

Mississippi Section Report for February 2013

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Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, AE5CY, WV5D, KF5DJS, KI5F, AE5FE, AE5FK, KD5FUO, W4HOZ, KA5ICO, AD5IT, KB5JN, KF5JOO, W5JWW, KE5KTU, KD5KXJ, N5LJC, KG6LJN, K5LMB, N5LOK, KE5MIS, K5MOZ, WX5N, KB5NMB, K5NRK, N9OKV, NE5P, K5PJM, WV1Q, KA1RBA, K1REZ, N5SP, N5TBB, WB5TTM, K5TV, N5UDK, KD5VMV, KE5WJN, KE5WUN, N5XZF, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT, and KB0ZTX.

The tenth running of the Mississippi QSO Party is history. Participation was good both from in and outside of the State particularly from Europe. Thanks to mobiles NO5W, K4ZGB, W3DYA, W4OQG, WB4CHH, and ND9M, who put out a lot of rare counties. And to club portable operations from rare counties: W5OBM (Olive Branch ARC) in Benton County, W5GWD (Chickasaw ARA) in Tunica County, and W5NEM (Northeast Mississippi ARA) from Itawamba County. As of March 10, 106 logs have been received (110 last year). It looks like another record year. Remember all logs must be to W5XX by March 31.

On February 10 a line of severe storms pushed east across the state resulting in numerous severe thunderstorm watches and warnings, as well as tornado watches and warnings. The storm produced heavy rains, flash flooding, and tornadoes which left behind widespread damage, debris, and injuries. One tornado track measured approximately 75 miles long with touchdowns in Marion, Lamar, and Forrest counties, with Forrest County the most heavily impacted. DEC AG5Z reports that as the EF-4 tornado approached Hattiesburg informal emergency nets were started by AC5E and AG5Z on two local repeaters. The nets eventually merged on the 146.775 repeater. When the Net got a confirmed report of a tornado on the ground, the Net went into a more formal mode. Calls were made to Forrest and Lamar County EOCs to see if ARES support was needed. Since their communications were not disrupted, the Net was asked to stand by to be called if needed. Several stations sent damage reports, and those needing forwarding, were sent to Forrest County EOC. The following emergency traffic was handled: KF5AQN reported a gas leak near the CVS Pharmacy on Hwy 49. AG5Z forwarded the message to the Forrest County EOC by telephone. There were several other informal H&W and damage report messages handled as well. Stations participating included: AC5E, KF5AQN, KF5QIJ, KD5MWD, N1AFG, KF5BLP, N6OJN, N5CW, KD5AXK, N5TNT, AF5GE, N4FF, KE5JPE, KF5VLT, KB5OXD, KD5XG, NE5P, WZ5Y, KE5IUH, K5TLL, KE5RJP, KE5IKC, KC5OAW, N5UDK, KK4AOR, AE5QX, K5MIQ, KC2VUX, KE5QZ, K4NQR, K5JBA, K5JUM, KB5DCG, KK4NQR, KB5YBV, AF5II, and AG5Z.

During the same storm event Jasper County EC WV1Q reports that the South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES activated an Emergency Net session for adverse weather in the served counties WV5V and NE5L started taking checkins and emergency traffic during the storm, and a host of Storm Spotters and ARES members reported on this dangerous cell in the areas of Jones, Jasper, Wayne, Smith, Lamar, Forrest and Clarke Counties. Operators: KF5FAK, KC5PIA, N5KKG, KF5RQR, N5EKR, KD5UJJ and WV5D played key roles in listening for emergency traffic out of the affected areas. Partial phone and numerous power outages were reported as well as building damage.

Central Mississippi Skywarn Coordinator KE5PYM reports that the Central Mississippi SkyWarn net activated on February 10 at 10:30 AM and closed at 12:00 midnight for a total of 13.5 hrs of operation. The net had 40 checkins on VHF and passed 15 pieces of traffic. Thanks to the following that served tours of duty as NCS: KE5JKD, KF5QXU, KF5EZT, K5GCV AD5XR, AE5SK, and KE5PYM.

.... but there was no rest for ARES in Hattiesburg. The Red Cross requested assistance on February 21. Hams were asked to provide back-up communication between two active shelters and the Red Cross Headquarters building. NE5P, N5SP, AE5QX, and AG5Z met with Red Cross officials including KF5LNJ, N8JE, KF5OEK, and others to work out an activation plan. Hams were advised that there was no equipment on site and responders would need to bring their own rigs and antennas. Further, Hams provided a rig and coax for the Headquarters site which the licensed Red Cross personnel operated. NE5P activated the shelter in Purvis, and AE5QX activated the Hattiesburg shelter. N5SP stood by as relief operator if needed. The Red Cross secured the activation around 8:00 PM. Storm activity increased later that night, and Hams were called back in. AE5QX went back to the Hattiesburg shelter, and AG5Z went down to the shelter in Purvis. The stations were secured once the severe weather passed around 1:30 AM.

