

## Mississippi Section Report for July 2009

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So far we have dodged the hurricane bullet, but it's way to early to drain the gas out of the generator. Mississippi hams continue to prepare for a potential landfall by checking repeaters and links, testing home, mobile, and portable equipment, and making sure local ARES units know what they are supposed to do. As Lord Baden-Powell said ' Be Prepared.'

State RACES Officer AB5WF reports that improvements continue to be made at KM5EMA. Because of the severe computer generated noise in the MEMA Building, the 75 meter dipole had to be mounted on a push up pole some 500 ft from the building. Thanks to the efforts of AB5WF, W5XX, KB5YEE, N5DU, K5BLL, KE5LRR, KC5STC, and KE5WRB, and in spite of somewhat in climate weather, a 40 ft tower is now in place to support the HF antenna and 500 feet of new coax is also in place.

Lightening never strikes in the same place twice, so they say. However, DeSoto County EC KD5VMV reports that July 30, 2009 proved that tornadoes can indeed strike the same area twice. Just 6 weeks had passed since Olive Branch had been impacted by an EF2 tornado when a second EF2 struck doing major damage to the Southeastern portions of town. At 3:42 PM The National Weather Service issued Severe Thunderstorm Watch # 639 for most of the Mid-South area including DeSoto County. This watch was upgraded to a Tornado Watch at 4:10 PM. A Tornado Warning was issued for DeSoto County at 4:20 PM. This warning was based on Dopplar radar reports and was almost immediately confirmed by trained spotters as a funnel cloud. The funnel tracked northeast and touched down just outside Olive Branch in northeastern DeSoto County. The tornado continued to track northeast for 5.8 miles. Seven residences were destroyed, 15 received major damage, and an additional 113 suffered minor damage. Two businesses were also damaged with one receiving major damage. Those Skywarn Operators assisting with communications during this storm event were: KD5VYB (DeSoto RACES EOC), KE5EOR, W9IK (manned EOC), KB4MU, KB0ZTX, N5UOV (manned EOC), KE5MXV, W5GD, KD5VMV (manned EOC), W4FP, KD5CKP, KE5EOQ, KB5LIN, KE5NBC (reported wall cloud), KE5NBD (NCS), N5PYQ (reported tornado on ground with debris cloud), KE5BXL, KU4AS, K5OMC, W5LJD, KD5ALE, KA5WGF, KE5FUL, KC5YYW, W5SSR, and AJ4NR.

Of interest to primarily Mississippi Students, the Magnolia DX Association Board of Directors has announced that a \$500 scholarship will be available for the 2010 school year. Other scholarships available are the ARRL W5CH Mississippi Scholarship and the Breland Award sponsored by the Jackson ARC. Complete information on these three scholarships is available on the section web site at [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org) under the Scholarships Tab.

KB5JN reports that during the four weeks of July 2009, members of the Mississippi Baptist Hams Fellowship and the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Team conducted 24 Ham Radio promotion classes for some 320 boys (ages 7 to 15) at the Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko. Instructors included KB5JN, KA5FOL, WB5VYH, W5CSI, KE5JKD. The summer boys camp program includes hiking, swimming, canoeing, a rifle range, archery, a rope course, crafts, sports, Ham Radio, worship and campfire activities, giving the campers a well rounded week of activities for physical and spiritual development. The Ham Radio classes included basic information on how a radio works from the microphone through the radio and antenna to the RF signal and wavelength calculations. HF and VHF

phone contacts were used to demonstrate short and long distance wireless communication and to give the boys a feel for the fun of talking to other Hams. The boys were also very excited about sending their names to the instructors with a code oscillator. Several videos were used to help keep the boys attention showing news clips of Ham Radio being used in Field Day, Disaster Relief, and Ham Conventions. Several campers expressed genuine interest in becoming a Ham.

EC WX5N reports that on July 4 the Tishomingo County ARC took their Emcomm Trailer to the historic Jacinto Courthouse in Alcorn County where the second largest 'political speaking contest' in Mississippi is held. In addition to all of the hot air, there were arts and crafts, an antique car show, and food booths. TCARC sold slug burgers and hotdogs and showed the emergency communications capabilities of the trailer. Lots of folks took a look inside. Thanks to KE5LWY, KD5YP, KU4WW, KJ4ISD, and WX5N for conducting this operation. All proceeds went to buy more equipment for the trailer.

For your long range calendar, the 2009 ARRL Day in the Park will be held on Saturday, September 26 at Camp Shelby, MS. The event will start at 0800 and end around 1600. The Hattiesburg Amateur Radio Club and the Magnolia DX Association will be sponsoring the event. Besides the world class Military Museum, there will be displays of the latest Military communications equipment, as well as some of the latest Ham digital modes (MT63, Olivia, PSK 125, and HF Email via WinLink Airmail). Entry to the Post is thru the South Gate only, and you must have your driver's license, proof of insurance, and the pink registration slip for the vehicle (which will be given to you at the gate). More information to follow from Chairman KA5DON.

If you didn't participate in the 2009 Mississippi QSO party, but are interested in the outcome, NW5R has posted the results on the section web site at [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org).

Congratulations to KE5PYN, who placed third in the small bore pistol shooting competition held at the 2009 4-H National Shooting Sports Invitational at Grand Island, Nebraska. Thomas is the son of KE5KTP of Crystal Springs.

After retiring as Gulf Coast DEC, W4WLF has now retired as EC for Harrison County. Thanks for your many years of service, Tom! Tom has agreed to become Assistant SM for South Mississippi which potentially promises more headaches than being DEC/EC. Welcome to N9OKV as the new EC for Harrison County, while Tom will remain as RACES Officer for Harrison County and will man the EOC during storm events.

