

## Mississippi Section Report for May 2010

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District Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, KD5FUO, KE5KTU, K5XXV, AG5Z, N5ZNT and KB0ZTX.

Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, WV5D, AD5DO, W5DYC, KI5F, AE5FE, AE5FK, KD5FUO, K5FV, WB5GUD, W4HOZ, WB5HQB, AD5IT, KB5JN, KE5KTU, KD5KXJ, N5LJC, W5LMW, KE5MIS, K5MOZ, W5MPC, WX5N, K5NRK, KB5NMB, N9OKV, NE5P, N5SP, N5TBB, K5TV, N5UDK, KD5VMV, K5WLP, KE5WJN, KE5WUN, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT, and KB0ZTX.

Clear your calendars for Field Day 2009 on June 26-27! Mississippi Hams will charge off into the boonies to wrestle with coax and guy wires, scratch their heads when rigs won't load, fight the heat and humidity, and swat mosquitoes. (However, don't forget Category F if you want to operate from a nice cool EOC, if you can't stand the heat and humidity). If all goes as planned W5XX will be on his annual Field Day Trip to visit as many sites as possible. He will, as usual, have in his trunk a box of 2010 repeater directories for new ARRL members and renewals.

Mississippi ARES/RACES got nice coverage in the May 19 ARRL E-Letter regarding the April 24 and May 1-2 storm events. Check out the article by going to the ARRL Web Site and typing E-Letter in the search engine, if you are not already a subscriber.

Reports of ARES activity during the first weekend in May continue to come in. DEC KB0ZTX reports that at 1:30 AM Saturday morning (May 1) the DeSoto County Emergency Net was activated until approximately 5 AM to take reports from stations in Northwest Mississippi. The Net was briefly shut down only to be reopened at around 7 AM. Shortly thereafter the EOC in DeSoto County was activated to serve as a central point for a coordinated response with RACES and ARES. The EOC was manned throughout the day with numerous warnings and severe flooding ongoing throughout the North Mississippi counties. There was a brief wall cloud sighting and tornado touchdown in the Hernando area. After shutting down again at midnight and closing the EOC, the Net was reactivated again shortly thereafter as another round of rapidly developing severe weather exploded. This included a killer tornado in Lafayette and Benton Counties. The tornadoes were later found to have tracked from near Abbeville to Walnut with a damage path of 3/4 mi wide at some points. Additional Hams went to Alcorn County to assist with flooding Sunday and early in the week. KB0ZTX says it was a long day with over 24 nearly continuous hours of warnings, flood rescues, siren activations, and report gathering. Ken notes that he is tremendously grateful for all the support from the following Hams: W9IK, KD5ALE, N5UOV, KE5GYQ, N5PYQ, KD5CKP, KE5EQC, KE5EQD, W5GD, N5YW, KE5MXY, K5JNK, KE5NBD, WA4PTD, and KE5EOR.

More bad weather moved into North Mississippi on May 16. Lafayette County EC K5LMB reports that he activated their SKYWARN Net from the Oxford Airport. Initially the problem was of pea to nickel size hail, but followed by heavy lightening and rain. This resulted in multiple reports of flooded roads and cars. Information was passed from NCS K5LMB to WB5VYH, who passed it to NWS Memphis. Those monitoring and collecting information during the net were WB5VYH, KS5U, K5MBI, KD5NDU, KB0ZTX, KC5KLW, AD5IT, KZ7H, K5DSG, KD5CKP, KE5AKT, KE5YCM, KE5WUN, and KE5TMY.

Over the Memorial Day Weekend th DeSoto County EMA RACES/ Reserve Group had planned to

assist Search and Rescue with communications for lake patrol activities. DEC/EC KB0ZTX reports that on Saturday morning plans changed as the Search and Rescue Group was called out to assist the Tunica County Sheriff's Office with locating a missing person at Tunica Lake. The Group started their support at the Command Post at 9 AM Saturday morning and wrapped up a bit before dark. They then deployed again on Sunday AM with the team; however, the search was concluded when the deceased person was located. The Group provided communications for the Command Post and documentation of the activities during the search. The operators completed the weekend's support by returning to the original lake patrol activities. The following RACES members supported the callout KE5NBD, N5UOV, KE5NBC, W9IK, and KB0ZTX.

N5UDK points out that NOAA has predicted that there is an 85% chance of having an above normal hurricane season in the North Atlantic, Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico. This would be a good time for all Mississippi hams to review the Mississippi Emergency Operations Plan which can be downloaded at [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org).