..... and is that the end of the action in Hattiesburg? Not so. The Red Cross again requested Ham Radio backup communications assistance on February 25. N4FF was dispatched to the Purvis shelter at 2:00 PM. AE5QX was dispatched to the Hattiesburg shelter at 2:45 PM. There was a delay in N4FF arriving in Purvis, so AG5Z went down and established communications with AE5QX and the Red Cross Headquarters until N4FF arrived. Both locations lacked on-site antennas, so each operator managed to configure an adequate antenna from items they brought with them. N8JE operated the Red Cross Headquarters Station that he had installed. N6OJN relieved N4FF at 7:00 PM. and operated that station until operations were secured at 9:00 PM.

As a result of the ARES effort, the American Red Cross South Mississippi Readiness and Response Manager, Susan Laney, send a letter of commendation to AG5Z recognizing the efforts of the ARES operation in Hattiesburg. Copies of the letter were sent to ARRL CEO K1ZZ, Delta Division Director K5UZ, and Mississippi SM W5XX. KUDOS to the Hams in Hattiesburg for their multiple responses!!!

EC KB5NMB reports an upsurge in APRS activity in the Itawamba County area. This activity is due in large part to a growing interest in weather. At last year's Huntsville Hamfest several of the Northeast Mississippi ARA (NEMARA) members attended a forum on APRS use during severe weather. Since then NEMARA members have begun to use APRS tracking of mobile spotters during Skywarn events. This allows the net control to be able to see where a spotter is located in relation to a storm, hopefully keeping them out of possible trouble. Several of the NEMARA members have added home stations to the local network with weather stations attached. These are N5MIS, KE5MAT, K5TV, and KE5BSB. Others in the group are talking about upgrading or putting stations back on the air that are off. APRS is a very useful tool with lots of possibilities. Check with Jeff for more info.

EC AE5FE reports that during two days in February WinMor connections were tested at various locations. As more EOC's begin to investigate the feasibility of alternative EMCOMM, WinMor appears to be the most practical option available for agencies that cannot afford a high dollar investment. The conducted tests can be called somewhat successful. Some stations initially had problems, but were eventually resolved. Further testing and experience will make a proven system available. The primary focus was on peer-to-peer communication. The reason for this is that if there were to be a total failure of the internet, mail could be potentially lost, since Winlink has no capabilities

of notifying users if mail was undeliverable. Stations participating were WB5AKR, WB5BNV, N5UDK, KF5DII, and KF5QLL. After initial problems, connects were reported to most stations.

Rick also reports that on February 20 and 21 Lauderdale-Clarke ARES conducted a "Ham Cram" training session for the John C. Stennis Memorial Hospital in DeKalb. Of the 7 participants 6 successfully earned their Technician License. The Meridian ARRL VE Team conducted the exam on site. ARES has been asked to schedule a "Now What?" class to assist and Elmer the new Techs in "netiquette" and proper operating procedures as well as conduct an NTS training class. A date has yet to be determined.

As part of the Vicksburg Campaign sesquicentennial activities, the Vicksburg ARC provided communications for the 'Run Through History' held at the Vicksburg National Military Park. Despite sub freezing temperatures at the beginning of the race, Chairman N5KWT thanks the following for turning out to support this event: N5JGK, WB5YKR, KC5VTN, W5WAF, KD5ZIP, W5XX, K5IMT, KD5RFT, KF5FND, and all the way from Jackson, K5GCY. Thanks for coming over, Gary!

KU4WW (the Fox) reports that the first Tishomingo County ARC Fox Hunt was held on February 16. Unfortunately, Jeff got lost going to the Fox's Den. Once the slightly delayed Foxhunt got under way, Jeff gave tips as to the den's location using a County Road map. Unfortunately, the roads and features such a bridges and railroad crossings were not as well marked on the roads as on the map. Jeff finally had to tell the Hunters where he was. This was really a lessons learned exercise. The next Tishomingo County ARC Foxhunt is on the planning board.

And if that was not enough action for the TCARC, on March 2 they charged up Woodall mountain pulling their EMCOMM Trailer for participation in the ARRL SSB DX Test. The day begin with snow and trying to start a fire with wet wood and charcoal lighter. Once things got rolling the DXing began. Many contacts were made in the Caribbean and South America. Although there was not a record contest score, good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all!

DEC WB5CON and KF5OHD report that Alcorn County ARES presented WB5DO and AF5BP with the ARRL Certificate of Merit Award. This was done in recognition of their efforts in tutoring candidate hams and organizing many test sessions.