DEC/EC WB5CON reports that the all day Technician Class at the Alcorn County EOC on July 11 went well with 11 students in attendance. Dan, WB5DO, did a great job teaching. At the test session 19 took exams. 11 testing for Technician, 7 testing to upgrade to General, and 1 testing to upgrade to Extra. We ended the long day with 8 new Technicians, and 2 upgrades to General. Biggest group Alcorn county has ever seen!

Welcome to new Mississippi hams: KF5BYP, Galyn – McComb; KF5BYQ, Curtis – Brookhaven; KF5BYR, Craig – Brookhaven; KF5CAA, Tommy – Kiln; KF5CAB, Sam – Kiln; KF5CBZ, Casey – Rienzi; KF5CCA, Justin – Corinth; KF5CCB, John – Corinth; KF5CCC, Kaleb – Corinth; KF5CCH, Albert, Hattiesburg; KF5CCI, Charles – Meridian; KF5CCJ, Dale – Collinsville; KF5CCK, Fern – Collinsville; KF5CCL, Stacy – Meridian; KF5CCM, William - Meridian; KF5CFE, Michael – Pittsboro, KF5CFL, Angela – Waynesboro; KE5CFM, Scotty – Collins; KF5CFN, Richard – Laurel; KF5CFO, Carla – Ellisville; KF5CFP, Juanita – Laurel; KF5CFQ, Rose – Soso; KF5CFR, Latoria –

Laurel; KF5CFS, Jeanette – Laurel; KF5CFT, Rosie – Laurel; KF5CGC, Matthew – Ocean Springs; KF5CHD, Michael – Southaven; KF5CJJ, Stephen – Perkinston; KF5CKZ, Jennie – Oxford; KF5CLA, James – Oxford; KF5CLB, Jennifer – Olive Branch; and KF5CLC, Sonny – Olive Branch. 32 new Hams in Mississippi in April! Thanks to all of the instructors and VE Teams that keep new hams coming into the ranks!

Also welcome to new ARRL Members: K4AEF – Quitman; KF5BGL – Pascagoula; KD8BMA – Pearl; KE5CAO – Gautier; KF5CCI – Meridian; WT4E – Lamar; WB5JHC – Biloxi; KF4ON – Steens; KD5PNY – Olive Branch; WA5PSN – Greenville; KA5SKB – Louisville; KE5UD – Ocean Springs; W0WIG – Thaxton; WD5Y – Vicksburg; KE5YBU – Petal; KD5YCP – Houston; AB6Z – Picayune; and KE5ZOT – Ocean Springs. ARRL Membership in Mississippi is now 1,039. Keep working!

In addition, welcome to N5PYQ as Asst. EC for DeSoto County.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KF5AMF – Overt; KC5BBX – Union Church; KF5BHB – Olive Branch; KF5BNB – Saltillo; KF5BTK – Southaven; KE5JLD – Como; KE5LWX – Belmont; KE5UXD – Brandon; and KE5VFK – Tishomingo.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), KC5EAK (Pearl River), WB5GUD (Newton), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clarke), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), N5TBB (Tippah), and KD5VMV (DeSoto).

Club Newsletter/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Mississippi Coast ARA (W5JDH), Northeast Mississippi ARA (KB5NMB), and Pearl River ARC (N5WLW).

Regret to report the passing of W5CPO of Meridian. Ralph was a regular checkin to DRN5 and the MSPN. He was retired from the Navy and requested that his ashes be buried at sea.

Net reports: sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)

MSPN 31/2925/14 (K5NRK)

Magnolia Section Net 31/727/1 (K5DSG)

MTN/OZK 30/145/11 (K4VIZ)

Jackson Co ARES Net 31/636/9 (KE5MOZ)

MS Slow Net 23/51/0 (W3TWD)

SCMSRG Info Net 5/55/0 (AE5JG) (Southern Coast Medical Support Group)

Itawamba County ARES 5/63/3 (KB5NMB)

South MS YL Net 5/115/0 (Wow!) (KB5CSQ)

Meridian Area EN 5/35/0 (KD5GWM)

Tishomingo ARC 4/142/15 (Wow!) (WX5N)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/20/0 (WF5F)

Pearl River County ARES 4/68/0 (KC5EAK)

Magnolia DX Assn 4/77/0 (AE5JG)

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/20/0 (K5NRK)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/34/0 (KE5KTU)

Monroe ARC 4/36/0 (AD5DO)

Newton County ARES 4/24/0 (WB5GUD)

NE MS ARES 4/41/0 (W5LMW)

Jackson ARC Em Net 4/49/0 (N5DU)

Stone County ARES 4/62/0 (N5UDK)

Capital Area Em Net 4/56/0 (K5XU)

UM ARC Net 4/28/0 (K5LMB)

Lowndes County ARC 4/41/0 (AD5DO)

Booneville and Prentiss County 3/38/3 (WX5N)

MCARA 4/36/0 (KA2KMU)

Hattiesburg AEN X/XXX/X (K5MIQ)

PSHR: W5XX 106.

As a point of interest, WB5ZED, our long time traffic veteran, is now in the Covenant Assisted Living Facility in Picayune. Thanks to K1DW and W5PY, Leon now has 2 Meter capability in his room and shortly should have a 40 M dipole up. His son is installing a DSL line, so Leon should be back in business shortly. In addition, Leon's wife, who was in an assisted living facility at Diamonhead, is being moved into the same facility with Leon. Things are looking up!

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.

