

Mississippi Section Report for May 2011

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Clear your calendars for Field Day 2011 on June 25-26! 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 you don't know where there is a Field Day Site near you check the Field Day Locator on the ARRL Web Site. If your site is not on the Field Day Locator be sure to add it ASAP. Remember the Locator is intended to show public Field Day sites that members of the public and media can visit. If you're going to be operating a private home station, don't add it to the map.

If all goes as planned W5XX will be on his annual Field Day Expedition to visit as many sites as possible. He will, as usual, have in his trunk a box of 2011 Repeater Directories for new ARRL members and renewals. If you already have a Repeater Directory, he may be able to order you another free book that will come through the mail later.

For your long range calendar, on October 1 the Tishomingo ARC will host the ARRL Day in the Park at the Mineral Springs Park in Iuka along with their Annual Swapfest. In the event the humidity is still with us, tailgaters can set up inside the air conditioned building. POC is WX5N. More info to follow.

In spite of NLE-11 (FEMA Earthquake Exercise) being canceled because of the tornado outbreak on April 27 and flood warnings being issued by the Mississippi River Commission shortly thereafter, Tallahatchie and Lauderdale counties were able to conduct emergency communications exercises on May 16. W5JWW reports that the Tallahatchie County EOC was on the air passing traffic to MEMA and coordinating with local commercial and public service communications systems.

From Lauderdale County EC AE5FE reports that, at the request of the County EMA Director, ARES also conducted a communication exercise on May 16 within the County. In that the exercise was conducted during normal working hours Rick did manage to scrounge up 5 ARES members and were able to effectively communicate in and around Lauderdale County. 22 pieces of traffic were passed via digital means of Packet Radio, and 3 pieces were passed via Winlink. One Winlink response was received from MEMA. The other 2 messages were never acknowledged by the Mississippi Air National Guard at Key Field in Meridian. It was later discovered that the person in charge of planning never informed Operations that e-mail might be sent from WX5MEI@winlink.org and their filters blocked attempted communications. Rick notes that at the Lauderdale County EOC there is noise in the majority of the HF spectrum which continues to plague operations, in particular 75/80 M USB. Their work around used an off site a local Winlink capable station point to point that then relayed the messages out of the area since the receiving station did not experience the QRN/M at the EOC.

The 2011 Mississippi River Flood event is starting to pass as the gage at Vicksburg is below 50 feet down from its crest of 57 feet in mid-May and the clean up now begins. ARES was initially asked by the Red Cross to identify Ham Radio points of contact along Mississippi River who, in the event of a declared communications emergency, would attempt to set up communications between shelters and the Red Cross Headquarters at Clinton. As the 'slow motion' flood event progressed, it became clear that shelters would not be widely needed, and the Red Cross scaled down operations. Thanks to

KB0ZTX, K5JAW, K5NRK, KB5JN, and KE5KTU for making the effort to organize an effective ARES Response.

Mississippi was well represented this year at Dayton by AD5HM, K5MIQ, KC5RC, AC5UU, KB5VE, W5XX, NC5Y, WZ5Y, N5YAB, KB0ZTX, and K5FLU and the crew from MFJ. Although Dayton had had three straight weeks of rain every day, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday were 75 degree days with and blue skies. Every thing went smooth except for a sewage backup that kept folks moving from one end of Hara Arena to the other as the Honey Wagon Crew cleared the lines.

West Central Mississippi DEC KE5KTU reports that NWS-Jackson requested a Skywarn Activation during the storm event of May 25. Some 27 hams checked into the Net to provide reports. Jake especially thanks W5JWW in Sumner, who relayed reports in from the Delta via Echolink. During the six hour plus activation the major participants were KE5EZT, AE5SK, KE5PYM, KE5KTU, and K5IMT.

