

Mississippi Section Report for October 2011

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The big news for Mississippi Hams is that the Sun finally woke up! New Hams are amazed that DX contacts can be made on 10 and 12. There has even been a little F Skip on 6. N5ORT in South Mississippi reports working New Caledonia on 6 (Wow!). The predicted peak is in the middle of 2013. These are the good old days. Enjoy!

Clear you calendars. It's Hamfest time in Mississippi! The Jackson County ARA will host their annual Hamfest at the St. Martin Community Center in Ocean Springs on November 18-19. The festivities start at 5 PM on Friday. For more info contact AE5JG at dwarden233@aol.com. And the next upcoming event is the Pearl River ARC Hamfest in Poplarville on December 10 in the Old National Guard Armory starting at 8 AM. For more info contact KE5ELS at audra@datasync.com.

On October 8 and 9, communications for the 2011 "Bike-to-the-Battlefield" ride was provided by members of the Jackson ARC, the Central Mississippi ARA, and the Vicksburg ARC. This 150 mile bike ride is the Mississippi version of the two-day fundraiser, the 'MS-150', held in each state by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. About 179 riders started the ride early Saturday morning at the Baptist Healthplex on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton riding 78 miles through Hinds and Warren Counties to the Battlefield Inn in Vicksburg, where they stayed for the night. At the banquet held that night, supporters, riders, and volunteers of the bike ride were recognized with various awards and the Amateur Radio Community was acknowledged with a plaque. The ride resumed early Sunday morning in Vicksburg and followed a route through Warren, Copiah, and Hinds Counties of approximately 72 miles, back to the Baptist Healthplex.

WM5A operated the net control station from the Rankin County EOC Communications bus which he drove to the Battlefield Inn on Saturday and to the Baptist Healthplex on Sunday. The 146.94 repeater in Raymond was linked, as needed, to the 145.29 repeater in Vicksburg. In addition to being alternate net control, N5DU monitored several APRS units and tracked the lead rider, support vehicles, the last rider, and others. The staff of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, who conducted the ride, were very complementary of Ham services. Being able to talk to the six rest stops, rovers, repair vehicles and net control, at the push of a button, and the APRS tracking were especially useful. Chairman WM5A would like to thank K1JHS, K5BLL, K5CID, K5GCY, K5IMT, K5KKD, K5XU, KA5SBK, KA5TJW, KC5QZW, KE5JKD, KE5WAC, KF5MIF, N5DU, N5GT and WS7EOC for their participation in this event.

Heads up! The 2011 Field Day Results are available on page 72 of the December QST and at <http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd>. Check out your results! 25 Mississippi clubs/individuals sent in their scores.

Jasper County EC WV1Q reports that his ARES Group conducted its annual SET test on October 16 which included participation by local served agencies as well as Jones, Clarke, and Wayne County Hams and local and county government agencies. Also, EC KB5NMB reports that Itawamba County conducted its SET. They used several local repeaters as well as 3862 HF and had communications covering 5 counties. They were also in contact with the MARS Net as well as the Tishomingo Co.

ARES group. Traffic was passed on all frequencies from the various stations. The traffic count at the Itawamba County EOC was 6 pieces of traffic sent and received during the 2 hour test.

EC AE5FE reports from Meridian that the Lauderdale/Clarke Counties ARES participated in the November 8 Emergency Activation System (EAS) Alert. The Meridian Area Emergency Net (MAEN) was activated as part of a local training exercise in response to the EAS alert and in support of the Lauderdale County Emergency Management Agency (LEMA). During the test WX5MEI at LEMA operated on the W5FQ 2 meter repeater. There were 14 check-ins on the 2M circuit. Check-ins included Anderson Hospital, Rush Hospital and American Red Cross all in Meridian. MAEN check-ins also came from Enterprise, Meridian, Quitman, and Savoy as well as several mobile and portable stations in the Meridian area. Check-ins were also accepted on packet radio using the WX5MEI-10 mail box. NTS message traffic was handled via Packet Radio and one WinLink message was handled. During an interview with WTOK TV Meridian, David Sharp, Director of Lauderdale County EMA discussed how Amateur Radio Operators in the area are available to assist with communications overloads as well as to keep the EMA advised of other situations in real time across the state, particularly during periods of severe weather.

