

# Mississippi Section Report for July 2016

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The 2016 Mississippi Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is now history. SEC K1REZ reports that after-action evaluations are still being performed, so it is too early to give a full report with numbers. However, the following is a brief summary of what took place. On August 6 Mississippi ARES Teams, Section Nets, and Local Nets participated in the annual SET. After months of preparation, the test officially began at 9:00 am local time.

This year's SET scenario was a category five hurricane, aptly named HIRAM, which hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast early Saturday morning, causing widespread structural damage, injuries, and casualties as its remnant tracked through Mississippi. Each county which participated played along as if their county had been directly affected by the storm.

During the test, many of our ARES Teams and Nets operated on emergency power, simulating a collapse of electrical and communication infrastructures, including downed cell phone towers and lost internet service. Simulated emergency traffic was passed on numerous local and state nets on behalf of agencies and county emergency operations centers located in all regions of the state. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency participated in the test, activating its RACES team to man the radio station at the state EOC.

Rough band conditions on 40 and 80 meters made phone/voice mode communications tough during parts of the SET. However, local nets on VHF and UHF were not affected. Their liaison stations were able to relay traffic through digital HF modes when phone/voice mode was unavailable. Traffic counts are still being conducted, but so far it appears that well over a thousand messages were passed during the SET.

ARES County Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers are now performing after-action evaluations on their teams' performance during the SET. They will be using this information to determine their teams' strengths and weaknesses. The lessons learned will then be incorporated into their training to improve their emergency response.

One thing is certain in Mississippi; hurricanes and tornadoes will always be a part of our climate. Emergencies and disasters will continue to occur in our state. For these reasons, our Nets and ARES teams must be fully equipped, trained, and prepared. They must be always standing by, ready to respond quickly, effectively, and efficiently to meet any and every communication need.

The annual SET is an important part of this training and preparation. Thanks to everyone who played a role in making this event a success. K1REZ will deliver a full report once all of the leaders and participants have turned in their logs and SET Reports. If you participated in any way, please let K1REZ know by sending him an email at [K1REZ@ARRL.Net](mailto:K1REZ@ARRL.Net)

From AB6Z: The Louisiana Mississippi Packet Backbone (LMPB) continues to grow at an amazing rate. Nodes in Gulfport, McHenry and Hattiesburg and a new gateway in Gulfport have recently been added. Nodes are in progress from Hattiesburg to Jackson. Efforts are also ongoing in the northern part of the state to establish nodes and gateways. Several new nodes and gateways have been added in Louisiana since the last update. A list of gateways can be found on the LMPB webpage: <https://sites.google.com/site/lmpacket>

The backbone was effectively utilized in the recent Simulated Emergency Test (SET) here in Mississippi. Several hundred (Test) emergency messages were passed using the VHF backbone to MEMA, County EOCs and to ARRL officials. This demonstrated the ability of the system to deliver emergency messages in the absence of the internet or telephone. We continue to work with EOC requests to develop this backup system to their normal communication paths. The LMPB is working to satisfy the second requirement - to develop a community of trained Ham Radio operators to pass properly formatted traffic to County, State and National emergency services. We are still looking for persons or clubs in the northern half of the state to establish nodes and gateways and become part of the network. Contact AB6Z at [tkelly49@yahoo.com](mailto:tkelly49@yahoo.com) if you can help.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in July: KG5OKU, Kenneth – Gulfport; KG5OIK, James – Olive Branch; KG5OME, Christopher – Pearl; KG5OMG, Rex – Ridgeland; KG5ONS, George – Brandon; KG5OOP, Jason – Booneville; KG5OOQ, Dennis – Nettleton; KG5OOV, Wallace – Pass Christian; KG5OOX, Joel – Ocean Springs; KG5OOY, Joshua – Ocean Springs; KG5OOZ, Luke – Diamondhead; KG5OQC, James – Oxford; and KG5OQO, Patrick – Columbus.

Invite one of these new Hams to your next local club meeting!

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in July: KG5DKG, Francis – Hattiesburg; KF4EWO, Brian – Olive Branch; WC5F, John – Laurel; KG5IIS, William – Madison; KG5IRU, Charles – Senatobia; N5MED, William – Hattiesburg; and KG5OME, Christopher – Pearl;

As of July 31 ARRL Membership in Mississippi was 1,095 down 18 from the last report on July 31. The January dues increase may be taking its toll. Let's go back to work on membership!

