

Mississippi Section Report for January 2008

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Thanks to the Jackson ARC for hosting another great Capital City Hamfest at the Trade Mart in Jackson. Chairman K5XU reports an attendance of 1,101. Mike gratefully acknowledges the assistance of WM5A, K5BLL, K5CID, W5GEJ, N5GT, KE5IMJ, AK5J, KD5JPB, KE5JKD, K5KKD, KC5LK, KE5MDF, KD5NHJ, N5OH, KC5OSM, KE5PTL, W5RUE, K5RWB, W5SGJ, KA5TJW, K5TMA, WB5TTE, N3TJZ, K5VU, AB5WF, AB5XR, W5XX, N5XXX as well as Paula Drake, Jo Ann Jones, Griffin Sekul, Annie Spencer, Cheryl Waltman, and Marianna White. W5JDX has already completed the editing of AmateurLogic.TV Episode 19 featuring the Capital City Hamfest. Episode 19 is now available for download and viewing at www.amateurlogic.tv.

There has always been some question as to how far back the Capitol City Hamfest goes. W4PQW from Pensacola sent K5XU an email after the Hamfest saying that he attended his first Hamfest at the Hotel Heidelberg in 1948!

The next Mississippi QSO Party is February 23 starting at 9 AM and running to 9 PM on Saturday Night. Complete rules are on the Section Web Site at www.arrrlmiss.org. Note that three frequencies are specified on 75 – 3857, 3862, and 3867. There are two reasons for this. Everybody collects on 3862 which slows down people making contacts. And more importantly, last year we had the unfortunate coincidence of having a storm front move through on Saturday Night, and 3862 was needed by SKYWARN. If such a storm event occurs again please confine activity to 3857 and 3867.

At this point we have KS5A, NO5W, N5CW, and K4ZGB plus probably W5XX all going mobile in the rare counties. This should generate plenty of activity. All are invited to get on the air for a few hours and give some out of state folks a Mississippi QSO for WAS or a rare county. Remember this is not a contest. This is a QSO Party. The objective is to have fun!

DEC KD5FUO reports that ARES activated on the afternoon of January 10 following an EF3 tornado hitting Caledonia, Mississippi. The tornado caused major damage to the town of 1000 people; an elementary school gymnasium was severely damaged. The Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center activated area storm spotters in advance of the approaching storm. Hams assigned to the EOC activated the station there and started to gather information on the weather. After the storm passed, EOC personnel requested assistance from radio operators to help with reports of major damage to homes and buildings in the town. The EOC set up a command post at the fire station downtown and asked members of ARES to provide communication between the EOC and Red Cross. The Red Cross had set up a shelter at a local church not too far from the affected

area where local hams set up portable lights and generators. Hams maintained communication until 7 PM local time. Members of the Monroe County Amateur Radio Club set up their portable repeater for a secondary emergency contact frequency.

The Hattiesburg ARC Emergency Net was activated January 31 at 3:45 PM in response to a rapidly intensifying weather system moving into Southeast Mississippi from southwest to northeast. Reports of local flooding, hail, power outages, and traffic hazards were passed on the Net. The most significant severe weather events were damage to structures and the closing of Southbound I -59 with trees down from a possible tornado between Hattiesburg and Purvis. Rain which lead to more flooding continued until 7 PM. Stations participating in net operation included W5TUT, KD5XG, AG5Z, K6OJN, KE5JPH, K5TLL, N5CFN, K5YVA, N5LRQ, KB5VE, KE5AJI, KC5TYL, N5SP, KD5WCR, KD4NUE, KE5IUJ, KE5JJE, KC5MNM, KB5EKW, KE5MSW, KD5GGL, K5MIQ, KD5NOI, N4FF, and W4KGJ.

A severe tornadic storm event broke out in the Middle Mississippi Valley on February 4. Marshall County EC KB0ZTX reports that the SKYWARN Net was brought up a bit after 4:00 PM Tuesday as the first thunderstorm warnings were being issued for the area. The warnings were quickly elevated to a tornado warning. Spotters reporting in the immediate area observed the first touchdowns that occurred which were destroying buildings in Southaven. Operators in the field were the first on scene and were applying their CERT training, calling out for potential victims in the damage. At the same time they were relaying information on to the NWS in Memphis and deploying emergency resources to the damaged areas. This rapid response got help out fast and helped get the warnings into Shelby County before the storm crossed the border.

KB0ZTX further reports that hams continued to supply storm and damage reports throughout the evening into Wednesday morning, and also helped with logistics and welfare aid in the areas stricken by the tornado. They maintained the net for approximately 8 hours as more severe weather entered the region. Those Hams participating were AC5JB, K4MPG, K5OMC, KA5JNK, KA5WGF, KA5WX, KB0ZTX, KB5LJE, KC5YYW, KD4OFA, KD5NDS, KD5VMV, KE4GYV, KE5BVL, KE5BXL, KE5EOR, KE5EOS, KE5FUL, KE5JIX, KE5MFV, KE5MXY, KE5NBC, KE5NBD, KE5OPL, KE5RHM, KI4OGX, N5PYQ, N5UOV, W5DFD, W5KK, W5LJD, W5SSR, W9IK, WA4PTD, WB5VHX, and WD5EED.

Lee County EC K5TV reports that the Lee County EOC now has a Ham Station ready for service. This project was headed up by KD5RTF and other members of the Tupelo ARC including AD5YB, WB4VYB, KJ5JR, W5LMW, KB5MDD, and K5TV. All involved braved cold temps and high winds to install VHF and HF antennas on the roof of the Courthouse. After about six hours the radios and antennas were up and operational. It turned out to be a real challenge to run the feed lines from the roof through the attic and then down to the EOC office. Look for KK5K to be operating from the EOC in the near future.