Scott County EC K1REZ reports that Asst. EC KC5IID has made the necessary contacts and is in the process of drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding between the Scott County ARES Team and the Scott Regional Hospital in Morton.

And from below the AM Broadcast Band W5THT reports that WD2XSH/6 now has logged 11,000 hours of transmitting with no interference complaints. If you are contemplating operation on the new 630 Meter band, contact Pat.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in February: KF5TQG, Carolyn – Brookhaven; KF5TRK, Karl – Natchez; KF5TTT, Alvin – Jonestown; KF5TTU, Steven – Saltillo; KF5TVU, Leo – Wiggins; KF5TVV, Philip – Hattiesburg; KF5TWK, William – Olive Branch; KF5TWL, Chris – Olive Branch; KF5TZD, William – Laurel; KF5UBQ, Charles – Florence; KF5UBR, Linda – Bentonia; KF5UBS, Jessica - Florence; KF5UBR, Clay – Madison; KF5UBU, Rudy – Pearl; KF5UBV, Matthew – Meridian; KF5UBW, Brandi – Daleville; KF5UBX, Ricky – Union; KF5UBY, Robert – Philadelphia; KF5UBZ, William – Morton; KF5UCA, Michael – Union; and KF5UCN, Michael – Sarah.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in February: K5BUG – Cleveland; KF5DJS – Yazoo City; W5DXZ – Pearl; K5EYK – Ocean Springs; KF5JTK – Diamondhead; KF5MYP – Lake Cormorant; KD5NBH – Laurel; KF5NGY – New Albany; KF5OYT – Wiggins; KF5SDB – Olive Branch; KF5SEI – Benton; KF5SYF – Natchez; KF5TAV – Horn Lake; KF5TJK – Coffeeville; KF5TMM – Amory; KF5TPB – Mathiston; N5TQF – Madison; KF5TTT – Jonestown; KF5UBT – Madison; N5UGE – Poplarville; N4WPG – Union; and KB5ZDY – Gulfport. The Mississippi ARRL Membership is now 1,148, another new record up from 1,141 last month. Thanks to all who help to keep our membership growing!

Also welcome back to KU4WW as Asst. EC for Tishomingo County. KG6LJN has had to retire as EC for Greene County because of health considerations.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KE5EOW – Meridian; KF5SUM – Sardis; and KF5TQP – Florence.

Also congratulations to the Mississippi Coast ARA whose Special Service Club status has been renewed.

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Mississippi Coast ARA (KB9ZR), and the Northeast Mississippi ARA (KE5SSB).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), KF5EZT (Rankin), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), KE5KTU (Hinds/Copiah/Madison), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), WV1Q (Jasper), K1REZ (Scott), KE5WJN (Pearl River), and AG5Z (SE MS).

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

Magnolia Section Net 28/955/17 (K5DSG)
MS Baptist Hams Net 4/25/0 (WF5F)
MSPN 28/2530/34 (K5NRK)
MS Slow Net 20/46/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County ARES 4/47/0 (WX5N)
Capital Area Em Net 3/53/0 (K5XU)
Central Mississippi Skywarn Net 1/40/13 (KE5PYM) Storm Event of February 10.
Delta ARES Net 4/27/0(K5JAW)
Grenada/Yalobusha ARES Net 4/25/0 (AD5IT)
Itawamba County ARES 4/70/1 (KB5NMB)
Jackson ARC Em Net 4/43/0 (N5DU)
Jackson Co ARES Net 25/370/4 (K5MOZ)
Magnolia DX Assn 4/62/0 (K5OAZ)
Meridian Area EN 6/68/1 (AE5FE)
Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/49/3 (K5GCY)
Mississippi Coast ARA 4/64/0 (K5KMU)
Mississippi Coast ARA Tech Net 4/33/0 (K5KMU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/30/0 (K5NRK)
NE MS Skywarn 4/58/0 (W5LMW)
Olive Branch ARC Tech and Info Net 11/144/1 (KD5CKP)
Pearl River County ARES 4/63/0 (KE5WJN)
Pearl River ARC Net 4/80/0 (K5RDA)
Rankin County ARES 4/47/0 (KF5EZT)
Scott County ARES 5/60/0 (W5JMJ/K1REZ) One severe weather activation
South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES 4/53/0 (WV1Q) One severe weather activation
Southern MS YL Group 4/27/0 (KB5CSQ)
Stateline Skywarn Net 4/61/0 (KB5NMB)
Stone County ARES 4/65/0 (N5UDK)
Tishomingo ARC Net 4/56/0 (WX5N)
UMARC Net 4/35/0 (K5LMB)
Yazoo County ARES 4/20/0 (KF5DJS)

PSHR: W5XX 76

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.