

Mississippi Section Report for September 2021

SM: Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Mississippi Section Web Site at arlmis@org. Web Master: W5UE at w5ue@arri.net. ASM: K5DSG, KA5ICO, N5OMK, K0UPW, W4WLF, KB5YEE, AG5Z, KB0ZTX; ACC: W5VMS, PIC: K5RFL, SEC: KC5IMN, ASEC: AA1NA, W5DIX; SGL: AK5J; and TC: N5JGK.

From SEC KC5IMN: The 2021 Mississippi Section ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was held on Saturday October 2nd, from 8am-8pm. The test scenario for 2021 was Snowmageddon; which included most modes of severe weather, including severe storms, hail, high winds, tornados, flooding rains, freezing rain, sleet, snow, as well as dangerous wind chills.

The main purpose of the SET was to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in Amateur Radio emergency preparedness as well as to demonstrate Amateur Radio to our served agencies and the public. Multiple Hams supported the test operation from home, mobile, portable, and from Emergency Operation Centers.

Many regional VHF nets worked the full 12-hour period as well as HF Voice and Digital nets continuously coordinating to pass simulated emergency, welfare, and routine traffic across the state in support of served agencies. Because of a lack of repeater coverage across the state, Mississippi ARES has developed a robust NVIS HF network based on the Mississippi Section and Magnolia Section voice nets as well as the ARES NBEMS HF Network. The coordination among these HF/VHF Voice and Digital nets worked very well. All required traffic was passed and normally passed via more than one RF network.

Initial indications are that the test operation was a success; Mississippi ARES has once again shown its strength in continuing communications during emergencies with redundancy EMCOMM support of its served agencies.

And from District and County SET Reports

From ASM/DEC KB0ZTX: Northwest Mississippi was fortunate to be able to participate in this year's SET with local simplex operation, repeater coverage, EOC activations, and digital messaging with traffic. ARES brought up a local repeater net on 146.91 covering the region based in Desoto County and had that net running for the full 12 hours. Personnel provided simulated reports and ARES was fortunate to have some ad hoc participants getting creative and providing good feedback to fit into the Snowmageddon theme. KB0ZTX DEC for Northwest Mississippi provided liaison to the State for the event. Voice coverage over HF was a bit weak during the day on 3862 but readable with NVIS antenna coverage. We were not able to copy the NBEMS net but had no trouble reaching the available stations for Winlink messages. KB0ZTX passed 16 messages via Winlink ICS 213s to the SEC and MEMA. ARES fielded some out of state traffic as well as folks became aware that ARES was running the exercise.

As always, we learned a number of things this year including the need to check up on the repeater backup power, and the flexibility a good digital station provides for moving information around with poor band conditions. A special thanks to EC KF5WVJ for all his coordination with

our very active Desoto County ARES/ RACES group and KC5BNM, a recently licensed Ham in Marshall County, for his enthusiasm and creative ad hoc reporting during the event.

From ASM K0UPW: Snow-Madeggen snowed together very well for the Central Mississippi ARA/Central Mississippi ARES. Digital, Winlink, SSB, and FM were used to send and receive message traffic on HF/VHF frequencies. The new HF/VHF ham station at K5RKN (Rankin County EOC) worked very well...until it was shut down to simulate an outage. Net control was then transferred to other stations that took over for the rest of SET. Skywarn messages were received on the 146.940 repeater and relayed to the K5RKN/Rankin EOC and rebroadcast on the ARES 145.390 repeater...until the 146.940 lost power. At that time Skywarn reports were received on the 147.390 repeater which had emergency power. Final SET figures aren't available yet but should be good! Ham Radio came through again for Central Mississippi!

From Southeast Mississippi DEC KF7DLW: This year unfortunately we had a lot of members unavailable do to being out of town, but the members who did participate were there in full force willing to exchange traffic in all modes. KC3HLT, new EC for Lamar County, was a champ and ran the VHF net for the whole event, also checking into the phone and digital nets. All members that checked in stayed the whole duration. ARES held some local simplex nets on VHF and exchanged ICS 213 messages periodically. AD5TJ was liaison from the vhf net to the digital nets. Myself KF7DLW operated the first half of the SET in the field. I ran a homebrew end fed antenna about 20 ft off the ground, and all radios were running off battery power.

