

Mississippi Section Report for April 2010

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Severe weather moved into most areas of Mississippi on April 24. The most significant feature was an EF-4 super cell that formed in Madison Parish and moved through Warren, Yazoo, Holmes, Attala, Choctaw, Monroe, and Union Counties with 10 fatalities and over 700 homes destroyed. Yazoo County EC KE5YES reports that a 2 Meter ARES Net was quickly activated to collect information. With W5PKN as NCS and help from KE5YEF, KC5MUV, KC5QON, KE5IZK, KE5MQS, and KE5KTU, traffic was passed through KB5GT via HF to served agencies in Jackson. Although the QRN was horrific, W5MLO managed to facilitate traffic to KM5GE at MEMA (operating KM5EMA) and K5CID at the Red Cross (operating W5PFC). Also on frequency to help during the entire storm event were K5TFD, KE5ZKV, KE5KTU, K5CQJ, N5QBJ, N5YCK, K5DSG, W5LJD, AG5Z, WX5MEI, WD5DX, W4WLF, and AD5IT.

West Central Mississippi DEC KE5KTU reports that at noon on Friday (before the tornado on Saturday) NWS Jackson requested that Skywarn activate the Weather Net. KE5PYM opened the Net and utilized a NWS chat via the internet from her home while Operators were en route to the NWS. Around 1600 hours WX5JAN was opened from the NWS. Numerous reports were received via the KA5SBK Repeater as well as via the JARC Echolink W5PFR repeater in Clinton in order to contact stations outside of the repeater coverage area. The operators also utilized 3862 with an open net on this frequency with help by many relay stations. The Skywarn Net was maintained until about 10 PM when the NWS Jackson decided that Skywarn should have a 6 hour break in the weather and requested that the Net be shut down until 4AM. When the Net reopened at 4 AM the winds through the night had broken the ropes for the HF antenna, so HF was not utilized until later that morning via a relay station.

Around Noon Skywarn started receiving reports of a possible tornado in Warren County and provided valuable info for the NWS from Vicksburg Stations. Subsequently, a tornado was reported on the ground north of Vicksburg. Evaluation of the path indicated that the super cell was heading into Yazoo County. The W5PFC repeater was cross-banded into the Yazoo City repeater. Shortly after the cross-band link was established, WX5JAN started receiving damage reports from Yazoo City. At this point Skywarn Operators contacted the Red Cross in Jackson to see if Skywarn would need to provide communications to Yazoo City. The Red Cross requested that we send ARES Operators to activate the station at the local chapter in Jackson. By 3 PM ARES had established communications between the Red Cross in Jackson to the Kings Daughters Hospital in Yazoo City and with MEMA via a network of repeaters. At 10 PM the Skywarn Net was closed. The following morning (Sunday) the KA5SBK repeater was linked into the Yazoo City repeater and ARES Operators were deployed to the Red Cross Command Post that had been established on I-220 in Jackson. ARES provided communications between the Command Post and the Red Cross Shelter until 10 PM. Again on Monday, ARES provided communications via repeater link between the Jackson Red Cross and Yazoo City Red Cross. Although many ARES Operators were involved in this major effort for Skywarn activation and Red Cross assistance, KE5KTU especially notes the efforts of KE5PYM, KE5WAD, KF5EZW, AD5XR, KE5PTL, and KE5YLS, as well as K1REZ and W5JMJ, who deployed to the Red Cross Center in Yazoo City.

EC AE5FE reports that just as the super cell was crossing the Mississippi River into Warren County the Lauderdale-Clarke Counties ARES was hosting a training session on NTS Messaging Basics presented

by W5MLO. During the training session, extremely violent weather entered the area, and W5RB deployed to the Lauderdale Emergency Management Agency (LEMA) EOC to monitor conditions. During W5RB's transit to the EOC, K5DAD, while at work, initiated an informal weather net to take reports of damage and weather conditions. A tornado was reported by NWS and local residents in the SW part of the county in the Meehan area. Later that evening a possible tornado was reported in the NW part of Lauderdale County in the Martin community area. Tornado watches and severe weather warnings were lifted at 6:45 PM and the LEMA EOC and ARES Net were secured.

In Warren County, N5JGK, KC5QZW, and KF5GGV deployed to Eagle Lake where some 25 to 30 homes were destroyed. Highway 465, the only road into the area, was blocked by fallen trees. N5JGK hiked the rest of the way in and took 20 pictures with his cell phone which were forwarded to NWS-Jackson for assessment.

The storm event also extended to the northern end of the state. EC KD5VMV reports that the DeSoto County RACES / ARES group was very active during a 24 hour period of April 23-24, 2010. The DeSoto County EOC was manned for the entire 24 hour storm event period monitoring weather conditions throughout Northwest Mississippi. Multiple storm reports were relayed by the EOC to NWS - Memphis. Those participating included: KD5VMV, KE5EOQ, KD5CKP, KA5JNK, KE5DWF, KD5MXY, KE5NBD, KE5NBC, W5KK, W5GD, W5LJD, KE5EOR, KE4ANL, WA4PTD, N5YW, KE5OPL, N5PYQ, KB5LIN, KE5GYQ, KA5WGF, W9IK, and KE5WKF. Special kudos to N5PYQ for braving the storm to reset the power supply at the repeater shack after it was tripped by lightning.

