

## Mississippi Section Report for March 2006

SM: Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Mississippi Section Web Page at [arrlmiss.org](http://arrlmiss.org). Web Master W5KWB at [w5kwb@arrl.net](mailto:w5kwb@arrl.net). STM: N5FP. NM: WB5ZED, K5NRK, KB5W, AD5J, W5NCK, W3TWD, KA2KMU, K5ASL, and KM5UH.

The big news this month is that Governor Barbour signed HB736 on March 13. HB736 is now a law! This culminates a six-year effort. One version of the proposed Mississippi PRB-1 Legislation passed the Senate in 2004, but died in a House Committee. In 2005 the bill passed the House, but died in a Senate Committee. Unfortunately, two half passes don't make a whole law. With the impact of ham radio operations during Katrina fresh on the legislator's minds and remembering the massive 2005 email and phone campaign in support of the legislation, HB786 ultimately wound its way to the Governor's desk making Mississippi the 22<sup>nd</sup> state to have PRB-1 Legislation on the books. SGL AB5WF has arranged for a ceremonial signing with the Governor.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Team focuses on feeding, chain saw clearing, counseling, and childcare. The focus is being expanded to include mudout (cleaning out structures) and communications (ham radio). The first Technician Class was taught by W5XX at Central Hills Baptist Assembly on April 1 with 19 students in attendance. The students will undertake a five-week period of self-study and local 'elmering' and then meet again on May 6 to review and take the Technician Exam. A second group will meet on April 29 and take the exam on May 6 (if they are ready) or at the Test Session given by the Jackson ARC in early June.

Effective October 1, 2006 several states are now requiring that emergency responders working in state and/or county EOCs as well as field operations complete selected FEMA Emergency Management Institute courses. These courses are the Incident Command System (IS-100/IS-200), the National Incident Management System (IS-700), and the National Response Plan (IS-800). IS-100 and IS-700 are required for workers and, in addition, IS-200 and IS-800 for supervisors (EC/DEC).

MEMA now only recommends that these courses be taken, but this could change in a second because course requirements are tied in to the Federal funding that an agency receives. The four courses are available on line at no cost at [www.training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/](http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/). Click on 'Our Courses.' Each course takes about two hours to complete including taking and submitting the exam. If emergency responders have not taken the appropriate courses they could be restricted at some point in the future from participating in MEMA/local EMA operations. Be Prepared!

Severe storms raced across North Mississippi on April 7th just before this monthly report was prepared. KD5VMV, DeSoto County EMA Deputy Director, reports that the EOC's HF antenna was damaged but was repaired between storms by Marshall County EC KB0ZTX. DeSoto County RACES/Marshall County ARES Members followed the storms as they became tornadic and were able to provide several visual confirmations of wall clouds and rotation to the NWS. Those participating in the severe weather response were KB0ZTX, KE5EOQ, KE5EOS, KE5EOR, KE5BXL, KD5VMV, KD5OZT, KD5CKP, W5KK, W5LJD, W5REB, N5PYQ, KA5WGF, KE5GVO, KM5WX, KE5AKT, KE5GZD, KE5GZE, N5UOV, KD5ARO, and KC6WXA.

N5MZ reports that the Hattiesburg ARC provided safety and logistical communications support for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica. KD5XG set up at the event headquarters while other HARC members were deployed along the walk route including W4KGJ, N6OJN, W5TMM, N5MZ, W5NA, KD5AXK, KC5TYL, and WZ5Y. Also in the area of public event assistance, the Vicksburg ARC provided communications for the "Run Through History" at the Vicksburg National Military Park. Club VP K5NRK reports that those participating were KD5WCR, KD5WCN, KD5WCO, KD5ZIP, KD5BRH, K5VXV, N5JGK, KC5DHR, W5WAF, N5KWT, KQ5CQX, and N5EZX.

