

Mississippi Section Report for December 2008

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Don't forget to clear your calendar for the ARRL Mississippi Section Convention and Capital City Hamfest in Jackson on January 30-31. Note that the Hamfest is being held a week earlier than usual because of scheduling around the Dixie National. Festivities will begin at the Trade Mart on the Fairgrounds at 5 PM on Friday and then again on Saturday beginning at 8 AM. For more information see www.msham.org or email to hamfest@msham.org. Our guest from ARRL Headquarters for the Section Convention will be Harold Kramer, WJ1B, Chief Operating Officer.

At this writing, forums are scheduled for ARRL, D-Star, DX, MARS, Digital TV (pending), Baptist Hams, Emergency Communications, Repeater Owners & Trustees, and QRP.

Speaking of Hamfests, N5WLW reports that the Pearl River ARC Hamfest held at the Pearl River Fairgrounds on December 13 was a resounding success. Over 600 attended the Hamfest with twice as many attendees as last year, four times as many vendors, and four times the funds raised. It's great to have another Hamfest blossoming in the State. Plans are already in motion for next year's Hamfest!

And on your long-range calendar make a note that the fifth Mississippi QSO party will be held on Saturday February 28 from 9 AM to 9 PM local time. Hams from all over will be looking for that rare Mississippi County or just a QSL to complete WAS. Make your plans to put in a few hours to make someone happy or renew acquaintances with old friends. Complete rules are on the Section Web Site at www.arrlmiss.org. Note one addition to the rules: Each log must include a scoring summary showing the number of QSOs made, the multiplier, and score. Logs without a scoring summary will be considered as a check log.

Mississippi had a good year with respect to bringing in new hams. In 2006 we welcomed 189 new hams into the State and in 2007 we had 284. In years past the number was less than 100. In 2008 we had 239 new hams reflecting on the continuing efforts by clubs in organizing classes and VE Teams in conducting test sessions. On a further healthy note Mississippi had 43 license upgrades in 2006, but this number increased to 166 in 2007 and 137 in 2008. Note that of the 137 upgrades in 2008, 111 were KE5's showing that our new hams are not content to be Technicians forever. Again, many thanks to our class instructors and 21 VE Teams in the State, who are helping our new Hams move up the ladder. Remember, 'Elmering New Hams is Job #1.'

N5KLR (harmonic of N5LRQ) a 10th grader from Seminary has been accepted, after several interviews and on the recommendation of peers, instructors, and community leaders, as a Student Ambassador to represent Mississippi and his community. Kevin

was one of about 20 students out of 300+ nominated from South Mississippi for the People to People Student Ambassador Program. Kevin will be traveling to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales this upcoming June 2009. The objective of the program is to promote international understanding while building leadership skills among America's youth. The 19-day experience includes meetings with government officials, interaction with students his own age, educational activities, and home stays with host families. Kevin is currently working toward raising \$7,000 to cover his expenses. You can visit Kevin at his table during the Jackson Hamfest or at www.n5klr.com.

Mississippi Hams kicked off 2009 on 3862 with a New Year's Eve Party beginning at 11 PM on New Year's Eve. Approximately 50 hams enjoyed MC W5MLO's Cajun rendition of 'The Twelve days of Christmas' and W5XX's report on activities in the Section during 2008.

Mississippi ARES had a detailed write up on the response to Hurricane Gustav in the Public Service Column of the November CQ (pages 61-62). N5WLW, N5ELI, W4WLF, and N5UDK were quoted on their observations of EMCOMM operations. And speaking of recent editions of CQ, K5MFJ and company had a nice write up in the January CQ in the VHF Plus column by N6CL on page 84. Joe's comments on his visit to Starkville certainly reflect well on Southern Hospitality!

The Pearl River ARC had a very successful Antenna Construction Class a few months back with WA5WRE as the instructor. Another Class is planned on 'Transmitter Construction' for January 24 at the EOC in Poplarville possibly followed by a later class on receiver construction. Contact WA5WRE for more info at world@datasync.com.

EC WX5N reports that the Tishomingo County ARC's new emergency communications van was entered in the Iuka, Tishomingo, Belmont, and Burnsville Christmas parades. That's a great way to raise community awareness of Ham Radio EMCOM capabilities. KU4WW, KE5LWY, and KE5LWY coordinated the parade entries.

AA5SG reports that he has a D-Star repeater on the air at Ellisville. Listen on 441.8125 for the "W5NRU B" GMSK signal. Plans are to move the system to a higher location once initial testing is completed. If you live in the Laurel-Hattiesburg Area and have D-Star equipment and are not registered on a gateway system, contact Steve.