The Vicksburg ARC activated operation from the U.S.S. Cairo Museum in the Vicksburg National Military Park as part of the annual 'Museum Ships on the Air Weekend.' The Cairo was sunk by Confederate Forces in the Yazoo River in 1862 and was the first warship ever sunk by an electrically detonated mine. VARC made 200 plus contacts from the Cairo Museum. Those participating in the event were N5JGK, K5NRK, K5IMT, KC5QZW, WS7EOC, N5VEI, K1REZ, and W5JMJ. Next year VARC also plans to operate from the M/V Mississippi which is being reconstructed as part of the new Corps of Engineers Museum on the Vicksburg waterfront.

Lauderdale/Clarke EC AE5FE reports that ARES has been approached by Anderson Hospital in Meridian with a request to assist them in installing and setting up an Amateur Radio Station much like ARES did with Rush Hospital. Currently Anderson has only one licensed Amateur Radio Operator having a Tech License. Anderson is in the process of putting together a list of people that would be interested in a Tech Class and possibly a General Class or study session(s).

K5GCY advises that on Saturday May 4 the Jackson Amateur Radio Club provided emergency radio service for the Heatwave Triathlon at Ridgeland. The weather and the name of the event were very appropriate, but JARC was able to complete the event and leave by noon. Thanks to K5BLL, KD5JPB, N5GT, WS7EOC, KD5SPB, K5KKD, K5XU, K5RWB, WM5A, and K5GCY, who participated in this event

Welcome to the following new hams in Mississippi in April and May: KF5KLT, Roger – Biloxi; KF5KMI, Leon – Brandon; KF5KPF, James – Oxford; KF5KPG, William – Oxford; KF5KPH, Cynthia – New Albany; KF5KPI, Tiffany – Pontotoc; KF5KPL, Roger – Tupelo; KF5KQF, New Albany – New Albany; KF5KQG, Jason – New Albany; KF5KQS, Dennis – Southaven; KF5KRX, Perrin – Mantee; KF5KRY, William – Maben; KF5KRZ, David – Oxford; KF5KSA, Robert – Corinth; KF5KSB, Gregory – Columbus; KF5KSC, Chad – New Albany; KF5KSP, James – Madison; KF5KSR, Augustine – Pass Christian; KF5KSS, Stephen – Starkville; KF5KST, Vierre – Columbus; KF5KSU, Adam – Starkville; KF5KSV, Ryant – Starkville; KF5KSW, Matthew – Starkville; KF5KSX, Jason – Lawrence; KF5KSY, Justin – Tupelo; KF5KSZ, Matthew – Pascagoula; KF5KTA, Darrell – Saltillo; KF5KTB, Katherine – Starkville; KF5KTC, Dmitriy – Starkville; KF5KTD, Abhinav – Starkville; KF5KTE, Mardreagus – Starkville; KF5KUL, Kyle – Louisville; KF5KUM, Paul – Madison; KF5KUO, Dylan – Columbus; KF5KVK, Sarah – Lake Cormorant; KF5KVL, Thomas – Southaven; KF5KVM, Michael – Horn Lake; KF5KXY, Tom – Carrollton; KF5KXZ, James – Water Valley; KF5KYA, Deborah – Oxford; KF5KYP, Mark – Gulfport; KF5KYY, Todd – Canton; KF5KYZ, James

– Philadelphia; KF5KZA, Kirk – Brandon; KF5KZB, Bruce – Florence; KF5KZC, Steven – Brandon; KF5KZD, Albert – Jackson; KF5KZE, David – Brandon; KF5KZF, Darrin – Benton; KF5KZG, Marty – Clinton; KF5KZH, Marshall – Clinton; KF5KZK, Arthur – Bentonia; KF5LBH, Otis – Olive Branch; and KF5LCM, and William – Olive Branch. Wow! 53 new hams in Mississippi in March and April. Thanks to all of the instructors and VE Teams, who made this happen.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in April: KE5BRG – Jackson; WD5DCN – Pascagoula; W5DRI – Purvis; N0EQQ – Diamondhead; KF5GIQ – Purvis; KC5IMN – Canton; W5JDH – Gulfport; WD5JNC – Moss Point; KF5KMI – Brandon; WB8LEM – Brandon; KC5MC – Coldwater; KD5RYQ – Sardis; KE5TZC – Canton; KE5WFG - Laurel; AE5XD – Diamondhead; N5XZF – Waynesboro; and KC5ZJI – Madison; and in May K5CPO – Clinton; W6CSA – Biloxi; K5IMT – Vicksburg; KF5KUM – Madison; KF5KVM – Horn Lake; KF5KYP – Gulfport; KF5LBH – Olive Branch; KD5STX – Soso; KI5SV – Tupelo; K5TFA – Petal; N5WTJ – Vancleave; and KE5YXA – Waynesboro. Mississippi ARRL Membership now stands at 1,079 down four in May and down from our record of 1,088 earlier in the year. Keep working!