From Desoto County EC KF5WVJ: I activated the Desoto County EOC with myself and KF5KVL. We had KB0ZTX as digital liaison to Northwest Mississippi and the State. I had divided the day into 2 hour shifts after my shift at 11am, I had KI5HWA, then KC5RDP, and then W5TOD and KF5MMR taking over as NCS throughout the day with KF5KVL as team lead in the EOC. I also had Andy AG5FG as an offsite NCS that we moved the local Net to a couple times during the day. ARES were able to maintain the Net for the full 12 hours.

ARES fielded 14 ICS 213 messages and relays from different Northwest Mississippi counties throughout the day and forwarded these to Ken KB0ZTX to be sent digitally to the state. This year's SET having the script was much more effective at keeping operators engaged through the day. I heard comments to the effect of this being the best SET in the last several years. We even had a new Ham KC5BNM putting together simulated weather updates and status updates from his QTH in Marshall County to send to the State.

Things ARES took away from this SET, we learned how to execute and send ICS 213 traffic to another station via voice in a more efficient manner. We saw the need to check repeater status as far as backup power and have a backup plan when the repeater goes down, and we learned the importance of thinking ahead and anticipating what would be our next move depending on what could happen. Myself as Desoto County EC learned that I can depend on my group of members to come through in an emergency and run things if I am not always there with them as I was not able to participate the full 12 hours. I would like to thank KC5IMN and his group for putting the script together as well as all the Northwest Mississippi Hams that participated and my crew KF5KVL, AG5FG, KI5HWA, KC5RDP, K5DKR, W5TOD, KF5MMR, KC5BNM for playing along, as well as the KF5OIM and KB0ZTX digital liaison stations.

VARC PIO W5VMS reports that members of the Vicksburg ARC provided communications support for the eleventh annual Bricks and Spokes bicycle event on Saturday, October 2, 2021. The event, sponsored by the Vicksburg Main Street Program, made a comeback this year after COVID restrictions cancelled the event in 2020. The overcast skies, at times punctuated with light rain, did not stop some 200 cyclists from riding throughout the Vicksburg area and into rural Louisiana. A highlight of the event was the ride across the Mississippi River over the old Highway 80 bridge, which is normally closed to all traffic. There were a series of routes ranging from 10-miles to 62-miles, including 30- and 45-mile gravel routes and a new 23-mile route to the Southern Heritage Air Museum in Tallulah, Louisiana. Participating club members were KI5NIY, KG5ZCY, KC5GHU, KK5ED, KI5RMN, KG5OVR, KG5YEE, K5VXV, W5SFL, N5JGK, W5VMS, and K5IMT.

... and more info from W5VMS: At one time the old Highway 80 Mississippi River Bridge was a vital link between Mississippi and Louisiana, carrying both rail and vehicle traffic. Eventually eclipsed by the new Vicksburg Bridge and Interstate 20, the old cantilever bridge closed to all vehicles and pedestrians in 1998 (it is still used actively by the Kansas City Southern Railroad). However, on certain days, the bridge opens to special events, allowing runners, walkers, and cyclists a rare opportunity to cross some 116 feet (35 meters) above the Mississippi River. The thirty-third Over the River Run, which took place on Saturday, October 9th, is one such event.

Members of the Vicksburg ARC provided communications support for the event, which is sponsored by the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation. The near-perfect fall weather saw over 300 runners and walkers traverse the five-mile path from the Mississippi Welcome Center in Vicksburg, across the river into Delta, Louisiana, and back. The bridge itself constitutes about three and one-quarter miles of the trek.

Club members were stationed at locations along the path, providing guidance and assistance as needed. Equipped with 2M handhelds, club members KG5OVR, KD5DHR, W5VMS, KC5QCN, and KI5OFV walked or ran the course, and provided on-the-spot updates. Club members KG5YEE, N5JGK, N5KWT, W5WAF, K5VXV, W5SFL, K5IMT, KC5GHU, and WM5A were positioned at locations along the course, assisting with communications control.

