

## Mississippi Section Report for March 2011

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Congratulations to the Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) Robotics, Radio, and Technology Club and their sponsors Bill Richardson, N5VEI, and Bobby Robinson, who successfully facilitated construction, launch, and recovery of the Titan-1 near space balloon with a HF/VHF radio telemetry package aboard plus a camera and science payload. Titan-1 was launched from the Madison County Career and Technical Center at Gluckstadt and traveled to a height of over 92,000 feet before bursting over Union, Mississippi. Titan-1 landed 5 miles northwest of Livingston, Alabama on a farm in a grove of cedar trees some 109 miles from the launch site. After hiking into the woods KF5COJ spotted the payload some 30 to 40 feet up in the tree canopy. AE5SK and N4XWC retrieved the payload.

All-in-all the balloon launch was a tremendous success. The radio equipment and camera were recovered with no damage as well as the science payload. Some 776 pictures were made and the farthest telemetry report was received from Washington State. The students are busy analyzing the science data, and N5VEI is analyzing the APRS data. Special QSL cards have been ordered from the printers for all that helped and copied the telemetry or voice messages. An article on the balloon flight was published in the Madison County Journal as well as an article is now being prepared for QST.

OTMS Sponsors Bill Richardson, N5VEI, and Bobby Robinson, wish to thank a number of organizations and individuals who assisted in this successful effort including Mississippi State University – Bagley School of Engineering, Cellular South, Omega Tech, Doppler DF Instruments, the ARRL, and the Jackson ARC as well as the Ham Radio Community including a team from Amateur Logic TV, and K5BLL, K5CID, KF5COJ, WS7EOC, K5GKY, KM5GE, K5IMT, W5JMJ, KF5JSY, K5LEM, KC5LK, K1REZ, K5RWB, AE5SK, K5XU, N4XWC, and NC5Y plus many more.

For the past seven years NW5R has served as webmaster for the Section Web Site. Kenny retired from this position in mid-March. W5UE is now the webmaster. Many thanks to Kenny for his many years of effort and thanks to Randy for taking on the job of Web Master!

The logs for the 2011 Mississippi QSO Party are in. A quick inspection for the 86 logs received indicates that activity increases every year. The top 10 claimed scores in Mississippi are AG5Z, W5NA, K5DWI, W4HOZ, NA5DX, WQ5L, W5UE, AE5QX, AE5BR, and K2FF. The top mobiles were W4SIG, W3DYA, K4ZGB, and K5WBM. Of particular note AG5Z made over 1,000 QSOs, W4SIG/M made 98 QSOs during his hour plus travel across Washington County, and W3DYA operated from 19 separate counties. The lone portable operation was by the Chickasaw ARA operating as W5GWD from very rare Tunica County. Many thanks to the mobiles and portable who collectively made 2,245 QSOs from 71 of the 82 Mississippi Counties. Good Job!! In the out of state category the top five were K0DEQ (MO), N6MU (CA), WB8WKQ (MI), K4YT (VA), and WA4ERU (LA). Remember these are all claimed scores. There is a lot of log checking to be done. Thanks to all who participated!

Mississippi has had two severe storm events so far this Spring. During the first part of the month a storm system moved across Southern Mississippi. EC WV1Q reports severe flooding in Jasper County which required activation of County Emergency Operations. ARES provided flood details and assisted with road closures throughout the county. On the Coast Harrison County EC N9OKV reports Skywarn

was activated and provided 14 reports including one tornado. Those reporting included W6CSA, KE5VMV, AE5RI, AE5TR, KB9ZR, N5YCN, KE5WMH, KA5VFU/M, KB5CSQ, W5EG, and KF5BA.

On April 4 a very strong squall line moved across the entire state. State RACES Officer AB5WF indicates that MEMA reported damage in 20 counties. Skywarn was activated over most of the state. In North Mississippi DeSoto County EC KD5VMV indicates numerous reports were passed to the EMA provided by KI4QAQ, KI5BTI, KE5EOR, KE4OSA, KA5JNK, KE5NBD, KE5OPL, N5UOV, WT4N, W5LJD, W5GD, N5YW, KE5MXV, and KD5SPP.

From below the AM Broadcast band WD2XSH/6 (W5THT) now has 8300 transmitting hours beaoning and QSOs in the ARRL-Sponsored 600 meter experiment with no interference complaints. Pat invites anyone with a tower or pair of towers to drag another wire and insulator up the tower(s) to listen on 600 meters. A Marconi "T" or a wire loop antenna does not need to be resonant for you to listen on your full-coverage receiver. Yes, Pat knows that lightning happens, and the antenna may be grounded most of the summer, but even just one more report a month may make the difference between getting a new ham band and being rejected. The WARC 2012 is starting soon, and we need signal reports sent to the [www.500kc.com](http://www.500kc.com) web site. Both CW and various digital signals are on the air every night. Contact [w5tht@arrl.net](mailto:w5tht@arrl.net) for more info.