DEC/EC WB5CON reports that the Technician class at Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth has been completed with 14 enrolled. Seven took the ham exams on December 20. All 7 passed the Technician exam. Four of them went ahead and took the General. Three failed and 1 passed. So Corinth ended up with 6 new Techs and 1 new General! Instructors KE5EFB and KB5VML deserve all the credit because they did all the work. The 7 that did not take the Technician Exam will probably take it at the scheduled March test session. The student group also wants a General Class which may start sometime soon. The HF/VHF/UHF gear and antennas for the Hospital should arrive early in January and will be installed by the end of the month.

Tippah County EC N5TBB reports that the long awaited equipment for the local Hospital and the County EOC has arrived. Local ARES members are in the process of getting antennas up and feed lines run. These equipment installations have been a longstanding goal of Amy and the Tippah County ARES; it just took a long time.

And talk about long term planning. N4FF reports that details are already being worked out for the 2009 ARRL Day in the Park for Saturday September 26 at the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby. Put this on your long-range calendar!

Welcome to new Mississippi hams: KE5YJJ, Dustin – Dennis; KE5YKH, Don – Ocean Springs; KE5YLM, Keith – Booneville; KE5YLN, Aubrey – Clarksdale; KE5YLO, Eric – Jackson; KE5YLP, Jason – Madison; KE5YLR, Larry – Brandon; KE5YLQ, Angela – Brandon; KE5YLS, Gary – Jackson; KE5YLT, Nikolas – Jackson; KE5YLU, William – Brandon; KE5YPT, Marjorie – Biloxi; KE5YPU, Chris – Hattiesburg; KE5YRI, Ross – Glen; KE5YRJ, Jesse – Iuka; KE5YRK, Julia – Iuka; and KE5YRL, Larry – Guntown.

Also welcome to new ARRL Members: W5BBX – Saucier; KF5CE – Sumrall; KE5IUJ – Collins; WP4JBG – Olive Branch; N5KLR – Seminary; WA5KPE – Hattiesburg; K5LFS – Belmont; KE5RSX – Belmont; KE5WKE – Etta; N4WPG – Union; KE5TEX – Pearl; KE5YEA – Philadelphia; KE5YLS – Jackson; and KL5Z – Biloxi. ARRL Membership in Mississippi is now 1,012. WOW! Keep working.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KE5KTR – Greenville; KE5NND Kosciusko; KE5PXE – Pass Christian; KD5PYC – Biloxi; KE5RSX – Belmont; KC5VTF – Sallis; KE5WHW – Lorman; and KE5WRC – Madison.

Also congratulations to the new officers of the Meridian ARC: KD5SZJ, President; W5ED, VP; KB5AST, Secretary; and KD5JYJ, Treasurer; and to the Pearl River ARC: KE5WJL, President; N5WLW, VP; XYL of N5WLW, Secretary; and KE5ELS, Treasurer.

In addition, congratulations to W5ALF, who completed ECC-001.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (Alcorn), KD5CQT (Jackson; also November Report); KC5EAK (Pearl River), K5FV (Rankin), W5GEJ (Madison), WB5GUD (Newton), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clark), KE5KTU (Hinds), KD5KXJ (Leake), W5LMW (Union), WX5N (Prentiss/Tishomingo), KB5NMB (Itawamba), N5TBB (Tippah), KC5TYL (Lamar), AG5Z (SE MS), K4ZLC (Benton).

Club Newsletter/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Northeast Mississippi ARA (KB5NMB), Pearl River ARC (N5WLW), and Vicksburg ARC (W5WAF).

Regret to report the passing of W5RCI of Marks, N5DUZ of Philadelphia, and KD5ZH of West Point.

Net reports: sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)

MSPN 32/1725/16 (K5NRK)

Magnolia Section Net 31/737/9 (K5DSG)

MTN 30/169/4 (KB5W)

Jackson County Em Net 31/390/7 (KD5CQT); November 28/388/5

MS Slow Net 23/29/0 (W3TWD); November: 20/28/0

Tishomingo/ Prentiss ARES 5/150/2 (WX5N)

Magnolia DX Assn 5/100/0 (N5FG)

Alcorn County ARES 5/44/0 (WB5CON)

NE MS ARES 5/63/0 (W5LMW)

Monroe ARC Net 5/68/2 (AD5DO)

MCARA Net 5/70/0 (KA2KMU)

Stone County ARES 5/88/0 (N5UDK)

Capital Area Em Net 4/44/0 (K5XU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/20/0 (K5NRK)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/21/0 (WF5F)

Newton County ARES 4/26/0 (WB5GUD)

Jackson ARC Em Net 4/46/0 (N5DU)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/56/1 (N5DU)

Meridian Area EN 4/51/0 (KD5GWM)

Itawamba County ARES 3/29/0 (KB5NMB)

Lowndes Co ARC Net 3/18/0 (AD5DO)

Pearl River County ARES 3/43/0 (KC5EAK)

South MS YL Net 3/51/0 (KB5CSQ)

PSHR (minimum 70): WB5ZED 150 and W5XX 73.

Traffic: WB5ZED 2976.

Compilation of Net statistics provided by KB5RCJ.