And from EC Reports from around the state:

KF5IAY reports from Carroll County: In one session ARES assisted law enforcement with search and communications for a missing person who was found safe. In another event ARES set up a table at the homecoming day in our town for display for education on Ham Radio. ARES also has a new licensed operator in the county which is always good.

AD7KF reports from Franklin County: Coordinating with section DEC N5ZNT. Training was reviewing equipment during Ida and aftermath, no radio operations. One community event was postponed because of Ida, the Mississippi Tour for a Cure bicycle race from Hammond to McComb.

KD5SZJ reports from Lauderdale County; Valuable things were discovered this past SET weekend. I found that I need to have a spare coax connection in the event my station incurs the same issues as it did this last weekend. I spent the day trying to figure out why my HF was not working. I'm still having issues, but I now can get back on some bands. I believe I had a lightning strike take out some of my coax and possibly a tuner. On another note the Meridian ARC had a good club meeting. We have started having a short training session after the meeting, so maybe this will help educate new Hams and also boost attendance.

Attached for your information below is the current status (updated from last month) of known upcoming Ham events in and around Mississippi:

- 7290 Message Traffic Handling Class, November 3 and 6. Sessions at 9:30 and 12:00
- Jackson County Hamfest, November 12-13. POC kj4njt@arrl.net
- Capital City Hamfest, January 28 -29, TradeMart, Jackson. POC: AK5J
- 2022 Mississippi QSO Party, April 2-3, POC: W5XX

Anybody have additional information? Thanks to all who helped pull this information together. This list will be updated in future Section Reports.

And congratulations to the following who upgraded in September: KI5CMZ, John - Ocean Springs; KI5HMZ, Tyler – Oxford; KG5LRE, Joseph – Pontotoc; KI5QGF, Jonah – Saucier; KI5QPW, Kenneth – Oxford; KI5RKA, Drew – Oxford: and KG5VPF, James – New Albany.

Also, congratulations to Panola County EC K5ATA who is now the ARRL Lifelong Learning Instructional Designer.

And last but not least, congratulations to Brian, W5SSJ. During the last Central Mississippi ARA Meeting Vice President WM5A asked Brian, the CMSARA VE Liaison, to come forward. VP Mike said that Brian had been able to keep the VE testing going during Covid except for one month when he was exposed. Mike also said CMARA was the only club in Central Mississippi to keep testing going. Mike then presented Brian with a trophy of a microphone with the engraving " For Distinguished Volunteer Examiner Testing Throughout COVID-19 Pandemic". Then ASM K0UPW, presented Brian with a 2021 ARRL Handbook.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in September: KI5RMN, Richard – Vicksburg; KI5RMS, Andrew – Oxford; KI5RMW, Jerry – Oxford; KI5RPJ, James – Carrollton; KI5RQA, Brett – Ridgeland; KI5RQB, Shawn – Meridian; KI5RQC, Andrew – Madison; KI5RQD, Edward – Jackson; KI5RQE, George – Brandon; KI5RRZ, Garret – Raleigh; KI5RSA, Frank – Starkville; KI5RSS, Stephen – New Site; KI5RTB, Albert – Picayune, and KI5RTC, Mitchell – Coldwater;

Fourteen new Hams in Mississippi in September. Thanks to all of the Eimers, instructors, and VE Teams that made this happen!

Also welcome the following new ARRL Members in September: KI5BXJ, John – Ridgeland; KI5CIT, Jesse – Batesville; N5DHS, Joe – French Camp; WD5FDQ, Norman – Laurel; KD5IFA, Richard – Liberty; AE5JM, James – Biloxi; KF5NSL, Stanley – Saucier; N6PJW, Woody – Poplarville; N5POV, William – Pass Christian; KI5RNF, Jeffrey – Red Banks; W5RBF, Robert – Ashland; and KB5SMK, Paul – Brandon.

ARRL Membership is now 992 down 3 from last month. We had 15 new members in September and 10 Lapsed members. How come we dropped 3? What we don't see is the Silent Keys that have been deleted from the roles and members, who have moved out of state.