Welcome to the following new hams in Mississippi in March: KF5KAI, James – Picayune; KF5KDF, Samuel – Mississippi State; KF5KDH, James – Diamondhead; KF5KDJ, Elizabeth – Moss Point; KF5KDK, Brenda – Gulfport; KF5KDL, Anna – Long Beach; KF5KDM, Judith – Pascagoula; KF5KDN, Michael – Gulfport; KF5KDO, Boyd – Glen; KF5KEB, Derryl – Madison; KF5KEC, Michael – Pearl; KF5KEQ, Christine – Columbus; KF5KJF, Clarence – Gulfport; KF5KJG, Jarrod – Picayune; and KF5KJH, Nicholas – Gulfport. Thanks to all of the instructors and VE Teams that continue to bring new Hams into the Amateur Service.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members: KF5BPW – Saltillo; KF5CXG – Gulfport; KE5ELT – Biloxi; KE5EOQ – Hernando; KF5IAY – Greenwood; K5JNE – Abbeville; KF5JOO – Starkville; KF5JSW – Clinton; K5MAD – Madison; KE5MDC – McCool; KD5NYV – Terry; N5SRT – Sumrall; N5TAY – Olive Branch; N5TF – Gulfport; N7TMP – Lauderdale; KD5UBE – Jackson; KC4UYI – Madison; and N5ZMU – Pass Christian. ARRL Membership in Mississippi is now 1,086 which is two less than our record of 1,088 in January. We may actually make 1,100. Keep working! Thanks to everyone for their continuing efforts.

And last but not least welcome to W5UE as Technical Specialist, W5JWW at EC for Tallahatchie County, K4FMH as EC for Oktibbeha County, and WB5TTM as EC for Union County..

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KF5CXN – Gulfport; KF5EYM – Diamondhead; KF5JKG – McNeill; KF5JOO – Starkville; KF5KDG – Gautier; N5PYH – Enterprise; and KE5WBC – Gulfport.

And last but not least, congratulations are in order for the Mississippi Coast ARA which has been approved by the ARRL Board of Directors as a Special Service Club and in addition got some good PR for Ham Radio through a nice article on the WLOX Web Page under 'My Community' entitled 'Ham Teaches Radio to the Mississippi Coast.' Thanks to KB9ZR for passing this info along.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), KE5KTU

(Hinds), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), N9OKV (Harrison), WV1Q (Jasper), KD5VMV (DeSoto), KE5WJN (Pearl River), and KB0ZTX (NW MS/Marshall).

Club Newsletter/Reports: Chickasaw ARA (KE5RHM), Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Mississippi Coast ARA (KB9ZR), Northeast Mississippi ARA (KE5SSB), and the Pearl River ARC (N5WLW).

Public Service Activity report: WV1Q

Regret to report the passing of KE4LK, Bill, of Arkabutla and KB5CQR, Jim, of Baldwin. Both were regular checkins on the MSPN, and Jim will be remembered for his distinguished military career.

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/1091/36 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/22/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 30/2867/45 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 23/29/0 (W3TWD)

MTN/OZK 31/132/27 (AA5J)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County 5/71/2 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 4/71/0 (K5XU)

Delta ARES Simplex Net 4/16/0 (K5JAW)

Grenada/Yalobusha Counties ARES 4/36/0 (AD5IT/ KE5MIS). Three Skywarn Activations.

Hattiesburg AEN 4/91/3 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES 5/89/2 (KB5NMB)

Jackson ARC Em Net 1/11/0 (N5DU)

Jackson Metro ARES Net 4/66/4 (K5GCY)

Jasper County ARES Group Net 4/21/0 (WV1Q)

Magnolia DX Assn 5/64/0 (K5OAZ)

Meridian Area EN 5/41/1 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/64/4 (K5GCY)

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

NE MS Skywarn X/XX/X (W5LMW)

Panola County ARES 5/45/0 (KC5DPJ)

Pearl River ARES 4/30/0 (KE5WJN)

SCMSG Info Net 5/51/0 (AE5JG) (Southern Coast Medical Support Group)

Scott County ARES 4/49/8 (K1REZ)

Southern MS Friendship Net 23/214/0 (WB5OHN)

Southern MS YL Net 5/68/0 (K5IJ)

Stone County ARES 4/78/0 (N5UDK) (one Skywarn activation with 15 QNI)

Tishomingo ARC 5/161/5 (WX5N)

University of Mississippi ARC Net 4/50/0 (K5LMB)

PSHR: W5XX 70

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.