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KF5BPW – Saltillo; KE5BRG – Jackson; KF5CHD – Southaven; KF5CLY – Tupelo; KF5FBV – Starkville; KF5IBQ – Clinton; KF5IDW – Gulfport; KF5IMF – Meridian; KF5IUY – Oxford; KF5JNV – Horn Lake; KF5JXH – Southaven; KF5KDF – Mississippi State; KF5KPJ – Lake Cormorant; KF5KRZ – Oxford; KF5KUM – Madison; N4KXH – Belden; KF5LBK – Bay Saint Louis; WB5RWL – Booneville; and N5TAY – Olive Branch; KE5TQG – Tishomingo; and KE5YXA – Meridian.

And also congratulations to Lafayette County EC K5LMB, who contacted NA1SS, and to Yalobusha County EC KE5MIS who completed FEMA IS-100b, 200b, 700a, and 800b.

In the believe it or not category, we are all aware that an EF-5 Tornado struck Smithville in late April. During the storm event Smithville resident KF5AFN lost his wallet sized laminated graduation diploma. It was later located by a farmer cutting hay in Petersburg, Tennessee, some 135 miles away!

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clark), KE5KTU (Hinds), K5MOZ (Jackson), NE5P (Lamar), W5JWW (Tallahatchie), KE5MIS (Yalobusha), WX5N (Tishomingo and Prentiss), K1REZ (Scott), and KE5WJN (Pearl River).

Public Service Activity report: KE5KTU.

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

Regret to report the passing of WB5KDV of Saucier. Dave was manager of Hooper's in Biloxi for many years. Also regret to report the passing of N5HGN of Meridian, who was a long-time QRPer and musician and was noted for his CD entitled Hammin It Up!

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/1149/12 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 5/22/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 31/2585/32 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 21/33/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County Net 5/50/0 (WX5N) (one Skywarn activation)

Capital Area Em Net 5/82/0 (K5XU)

Delta ARES Simplex Net 5/20/0 (K5JAW)

Grenada/Yalobusha ARES Net 4/37/0 (KE5MIS) (5 very busy Skywarn activations)

Hattiesburg AEN 5/120/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES Net 4/64/2 (KB5NMB)

Jackson ARC Em Net 5/51/0 (N5DU)

Jackson County Em Net 18/215/5 (K5MOZ)

Jasper County ARES Net 4/19/0 (WV1Q)

Magnolia DX Assn Net 5/64/0 (K5OAZ)

Meridian Area EN 7/52/24 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 5/66/1 (K5GCY)

MS Coast ARA Net 5/65/0 (K5KMU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 5/35/0 (K5NRK)

NE MS Skywarn Net 7/92/0 (W5LMW)

Panola County ARES Net 4/34/0 (KC5DPJ)

Pearl River ARES Net 4/39/0 (KE5WJN)

SCMSG Info Net 4/41/0 (AE5JG) (Southern Coast Medical Support Group)

Scott County ARES Net 5/45/1 (W5JMJ)

Southern MS Friendship Net 22/207/0 (WB5OHN)

Southern MS YL Net 4/39/0 (K5IJ)

Stone County ARES Net 4/69/0 (N5UDK)

Tishomingo ARC Net 5/143/6 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 4/34/0 (K5LMB)

PSHR: W5XX 119

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.