Lauderdale/Clark EC AE5FE reports that the Lauderdale Emergency Management Agency (LEMA) conducted their annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which was called Operation Gale Wind. This storm event simulated extreme weather conditions as a result of a Hurricane that made landfall and resulted in tornadoes in the Lauderdale County area. During the exercise two tornado warnings were issued which resulted in structural damage and injuries to Clarkedale School, Meridian High School, Northeast High School, and Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian. Additionally, simulated injuries were reported from Lockheed at the Industrial Complex. ARES communication in conjunction local EMA communications were used to give local hospitals advance notice of casualties inbound to their facilities. Confirmation of arrivals at Rush Hospital were relayed to Lauderdale EMA EOC. As a result of this exercise the Red Cross Key Chapter expressed an interest in partnering with ARES which is currently being negotiated in accordance with the MOU between ARRL and ARC National. The City of Meridian, the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office, and Anderson Hospital also expressed an interest in ARES capabilities and the speed and ease that we were able to transfer information.

EC N9OKV reports that a SET was also conducted in Harrison County on May 15. The SET began with ARES Members arriving at N9OKV's QTH. Members were then assigned to Teams and given deployment locations. Members then left for their designated locations. They were to use a box of parts given to them to assemble antennas for VHF, UHF and HF communications. When the Teams arrived at their locations they assembled antennas for communications. VHF and HF communications were established; however, UHF communications did not work out. Each team was able to deploy, install a station, and then formulate and send 4 NTS messages within a 3 hour window for this exercise. When the SET was completed, the Teams assembled back at N9OKV's QTH and a critique was held. The general feeling was this was a successful test of our abilities. Conclusions of the Critique were (a) more time was needed for the exercise; (b) NTS message handling training is needed; (c) antenna construction training is needed; and (d) Team Members need to spend more time reading instructions when given their assignments and to pay closer attention to verbal instructions. Good Exercise! This is really a unique way to conduct a SET. Lauderdale/Clark EC AE5FE reports that the Lauderdale Emergency Management Agency (LEMA) conducted their annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which was called Operation Gale Wind. This storm event simulated extreme weather conditions as a result of a Hurricane that made landfall and resulted in tornadoes in the Lauderdale County area. During the exercise two tornado warnings were issued which resulted in structural damage and injuries to Clarkedale School, Meridian High School, Northeast High School, and Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian. Additionally, simulated injuries were reported from Lockheed at the Industrial Complex.

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T.T.

On Memorial Day the Lowndes County ARC operated from Friendship Cemetery in Columbus to bring recognition to this site. This cemetery has been called "Where flowers healed a nation." On April 25, 1866 the ladies of Columbus decorated the graves of both Confederate and Union Soldiers, who had fallen at Shiloh. As a direct result of this kind gesture, Americans now have a day of honor and remembrance that has come to be known as Memorial Day. Inspired by the kindness of the ladies of Columbus, shortly thereafter Francis Grinch wrote the famous poem "The Blue and the Gray." Participating in this event were KM5MS, KD5HVF, KD5FUO, and KE5AQU. About 200 QSOs were made. There was plenty of media coverage with TV spots on WCBI and WTVA as well as articles in the Columbus Commercial Dispatch and the Columbus Packet.

On Saturday, May 22nd, the Jackson Amateur Radio Club provided communications support for the 2010 Magnolia Meltdown Race sponsored by St. Dominic Hospital. N5DU reports that the race is a 5k run/walk which begins at the Dominican Plaza on the St. Dominic campus, goes through the Fondren area of Jackson and finishes back at Dominican Plaza. The W5IQ repeater on 147.000 MHz, which is located on the medical office building on the St. Dominic campus, was used for the event. This repeater provides great coverage in the Metro Jackson Area and could be easily reached from any point along the race route with a handheld. The following sixteen amateurs participated in the event: K5CID, KE5ZBW, K5GCY, K1JHS, KA5TJW, N5DRR, K5LEM, KM5GE, AE5OC, KF5GGV, K5KKD, K5XU, NC5Y, K5BLL, K5RWB, and N5DU. The great turnout allowed us to have coverage at every critical turn along the route. JARC wishes to thank all those who participated and also wishes to thank W5IQ for the use of the repeater.

A pat on the back for W5MPC, formerly of Oxford and now of ARRL Headquarters. Mike coauthored with AH6WX a just published new ARRL Publication entitled 'Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio.' The publication was showcased at Dayton and copies can now be purchased through the ARRL on line bookstore.

Also for some more interesting Mississippi related reading, check out the Spring 2010 issue of CQ VHF starting on page 8. Some 18 miles below the Mississippi River Head of Passes along the outlet of the River know as the Southwest Pass lies EL58. This little island is the located at the end of nowhere. Last summer an adventuresome bunch of hams including WA4EWV, K5QE, KD5KDM, N5OMG and Mississippi hams K5YG, N5SIX, and WN2E activated this rare grid. Some of this group will operate as K5N from DL 88 and DL89 in the Big Bend National Park in Texas in late June and early July. See [http://www.kcvhfgridbandits.com/kc\\_vhf\\_grid\\_bandits\\_037.htm](http://www.kcvhfgridbandits.com/kc_vhf_grid_bandits_037.htm) for more info.