EC AC5SU reports that the Metro Jackson ARES conducted a digital drill with simplex APRS, FM-PSK-31, and SSTV. Participants included AC5SU, AB5WF, K5BLL, and several non-ARES

Members. The drill focused on methods of radio-computer interface, operations, and trouble shooting.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April the Hattiesburg ARC will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Junk in the Trunk Sale at the Longleaf Trail "head of trail" Parking Lot on the north side of the USM Campus (VE Test to follow at 1 PM). Contact AC5E at [ac5e@comcast.com](mailto:ac5e@comcast.com) for more info.

Congratulations to W4TUP who has been confirmed by the Senate Public Utilities Committee to serve on the Governor's Commercial Radio Commission. Among the major tasks that the Commission will address is a statewide emergency trunking network for disaster communications.

Also congratulations to KB5MPW of WQRZ Radio who will receive the Small Business Administration Phoenix Award on April 13 in Washington for his outstanding contributions to disaster recovery by a volunteer. As Hurricane Katrina approached the Mississippi Coast, Brice loaded his van with transmitters and extra antennas and relocated WQRZ radio to the county's emergency operations center. As the storm surge waters reached the building's second level, Brice braved the elements and rigged his car batteries to power the station's broadcasting of search and rescue information. WQRZ was one of only four Gulf Coast radio stations that stayed on the air in the early days after Katrina struck. Since 1998, the SBA has presented the Phoenix Awards to business owners and individuals who displayed courage, resourcefulness and tenacity in the aftermath of a disaster, while contributing to the rebuilding of their communities.

In addition, congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KB5FRH, KD5NDQ, KB5ADR, KA5JNG, and N5VSB.

Welcome to new Mississippi Hams: KE5HIY, Angela – Brandon; KE5HIZ, Robert – Jackson; KE5HJA, Bobbie – Crystal Springs; KE5HJB, Andrew – Jackson; KE5HJC, Dewitt – Flora; KE5HJN, John – Tupelo; KE5HJP, Brian – Dumas; KE5HJQ, Christopher – Booneville; KE5HJR, Francis – Maben; KE5HJW, Allen – Brandon; and KE5HKV, Jonas – Wiggins.

Also welcome to WX5N as EC for Prentiss County. In addition, welcome to new ARRL Members N5HRM, KB5FLC, KE5HJO, W5TJ, W5BMD, KE5GWI, KE5GWK, KC5EE, KB5NLS, WA5YOU, WA5WYZ, N5MZX, K5BFN, N6OJN, KE5CAO, KE5HKV, N5PPR, KE5AIJ, and KE5AJF.

Regret to report the passing of W5EJA of Biloxi and AD5KP of Ripley.

Newsletter/Club Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Jackson ARC (K5XU), Jackson County ARA (KB5FHX), Tippah ARC (N5TBB), Vicksburg ARC (W5WAF).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (Alcorn), KD5CQT (Jackson), KC5EAK (Pearl River), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clarke), AC5SU (Metro Jackson), N5TBB (Benton), WA5TMC (North MS/Tippah), W4WLF (Gulf Coast/Harrison), K5WSY (Tishomingo)

PIO Report: N5TBB

OBS Report: W5KWB

OO Report: W4TUP

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

DRN5 62/MS 98% represented/240 (WB5ZED)

MSPN 31/3199/68 (K5NRK)

MS TFC Net 31/128/4 (KB5W)

Magnolia Section Net 31/1309/6 (AD5J)

Jackson Co ARES 31/343/5 (KD5CQT)

MS Slow Net 23/106/2 (W3TWD)

MLEN 4/28/0 (K5NRK)

Meridian Area EN 4/59/0 (KD5GWM)

JARC EN 4/45/0 (AB5WF)

Monroe Co ARC Net 4/55/0 (AD5DO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/31/0 (WF5F)

Hattiesburg AEN 4/36/0 (N5MZ)

St.Tammany/Pearl River ARES 4/24/2 (KC5EAK)

NE MS ARES 4/56/0 (KB5RTF)

Metro Jackson ARES 4/73/0 (AC5SU)

PSHR (minimum 70): WB5ZED 150, AB5WF 120, KD5FUY 119, W5XX 112, N5FP 110, AC5SU 110

Traffic: WB5ZED 2081 (BPL), N5FP 40, AB5WF 5, W5XX 3

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