And last, but not least, welcome to KB0ZTX as ASM,

SEC/DEC Reports for September 2021: KC5IMN (SEC), KD4VVZ (SE MS), N5ZNT (SW MS), and KB0ZTX (NW MS).

EC Reports for September: K9EYZ (AEC)(Jackson), AE5FK (Walthall), KC3HLT (Lamar), KF5IAY (Carroll), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), AD7KJ (Franklin), KD5NDU (AEC)(Yalobusha), KB5SQZ (Hinds), KB5SZJ (Lauderdale), KG5TTU (Tate), KF5VVU (Scott), KD4VVZ (George), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), N5ZNT (Lincoln and Wilkerson), and KB0ZTX (Marshall).

ACC Report from W5VMS: Twelve clubs (and eight inactive clubs) need to update their club record before the end of November (and much thanks to the thirteen clubs that are up to date). Clubs with an up-to-date record will once again receive a copy of the an ARRL Handbook. Pay particular attention to your membership numbers. We will be sending a reminder, along with a copy of your current record. PLEASE DO NOT PUT THIS OFF! Instructions for updating your club record are available at http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/Club%20Update%20Online_20150806.pdf Contact W5VMS if you need assistance.

Inactive Clubs (8) and last report date:

Scott County ARA 2020-06-12
Magnolia ARC 2020-02-16
St Stanislaus HS ARC 2019-05-02
SW Miss ARC 2019-03-22
ARC of Amite Co 2018-10-19
Tupelo ARC 2017-12-30
Pearl River Co ARA 2017-04-28
Lauderdale Repeater Grp 2012-03-26

Club Newsletter/Reports (Editor): the Meridian ARC Spark Gap (W5MAV)

Regret to report the passing of

KF5QIQ of Olive Branch. Larry was a volunteer for the ARRL, RACES /ARES, and an EMA Reservist in Desoto County as well as a Disaster Reservist for MEMA. He spent his retired life working in a volunteer capacity for many organizations. EC KF5WVJ reports that Larry was an outgoing individual with his own sense of humor and will be greatly missed by all in our groups and the Desoto County EMA.

KD5JHE of Denmark. Jerry was a carpenter and a very active Ham but found his greatest joy in being with his Grandchildren.

N5NBG of Horn Lake. Clyde was a retired veteran and Fed Ex ground service mechanic. During retirement he had many hobbies including camping, hunting, fishing and Ham Radio.

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

K5TAL 80M Net 5/58/0 (WV5Q)

Magnolia Section Net 30/1158/5 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 2/7/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 30/2440/14 (W5JGW)

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

Capital Area Emergency Net 4/55/0 (K5XU)

Central Mississippi ARES Training Net 8/111/29 – joint net traffic count (KG5SQZ)

DeSoto County Training and Information 4/71/0 (KF5WVJ)

Delta Area Net ?/180/0 (KF5IAY)

George County ARES 5/45/0 (KD4VVZ)

Jackson County ARES 4/36/0 (K9EYZ)

JARC Emergency Net 4/33/0 (K5XU)

Lamar County ARES 3/17/0 (KC3HLT)

Marshall County ARES – meets with DeSoto County Net (KB0ZTX)

Meridian Area EM Net 8/8/0 (KB5SZJ)

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/91/0 (AB5FU)

MSU ARC Net 4/110/0 (N5OMK)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Net 4/54/0 (W5BAQ)

Southwest MS ARES Team 5/24/0 (N5ZNT)

Sundancer Solar ARES Net 4/70/0 (KA5ICO)

Tate County ARES 4/72/0 (KG5TTU)

Vicksburg ARC/MLEN 4/115/0 (KD5DHR)

Walthall County ARES Net 5/88/0 (AE5FK)

Yalobusha County ARES 10/60/0 (KD5NDU)

Digital Net Reports

Central Mississippi ARES Digital Net 4/35/25 (KI5JCL)

Central Mississippi WL2K Net 4/17/0 (KI5JCL)

K5TAL Digital Voice Net 5/69/0 (WV5Q)

Traffic: WV5Q 70, W5XX 8, and KG5FRZ 6.

PSHR: WV5Q 147 and W5XX 80.