In Alcorn County EC WB5CON reports that the ARES Skywarn Net was activated due to tornado warnings issued by NWS in Memphis. The net was active from about 9AM to 1PM when the last warning expired. The incoming reports from spotters included high wind, heavy rain, and dime sized hail. Participants were KD5LAP, KE5EFB, WB5CON, K5WHB, K0RIS, KG4RPE, and KF5BIF (recently licensed EMA Director),.

Union County EC W5LMW reports that the Northeast Mississippi Skywarn was activated for the storm event. WB4VYB arrived at the intersection of County Roads 127 and 128 just after a tornado had passed. The damage assessment was sent to NWS-Memphis which issued a bulletin on the touchdown.

In Northeast Mississippi Prentiss County EC WX5N reports that Skywarn was activated on the Booneville machine. One funnel cloud was sighted by WD5DO and reported to NWS-Memphis. Rick also reports that the Tishomingo County ARC activated their emergency net. WB5VGV was on from the EOC. In addition checkins were KE5KRG, KE5TQG, N5ML, KB5VML, KC5IUC, KE5QQH, and KD5YP all in Tishomingo County. In addition are checkins were from Prentiss County: KA5GNM and WX5N; from Itawamba County: KB5NMB and KF5APO; from Alcorn County: WB5DO; from Hardin County, Tennessee: KJ4EJG; from Lauderdale County Alabama: KG4TBA, and from the Colbert County, Alabama EOC WX4CC (KK4GT op).

Things were busy in Lafayette County as well. EC K5LMB and AEC KD5JHE report that Lafayette County ARES operated a Skywarn net on Friday, April 23, 2010, from approximately 1700 – 2200 with K5LMB, KD5JHE, K5MBI, N5RB, WB5VYH, KC5UDM, KS5U, KC0IKK, KF5FGW, KE5MIS, and KE5TMY on frequency. Because of weather, a second Skywarn Net was activated on Saturday, April 24 from 0700 - 1100 with two Tornado Warnings being issued. Checkins were K5DSG, K5LMB, KD5JHE, WB5VYH, K5MBI, KC5UDM, KS5U, WB5HSX, KE5TMY, and KC5RFL. To finish off a busy weekend, the University of Mississippi ARC provided communications support for the Double Decker Spring Run on Sunday, April 25. Participating hams were: K5LMB, N5RB, K5MBI, N7AMG,

K5PTM, KE5NQP, KS5U, and KF5FGW. Hams assisted the Oxford and University Police Departments with traffic control and routing the run participants on the correct course.

As if one weekend of severe weather wasn't enough, storms moved into North and Central Mississippi the May 1-2 weekend. Things were especially busy in Alcorn County as they had been the weekend before in Lafayette County. During the morning on Saturday, May 1, the Coca Cola Classic 10k foot race was conducted with the Alcorn County ARES providing communication at each mile marker back to the start/finish line. ARES was prepared to run APRS to show the race announcers a moving map of the vehicle location in front of the lead runners, but the soggy weather necessitated keeping the APRS gear stowed. 887 runners participated in the race this year. ACARES members providing communication were: WM4U, K0RIS, KE5EFB, KJ4IHT, KG4BTU, and KD5LAP. Then around 2 PM, after a tornado warning had been issued for the area, the ARES Net was activated. KD5LAP and KF5BIF were out spotting when a wall cloud was observed approximately 3 miles west of the Tishomingo County line on Hwy 72 in the Glen area. Also reported was flash flooding, small hail, and some small debris. Active during this net were KE5EFB (NCS and phoned in reports), KG4BTU, KF5BIF, and KD5LAP. Some information was also exchanged early Sunday morning and throughout most of the day on Sunday although a net was never officially started. KF5BIF asked WB5CON to try to get in touch with local radio stations to notify the public, who were affected by the flooding, as to what to do during the flooding.

In Lafayette County a tornado touched down in Abbeville. Assistant EC KD5JHE reports that at the request of Lafayette County Emergency Management (K5MBI), ARES/Skywarn members provided continuous weather updates from NWS, news services, and personal computer radar. Emergency personal often could not hear ongoing NWS warnings. ARES/Skywarn kept them up to date for oncoming rain, additional thunderstorms, NWS bulletins, etc. Those assisting with the net were KD5JHE, K5LMB, KC0IKK, K5MBL, K5MBI, KC5KLW, and WB5VYH.

In that we are in the midst of Tornado Season in Mississippi and Hurricane Season is ahead, it would be a good idea for all Mississippi Hams engaged in emergency response to review the Mississippi Emergency Operations Plan which can be downloaded from the Homepage of the Section Website at www.arrlmiss.org.