Club Officers need to review their club information listing in the ARRL Data Base. Go to www.arrl.org/clubs/search to check your information. You can update your club information by hitting the 'edit' link on the right hand side of the page when you locate your club record. If you cannot find your club listed on the active club list you need to go to the ARRL Web Site and type in 'Big Club List' on the search engine for a listing of inactive clubs (meaning that your club info has not been updated in the last two years). If your club is listed on the inactive list and wants to be moved into an active status sent an email to w3iz@arrl.org and indicate that you would like to be moved back to the active club list and that you will promptly update your record.

KD5RGJ advises that he has now sent out over 4,000 'Welcome to Ham Radio' Letters. Thanks, Spencer!

From below the AM Broadcast Band WD2XSH (W5THT) reports that conditions are improving with the onset of cold weather. Pat now has made 159 QSOs on 600 Meters and has had his beacon on the air for over 9,000 hours.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in October: KF5MYP, Timothy – Hernando; KF5MYX, Joe – Canton; KF5MYY, Aaron – Sumrall; KF5MZB, Joseph – Cleveland; KF5NBR, Shawn – Fulton; and KF5NBS, Norman – Smithville.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in August: KF5AMH – D'Iberville; KA5ASF – Poplarville; KD5ATU – Louisville; K5BAK – Starkville; KF5BHB – Olive Branch; KB5BXV – Olive Branch; KF5ELL – Ocean Springs; WS7EOC - Clinton; KF5FXS – Tishomingo; N5GJ – Saucier; KD5IWH – Southaven; N5PD – Madison; KE5YCM – New Albany; and N5YKB – Stringer. ARRL membership in Mississippi was up to 1,093 at the end of October. Plus 10 from last month! Thanks for everyone's efforts. We have come a long way since Katrina when the membership was 825. We may even make 1,100!

And lastly welcome to KF5HZO as AEC for Tishomingo County.

Congratulations to KF5MSW - Meridian on his upgrade to General. Also congratulations to AG5Z who reports that he received his award for the 2010 ARRL Sweepstakes for First Place Single Operator High Power Phone in Mississippi.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), KF5EZT (AEC) (Rankin), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clark), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss/Tishomingo), WV1Q (Jasper), W5UQT (Madison), and KE5WJN (Pearl River).

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

Regret to report the passing of K5ILJ of Perkinston. Paul and his XYL WB5OHN have been longtime checkins on the MSPN.

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/1146/16 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 5/36/0 (WF5F)

MS/OZK CW TFC Net 21/69/19 (K5DMC)

MSPN 31/2761/17 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 21/57/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County Net 4/61/0 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 5/90/0 (K5XU)

Delta ARES Simplex Net 5/38/0 (K5JAW)

Grenada/Yalobusha ARES Net 3/18/0 (AD5IT/KE5MIS)

Hattiesburg AEN 5/122/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES Net 4/76/2 (KB5NMB)

Jackson ARC Em Net 4/41/0 (N5DU)

Jackson County Em Net 25/319/0 (K5MOZ)

Madison County ARES Net 1/15/0 (W5UQT)

Magnolia DX Assn Net 4/69/0 (K5OAZ)

Meridian Area EN 4/30/1 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 5/64/0 (K5GCY)

MS Coast ARA Net X/XX/X (K5KMU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 5/41/0 (K5NRK)

NE MS Skywarn Net 5/82/0 (W5LMW)

Panola County ARES Net 3/23/0 (KC5DPJ)

Pearl River ARES Net 5/70/0 (KE5WJN)

Rankin County ARES 5/48/0 (KE5EZT)

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

Scott County ARES Net 5/47/1 (K1REZ/W5JMJ)

South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES 5/51/0 (WV1Q)

Southern MS Friendship Net 19/176/0 (WB5OHN)

Southern MS YL Net 4/33/0 (K5IJ)

Stone County ARES Net 5/72/0 (N5UDK)

Tishomingo ARC Net 4/84/1 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 5/42/1 (K5LMB)

PSHR: W5XX 71

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.