Speaking of Ham Stations located in county EOCs, the following have checked in the past year during the monthly EOC Checkin on 3862 on the “First Thursday” of each

month session: DeSoto – KD5VYB, Forrest – KC5WFM, Harrison – W5SGL, Itawamba – KE5LUX, Lafayette – W5LAF, Lamar – KD5RMM, Lauderdale – WX5MEI, Lowndes – KD5FUO, Pearl River - K5PRC, Rankin – K5RKN, Simpson – KA5LNY, Stone – N5UDK, Tippah – K5DGL, Tishomingo – W5TCR, and Warren – K5ZRO. Are there other counties that have stations at their EOCs?

AA5ED reports that the Brandon K5RKN Gateway is now on the global network.

N5WLW notes that the ham station at Picayune Fire Station 1 is now on the air. In spite of in climate weather, an 80 Meter Dipole was razed with the help of the ladder truck at the station. As a side benefit several firefighters indicated an interest in Ham Radio. Pearl River County now has a ham station for emergency communications at both Poplarville and Picayune. Those finishing up the station installation at Picayune were KD6PJW, KA5ZII, and N5WLW.

AB5WF has retired as Section Government Liaison. Ron was instrumental in the Mississippi PRB-1 Bill passing through the Legislature in 2006 after multiple efforts to circumvent the state bureaucracy. Thanks for your efforts, Ron! AK5J will be taking over as SGL. Jim was also closely associated with the PRB-1 effort.

Welcome to new Mississippi hams: KE5RZS, Samuel – Gulfport; KE5SJO – Donna, Magee; KE5SGD, Gregory – Oxford; and KE5SGE, Robert – Aberdeen.

Also welcome to new ARRL Members: KC5FXD – Batesville; K4GAC – Holly Springs; W9IK – Nesbit; KE5MVP – Gulfport; WT4N – Nesbit; KD5NDU – Water Valley; KE5QAP – Picayune; KE5QCQ – Perkinston; N5SPL – Pelahatchie; KB5SVF – Pearl, N5TF – Gulfport; K5TLL – Hattiesburg; and KB5ZKT – Hattiesburg;

In addition, welcome to N5YY as OO and WB5HQH as EC for Franklin County.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KD5DCU – Poplarville, KD5JOJ (now AE5FQ) - Union, KE5QHK (now (AE5FR) - Lena, and KE5QMP – Columbus;

Annual DEC/EC Report: WB5CON (Alcorn), KC5EAK (Pearl River), W5GEJ (Madison), WB5GUD (Newton), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clarke), W5LMW (Union), W5MPC (Lafayette), KB5NMB (Itawamba), N5TBB (Tippah), KC5TYL (Lamar), and N5ZNT (SW MS).

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (Alcorn/NE MS), KD5CQT (Jackson), KC5EAK (Pearl River), KD5FUO (Lowndes), WB5GUD (Newton), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clarke), WX5N (Prentiss/Tishomingo), N5TBB (Tippah), N5ZNT (SW MS), and KB0ZTX (Marshall).

SET Report: WB5CON (Alcorn), KC5EAK (Pearl River), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clarke), W5LMW (Union), K5NRK (Warren), KC5TYL (Lamar), AB5WF (West Central MS), WX5N (Tishomingo/Prentiss), and N5ZNT (Southwest MS).

Skywarn Report: KE5PTL

Club Newsletter/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Pearl River ARC (N5WLW), and Vicksburg ARC (W5WAF)

Regret to report the passing of W5TUD of Water Valley and KE5BYF of Columbus.

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

DRN5 62/MS 100% Rep by KA1ZIA, W5MLO, WA5FB, and W5XX (WB5ZED)

MSPN 31/2940/41 (K5NRK)

Magnolia Section Net 31/889/3 (AD5J)

Jackson Co ARES 31/537/7 (KD5CQT)

MS Slow Net 22/36/0 (W3TWD)

Stone County ARES 5/135/0 (N5UDK)

Magnolia DX Assn 5/113/0 (N5FG)

Itawamba County ARES 5/41/0 (KB5NMB)

Lowndes Co ARC Net 5/40/0 (AD5DO)

MCARA CARES 5/51/0 (KA2KMU)

Meridian Area EN 5/60/0 (KD5GWM)

Tishomingo County ARES 5/112/4 (KU4WW)

Miss/Lou WX Net 4/27/0 (K5NRK)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/29/0 (WF5F)

Hattiesburg Area EN 4/110/0 (N5MZ)

Monroe ARC 4/32/0 (AD5DO)

Jackson ARC EN 4/42/0 (AB5WF)

Pearl River ARES Net 4/43/1 (KC5EAK)

Newton County ARES 4/30/0 (WB5GUD)

Metro Jackson ARES 4/43/0 (AB5WF)

NE MS ARES 4/63/0 (W5LMW)

Alcorn County ARES 4/34/0 (WB5CON)

SW MS ARES 4/30/0 (N5ZNT) Dec 07 4/35/0

South MS YL Net 4/80/0 (KB5CSQ)

PSHR: WB5ZED 165, KA1ZIA 100, and W5XX 75.

Traffic: WB5ZED 4,054 (BPL), KA1ZIA 73, W5XX 7.

Compilation of Net, PSHR, and Traffic statistics provided by KB5RCJ.