The 2010 Mississippi QSO Party logs have been checked. The top ten Mississippi Stations are AG5Z, W4HOZ, K5DWI, AE5BR, NA5DX, WB5ASP, K5TV, K2FF, NI5F, and W5UMS. In the mobile category, the top Mississippi Mobiles are W3DYA, K4ZGB, NO5W, and N5CW. The top portables are W5GWD and AA0KW/5. In the Out-of-State category, the winners are AD5WI (AR), N6MU (CA), W5ESE (TX), K4YT (VA), and WB8WKQ (MI). Plaques will be awarded to the top stations in each of the four categories. A check of the logs showed that 114 Mississippi Stations were on the air in 66 counties. With any luck the plaques as well as certificates for the Mississippi County Winners and Out of State winners will be mailed out by the end of July.

N5DU reports that on Saturday, April 10, 2010, the Jackson ARC provided communications support for the City of Ridgeland's annual Century Ride. There were over 300 participants in this year's ride, which started at the Old Trace Park and went 50 miles up the Natchez Trace and back. With a maximum possible distance of 100 miles, the event lasted from 7:30 in the morning until after 3:00 in the afternoon. Amateur Radio operators were stationed at the start-finish line, at each rest stop, at some critical turns, and in the repair vehicle. The 13 operators participating in the event were K5BLL, K5XU, K5KKD, K5CID, KE5YLS, KC5STC, K5IMT, K5RHK, KM5GE, KA5TJW, KD5JPB, N5VEI, and N5DU. The club wishes to thank all those who participated and also wishes to thank the

Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association for the use of the Brandon repeater, and W5PPB for use of the Sharon repeater.

As part of the 2009 National Wildlife Refuge Week, the Magnolia DX Association under the leadership of W5UE, operated special event station K5W from the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge near Gautier. This was a Friday-Saturday operation with many visitors visiting the K5W site to find out what Ham Radio was all about. Those participating, in addition to Randy, W5UE, were K2FF, K5MOZ, K4GSG, W5DAW, K5CQT, W4HOZ, KD5RHD, and N5BQJ. An article on the operation was authored by Randy and is published in the May/June edition of the DX Magazine on pages 28 – 32.

Panola County EC KE5WUN reports that he taught a joint Technician Class sponsored by the Panola ARES, the Panola ARC, the University ARC, and the West Tallahatchie ARC. Out of eight students taking the Technician Test, we have seven new Technicians, all of whom are now members of Panola County ARES (see photo on Section Web Site). Thanks to KD5RGJ, KC5RFL, WD0N, K5LMB, KC5DPJ, and KE5WUN for conducting the VE Test Session. One of the new Techs is the Panola County EMA Director. Another class is scheduled for early June.

A pat on the back for KN6TC of Wiggins had a very nice write up in the Stone County Enterprise (full page with photos). Jim flew B42s over Iwo Jima during WWII,

Normally this Section Report contains a listing of the new hams in Mississippi, the license upgrades, and new ARRL Members. The ARRL is currently 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 next month. I did find out that Mississippi ARRL Membership dropped from 1,063 to 1,057 in April. Time to get back to work!

Congratulations to Lafayette County EC, K5LMB, who completed ARRL EC-001.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), K5FV (Rankin), KE5KTU (West Central MS/Hinds), K5LMB (Lafayette), W5LMW (Union), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), KD5VMV (DeSoto), KE5WJN (Pearl River), KE5WUN (Panola), KE5YES (Yazoo), and AG5Z (SE MS).

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

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

Magnolia Section Net 30/858/6 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/16/0 (WF5F)

MS Digital Traffic Net 8/32/14 (K5DMC)

MSPN 30/2902/37 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 22/39/0 (W3TWD)

MTN/OZK 30/143/27 (K4VIZ)

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

Alcorn ARES 2/17/0 (WB5CON)

Booneville and Prentiss County 4/66/3 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 4/59/0 (K5XU)

Hattiesburg AEN 4/114/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES 5/63/2 (KB5NMB)

Jackson ARC Em Net 4/28/0 (N5DU)

Jackson Co ARES Net 13/164/4 (K4GSG)

Lowndes County ARC 4/48/0 (AD5DO)

Magnolia DX Assn 4/65/0 (AE5JG)

Meridian Area EN 5/58/0 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/33/3 (N5DU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/17/0 (K5NRK)

NE MS ARES 5/77/0 (W5LMW)

Rankin County ARES 5/38/0 (K5FV)

South MS YL Net 5/56/0 (KB5CSQ)

SCMSG Info Net 4/42/0 (AE5JG) (Southern Coast Medical Support Group)

Southern MS Friendship Net 22/202/0 (WB5OHN)

Stone County ARES 4/65/0 (KC5VCB)

Tishomingo ARC 5/126/16 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 4/26/0 (K5LMB)

West Coastal MS 2M Net 8/83/0 (K5DMC)

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.

