizing. Two complete "jump kits" for portable operations have already been assembled. Plans are to outfit a communications trailer and to

offer a Technician Class in April at the Central Hills Baptist Assembly in conjunction with scheduled Church and Association Disaster Relief Training.

DEC/EC WA5TMC reports that Congressman Roger Wicker sat in on an emergency preparedness meeting at the Tippah EOC. Congressman Wicker was not only briefed on ham radio communications capabilities, but also heard high praise by the MEMA representative attending the meeting regarding our Katrina response. Congressman Wicker has been invited to Field Day.

Jackson ARC VEC Coordinator reports that the VE Team (AC5SU, AB5WF, KD5FUY) served 20 candidates at the VE Test Session conducted during the Jackson hamfest. The result was 7 new technicians, three upgrades to general, and two upgrades to extra. Ben says that all written elements were graded in one hour – a new record time.

The FCC held its second Independent Panel Meeting reviewing the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communications networks at the E-Center in Jackson on March 6-7. The Panel will also review the sufficiency and effectiveness of the recovery efforts with respect to the communications infrastructure. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, Rep. Chip Pickering, and newly appointed FCC Commissioner Deborah Tate were in attendance for part of the meeting. The Panel will complete its work by mid June and report back to Chairman Martin. During the course of the discussion Ham Radio got many positive comments regarding our response to Katrina. Attending from out of state were Delta Division Director WD4Q and Alabama SM W4OZK. The hometown folks were AB5WF, N6OHR, K5GVR, and W5XX. W4OZK gave a presentation on ham radio operations from the Red Cross Staging Area in Montgomery.

Welcome to N5TBB as Public Information Coordinator for the Mississippi Section.

Lastly, Jackson Hamfest Chairman W5LEW reports that he inadvertently left off AC5SU and KD5FUY on the list of JARC Members (published last month in this Section Report), who put in long hours at the Hamfest. Sorry about that!

Regret to report the passing of K5IUG of Jackson, N5AXV of Natchez, and WY5X of Philadelphia. In addition, regret to report the passing of N1KB, Regulatory Specialist at ARRL Headquarters. John was a real friend to Mississippi and helped with many questions related to the interpretation of FCC Rules and Regulations

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Jackson County ARA (KB5FHX), Tippah ARA (N5TBB), Vicksburg ARC (W5WAF), Olive Branch ARC (KB0ZTX).

OBS Report: W5KWB

OO Report: W4TUP, K5XQ

DEC/EC Report: WB5CON (Alcorn), KD5CQT (Jackson), KC5EAK (Pearl River), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clarke), W4HOZ (George), AC5SU (Metro Jackson), N5TBB (Benton), WA5TMC (Tippah), K5WSY (Tishomingo)

Net reports: sessions/QNI/QTC

MS Section Phone Net 28/2597/57 (K5NRK)

MS Section Traffic Net 28/107/6 (KB5W)

Magnolia Section Net 28/1229/4 (AD5J)

Jackson County EN 28/267/5 (KD5CQT)

MS Section Slow Net 18/99/2 (W3TWD)

Jackson ARC EN 4/44/0 (AB5WF)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/39/0 (WF5F)

MS/LA EM Net 4/33/0 (K5NRK)

Itawamba Co ARES Net 4/50/0 (N5FP)

St. Tammany/Pearl River ARES 4/34/0 (KC5EAK)

Meridian Area EN 4/55/0 (KD5GWM)

Lowndes Co ARC 4/63/0 (KM5UH)

Hattiesburg AEN 4/41/0 (N5MZ)

Monroe ARC 4/54/0 (AD5DO)

NE MS ARES 4/58/0 (KD5RTF)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 3/59/0 (AC5SU)

PSHR: WB5ZED 150, N5FP 110, AC5SU 88, KD5FUY 79, AB5WF 78, W5XX 76.

Traffic: WB5ZED 2575 (BPL), N5FP 40, W5XX 6, KD5FUY 4, W5LEW 3, AB5WF 3.

Compilation of Net and Traffic Statistics provided by N5FP, Mississippi Section Traffic Manager