And last but not least welcome to KG5AZL as PIO and KG5AZM as AEC for George County, AE5SK AEC for Hinds County, KG5HBB AEC for Lamar County, and K5ATA AEC for Panola County.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KG5FYT, Daniel – Pelahatchie; KG5KWL, William - Kiln; KG5NEZ, Toxie – Hattiesburg; KG5NOG, Roger – Gulfport; and KG5OAR, Clayton – Madison;

And last but not least congratulations to KC5LK for reaching the Top of the DXCC Honor Roll (339 Entities). The plaque was presented at the July JARC Meeting by W5XX.

SEC/DEC Reports for July 2016: K1REZ (SEC), KC5IMN (WC MS), WX5N (NE MS),

KB5VE (SE MS), KD4VVZ (Gulf Coast), K5ZNT (SW MS), and KB0ZTX (NW MS),

EC Reports for July 2016: WM5A (Rankin), WB5CON (Alcorn), AE5FE (Lauderdale), AE5FK (Walthall), KF5IAY (Carroll and Montgomery), KC5ICO (Chickasaw), KF5IMA (Lafayette), KC5IMN (Copiah, Hinds, and Madison), KC5IIW (Scott), KE5MIS (Yalobusha), KF5MWE (Clarke), K5MOZ (Jackson), N5MZ (Forrest), WX5N (Prentiss), KD5NDU (Yalobusha), K5NRK (Warren), N9OKV (Harrison), AF5PO (Tishomingo), AE5QP (Greene), K5SCW (Pearl River), N5SP (Lamar), WA5TEF (Lee), N5UDK (Stone), KD4VVZ (George), KE5WUN (Panola), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), KM5ZA (Lowndes), N5ZNT (Franklin, Lincoln, and Wilkinson), KB0ZTX (Marshall).

Club Newsletter/Reports (Editor): Mississippi Coast ARA Splatter (KB9ZR), Meridian ARC Spark Gap (W5MAV), Louisiana/ Mississippi Amateur Radio Packet Backbone (AB6Z), and the West Central Mississippi ARES District Newsletter (KC5IMN).

Regret to report the passing of W4KGJ of Clinton, N5OYJ of Vicksburg, and W5CVY of Enterprise.

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/1005/13 (K5DSG)

MPP HF Net 2/11/0 (W5DIX)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/19/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 31/2050/8 (K5NRK)

MS-NBEMS Net 4/11/4 (N5TQF)

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

Alcorn County ARES 4/46/0 (WB5CON)

Booneville and Prentiss County Weekly Net 4/53/0 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 5/62/0 (K5XU)

DeSoto County Emergency Training and Information Net 4/64/0 (KF5WVJ/N5PYQ)

Hattiesburg ARC Emergency 2M Net 5/99/0 (K5TLL)

Hattiesburg 2M Simplex Net 1/7/0 (K5TLL)

Hattiesburg ARC 10M Simplex Net 3/21/0 (K5TLL)

Jackson County Em Net 26/561/2 (K5MOZ)

Lowndes County ARC Net 4/31/0 (KF5AZ)

MDXA Net 4/39/0 (N5GD)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/36/0 (AE5SK)

MPP 2M Net 4/42/0 (W5DIX)

MS Coast Em Services, WX, Training, and Tech Net May 4/57/0 (KB9ZR)

Miss/Lou Em Net 5/46/0 (K5NRK)

Northeast MS Skywarn Net 4/54/0 (WA5TEF)

Olive Branch ARC Net 16/92/0 (KF5QGF)

Pearl River ARC Net 5/55/0 (K5RDA)

Rankin County ARES Net 4/59/0 (KG5AVT)

Scott County ARES Training Net 3/31/0 (W5JMJ)

Scott County ARES Simplex Net 2/10/0 (W5JMJ)

Sundancer Solar Radio Club 4/25/0 (KA5ICO)

Tishomingo ARC Net 4/92/0 (AF5PO)

UMARC UHF Net 5/23/0 (K5LMB)

UMARC VHF Net 5/49/0 (K5LMB)

PSHR – W5XX 74 and KA5DON 67.

Traffic: KA5DON 17, KB5YEE 14, KG5FRZ 12, W5XX 4, and W5JGW 3.

Compilation of Net Statistics provided by KB5RCJ.

