

Mississippi Section Report for February 2012

SM: Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Section Web Site: www.arrlmiss.org. Web Master: w5ue@arrl.net.

District Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, KD5FUO, KE5KTU, K5XXV, AG5Z, N5ZNT and KB0ZTX.

Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, AE5CY, WV5D, W5DYC, KI5F, AE5FE, AE5FK, KD5FUO, K5FV, W4HOZ, KA5ICO, AD5IT, KB5JN, KF5JOO, W5JWW, KE5KTU, KD5KXJ, N5LJC, KG6LJN, K5LMB, N5LOK, KE5MIS, K5MOZ, WX5N, KB5NMB, K5NRK, N9OKV, NE5P, K5PJM, KA1RBA, N5SP, N5TBB, WB5TTM, K5TV, N5UDK, W5UQT, KD5VMV, KE5WJN, KE5WUN, N5XZF, KE5YES, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT, and KB0ZTX.

The Tenth Running of the Mississippi QSO Party was a good one. Perfect weather for the mobiles/portables and pretty fair radio conditions. Some Mississippi stations were even able to have good runs on 15, and QRN was not a factor on 75/80. Several Mississippi stations made over 500 QSOs and several out-of state stations made over 150 QSOs.

Thanks to the portables and mobiles, who put many rare counties on the air including mobiles: W3DYA, WB4CHH, W4OQG, W4SIG, K4ZGB, N5NA, AE5SK, and K5WBM and portables N5VI and the Chickasaw ARA (W5GWD), the Northeast Mississippi Radio Amateurs (W5NEM), and the Olive Branch ARC (W5OBM). Special thanks to N5NA who put together the web site of Planned Mobile and Portable Operations which helped participants know ahead of time which counties were going to be on the air.

As of this writing in early March 97 logs have been received. We will have a record number of logs this year. All logs are due to W5XX by March 31. An unverified listing of high scores will hopefully be available for the April Section Report.

Faculty Sponsor N5VEI reports that the Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) Radio Club launched a near-space balloon flight (named LEO-1) March 3 which has been termed an unqualified success. Aside from technical difficulties, the launch went well and was a lot of fun for all. LEO-1 reached a maximum altitude of 97,000 feet which was verified by a chase team member from a direct packet received on his HT. LEO-1 did not go up fast but was a scorcher on its way down. The flight was launched from Gluckstadt and landed near Ashville, Alabama, on a fighting bull farm, some 40 miles northeast of Birmingham.

All equipment and science projects were accounted for since they landed in a pine tree at the edge of a pasture. The pine tree was about 100 feet tall, and LEO-1 was hanging from about the 70 foot level. Luckily N4XWC, who likes to climb trees, was on one of the chase teams and recovered LEO-1. N5VEI notes that there were many hams involved in the chase teams. Some were AE5SK, WS7EOC, KF5JSY, N4XWC, W4ZAC, KF4YPT, W4BM, N5UDK, and KF5COJ; plus helpers Coley Richardson, Martin McCandless, and Bobby Richardson (OTMS Science Teacher) and daughter.

On a final note, N5VEI reports that the Old Town Middle School Radio Club is now in second place for the VHF/UHF telemetry reception distance record at ARHAB.org. This organization tracks worldwide amateur radio ballooning records. A single packet was received in North Carolina at a distance of 512 miles when the balloon was at or near peak altitude. A weather front in the area

provided perfect conditions for VHF propagation. The Two Meter 50mw voice beacon was heard near the balloon's peak from Sumrall. N5LRQ trained his beams on LEO-1 and was able to make out a portion of the secret message. Overall the balloon flight was a great success, and next year's launch is already being planned. A slide show of all the pictures taken during the flight can be found at www.tinyurl.com/otmsradio under the photo gallery.

The Vicksburg ARC provided communications around the race course for the annual Run Through History sponsored by the YMCA and conducted at the Vicksburg Military Park. Chairman N5KWT reports that there were no serious incidents; however, Hams provided the race officials with assistance in a number of logistical areas. Those participating were K5NRK, KD5WCR, W5WAF, N5JGK, KD5WCN, W5XX, K5IMT, and KC5QZW.

Tornado Season has started early this year. If you are in Central Mississippi and are interested in Spotter Training check www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/ for a listing of upcoming spotter courses under Weather Safety/Spotter Training. Those outside of the NWS Jackson Forecast Area looking for training opportunities should check the website of the forecast area you are in.

AE5FE reports that ARES satisfactorily tested digital communications via packet radio at two remote sites used as storm shelters in Lauderdale County, and one site in Kemper County with these tests being coordinated with Lauderdale and Kemper Counties EMAs.