Class coordinator AE5JG reports that on June 5 an NTS Message Handling class was conducted at the Garden Park Medical Center in Gulfport with K5MOZ as the primary instructor. An NTS Power Point presentation was given and then all class participants practiced sending, relaying, and receiving messages. Class participation was tremendous. All attendees were provided with a hard copy of the NTS Power Point presentation and a supply of Message Handling Forms to take with them. Operators

receiving certificates of completion for the Message Handling Class were as follows: KF5CXH, K5RRT, KF5ELK, KF5CXG, KE5ZOQ, KE5QHZ, AE5GN, AE5PV, AE5PU, N9OKV, KF5CZF, KE5ZWD, K5KMU, AE5JG, N2PKW, W5DAW, AE5MI, and K5QJ. Good preparation for hurricane season!

Have you ever wondered how many licenses have been issued in your zip code or state? Take a look at <http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php>. According to this web site there are now 5,307 hams in Mississippi.

Normally at this place in the Monthly Section Report a listing of the new hams in Mississippi, the license upgrades, and new ARRL Members is provided. The ARRL is still under going a major software transition from the old web site to a new website. As a result this information is not available this month. We'll catch up when the information is available. I did find out that Mississippi ARRL Membership increased by one to 1,058 in April. Keep working!

Congratulations to KA5DON of Camp Shelby, who has been appointed as MARS State Interoperability Coordinator. Don's job is to maintain liaison with ARES/RACES and to make it known that MARS is a compliment to the ARES/RACES emergency communications capabilities. With the different frequencies and modes of operation allowed on MARS, but not on the Ham bands, this makes additional EMCOMM resources available.

Also congratulations are in order for Steve Mooney, K5STM, of Petal, who was awarded the 2010 Magnolia DX Association Scholarship, and to Tim Jones, of Starkville, who won the 2010 Mississippi Scholarship. Steve is a senior at Petal High School and serves as President of the Petal Amateur Wireless Society, participates in Skywarn, and enjoys rag chewing and VHF/UHF operations. He will attend Jones Junior College in Ellisville MS to study Computer Networking Technology with plans for a career as a Network Administrator. Tim is a student at MSU and is studying Computer Engineering to prepare him for a career as a robotics designer. Tim holds a Technician license and is a member of the Mississippi State University Amateur Radio Club (W5YD).

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Pearl River County ARC (N5WLW), Northeast Mississippi ARA (KB5NMB) and the Vicksburg ARC (W5WAF).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), K5LMB (Lafayette), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), N9OKV (Harrison), NE5P (Lamar), and KB0ZTX (NW MS/Marshall).

Regret to report the passing of KE5PXC of Wiggins and K4ZLC of Snow Lake Shores. Andy was the EC of Benton County. Also regret to note the passing of KD5FUY of Star. Mr. Jimmie was a retired Navy Veteran and in his retirement years was very active with the Boy Scouts. He was everybody's friend and always willing to lend a hand.

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/990/29 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/29/0 (WF5F)

MS Digital Traffic Net 8/15/4 (K5DMC)

MSPN 31/2771/55 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 21/37/0 (W3TWD)

MTN/OZK 31/146/16 (K4VIZ)

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

Alcorn ARES 2/23/0 (WB5CON)

Booneville and Prentiss County 4/43/3 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 5/107/0 (K5XU)

Hattiesburg AEN 5/139/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES 4/34/2 (KB5NMB)

Jackson ARC Em Net 4/30/0 (N5DU)

Jackson Co ARES Net 13/61/44 (K4GSG)

Lowndes County ARC 3/28/0 (AD5DO)

Magnolia DX Assn 4/72/0 (AE5JG)

Meridian Area EN 5/49/4 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 5/58/1 (N5DU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 5/32/1 (K5NRK)

NE MS ARES 5/62/0 (W5LMW)

Rankin County ARES X/XX/X (K5FV)

South MS YL Net 4/43/0 (KB5CSQ)

SCMSG Info Net 4/31/0 (AE5JG) (Southern Coast Medical Support Group)

Southern MS Friendship Net 22/199/0 (WB5OHN)

Stone County ARES 5/97/0 (KC5VCB)

Tishomingo ARC 5/128/19 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 5/50/0 (K5LMB)

West Coastal MS 2M Net 9/83/0 (K5DMC)

PSHR: W5XX 73

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.