Panola County EC KE5WUN relays that ARES has been granted a Dstar 440 MHz digital repeater by Icom, and are in the process of getting the repeater installed. It will be located at the Batesville Intermediate School where the repeater will be used to introduce students to Ham Radio and to build interest in the community.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in February: AF5BQ, Bart – Grenada; KF5OGH, John – Forest; KF5OGI, Victor – Brandon; KF5OGK, Thomas – Bentonia; KF5OGM, Charles – Brandon; KF5OGN, Thomas – Vicksburg; KF5OGP, Donna – Canton; KF5OGQ, Kerry – Madison; KF5OGR, David – Madison; KF5OHD, Billy – Corinth; KF5OIJ, John – Olive Branch; KF5OIK, Robert – Hernando; KF5OIM, Richard – Southaven; KF5OIN, Ronald – Byhalia; KF5OJN, Megan – Como; KF5OJO, Patrick – Como; KF5OJR, Joshua – Enid; KF5OJS, John – Hernando; KF5OJT, Sean – Biloxi; KF5OJU, Joycelyn – Lake Comorant; KF5OJV, John – Webb; KF5OJW, Robert – Bolton; KF5OJX, Renee – Webb; KF5OJY, Sandra – Charleston; KF5OJZ, Marena – Cascilla; KF5OKA, Jennifer – Bolton; KF5OKB, William – Coffeeville; KF5OKV, Amanda – Hernando; KF5OLY, Michael – Decatur; KF5ONJ, Monte – Walls; and KF5ONL, Deborah – Blue Springs. Wow! 32 new hams in one month. Thanks to all of the instructors and VE Teams who brought these folks into Ham Radio.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in February: September: KF5AFZ – Picayune; K5ATA – Hattiesburg; KM5BJ – Belden; KI5BQ – Pearl; KC5CLM – Port Gibson; KC5DMD – Kosciusko; K5DVO – Petal; KF5FAK – Laurel; W5IIQ – Ocean Springs; KF5IQG – Prentiss; N5JUM – Vancleave; KF5LGP – Byram; KF5LSJ – Wesson; KE5MIT – Alligator; KF5NYQ – Gulfport; KF5OGO – Carthage; KF5OHD – Corinth; KF5OIJ – Olive Branch; KF5OKB – Coffeeville; KF5ONK – Como; W5UNX – Florence; KM5WN – Jackson; KD5WYM – Brookhaven; KC5ZMJ – Blue Springs; and KF5ZOU – Biloxi. The Mississippi ARRL Membership is now 1106, up 6 from last month. Another record! Thanks for your efforts!

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: WB5AHZ – New Albany; KC5CLM – Port Gibson; KF5CXI – Diamondhead; WD4DDA – Clinton; N5JPX – Pontotoc; KF5LTP – Long Beach; KC5NIV – Ellisville; KF5NSL – Saucier; KF5OGL – Union; KF5OGO – Carthage; KE5QHZ – Saucier; KD5SBP – Raymond; KE5WBA – Gulfport; and KB5WKQ – Long Beach.

Also congratulations to the new officers of the Tishomingo ARC: WX5N, President; KF5HZO, VP; N5ML, Secretary; KF5FXR, Treasurer; and WB5VGR, Parliamentarian. Also to the new officers of the Tupelo ARC: KG4MDT, President; KB5MDD, VP; W5LMW, S/T; and WA4IAX and N5VGK Board Members. And lastly, congratulations to the new officers of the Vicksburg ARC: KD5WCR, President; N5JGK, VP; and K5NRK, S/T.

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Mississippi Coast ARA (KB9ZR), Northeast Mississippi ARA (KE5SSB), and the Tishomingo County ARC (KU4WW).

DEC/EC Reports: AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), KE5KTU (Hinds), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss/ Tishomingo), W5UQT (Madison), KE5WJN (Pearl River), KE5WUN (Panola), and WV1Q (Jasper).

Regret to report the passing of W5RB of Meridian and KE5RJW of Richton.

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

Magnolia Section Net 29/1286/14 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/38/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 29/2895/24 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 19/53/1 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County ARES 4/66/0 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 4/73/1 (K5XU)

Delta ARES Net 4/25/0 (K5JAW)

Grenada/Yalobusha County 3/22/1 (AD5IT/KE5MIS) One Skywarn activation.

Hattiesburg AEN 4/96/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES 4/47/1 (KB5NMB)

Jackson ARC Em Net 3/32/0 (N5DU)

Jackson Co ARES Net 25/318/1 (K5MOZ)

Madison County ARES 3/35/0 (W5UQT)

Magnolia DX Assn 4/71/0 (K5OAZ)

Meridian Area EN 4/42/3 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/52/2 (K5GCY)

Mississippi Coast ARA 5/53/0 (K5KMU) One bad weather activation.

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/41/0 (K5NRK)

NE MS Skywarn 4/63/0 (W5LMW)

Panola County ARES 5/47/0 (KC5DPJ) Also activation for the Feb. 15 Tornado Drill.

Pearl River County ARES 4/40/0 (KE5WJN)

Rankin County ARES 4/59/0 (KF5EZT)

SCMSRG Net 5/52/0 (AE5JG)

Scott County ARES Net 4/38/1 (K1REZ/W5JMJ)

South MS YL Net 4/35/0 (K5IJ)

South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES 4/43/0 (WV1Q)

Southern MS Friendship Net 8/68/0 (WB5OHN)

Stone County ARES 4/43/0 (KC5VCB)

Tishomingo ARC Net 4/114/0 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 4/44/0 (K5LMB)

PSHR: W5XX 72

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.