

Mississippi Section Report for September 2017

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Was that fun or was that fun! Over 500 Hams converged on StarkVegas Friday and Saturday, September 29-30, 2017 to help MFJ celebrate its 45th year Anniversary in business and join in on the Mississippi ARRL Annual Day in the Park.

Hams from fifteen states plus were represented including: Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Kansas, California, and Michigan.

Factory tours, special event stations, and a luncheon in McKee Park were just some of the events going on. There was also free tailgating in the MFJ parking lot.

Mr. Jue was a happy man as several hams came from far away locations to help him celebrate including Justin Johnson, G0KSC, who came over from England. He has been working with Hy-Gain in developing some new loop fed array antennas. Justin, John Troy, and Howard Nurse gave forums on Saturday morning. In addition, VE Testing was held bright and early at MFJ HQ on Saturday conducted by the Lowndes County ARC.

Ted Randall and the QSO Radio Show broadcast live from the MFJ HQ. In addition, George Thomas, W5JDX, and Tommy Dees, N5ZNI, from Amateur Logic filmed for an upcoming show. Tom Medlin, W5KUB, was planning a Tuesday, October 3 show all about MFJ and featuring a skype interview with Martin, K5FLU, himself.

The event ended with a McKee Park Luncheon served by MFJ employees consisting of fried chicken and all the sides. Frank Howell, K4FMH, then Emceed a program of guests making comments about the contributions of MFJ Enterprises to Starkville and the Ham Radio Community. Speakers included Starkville Mayor Lynn Spruill, Rick Roderick, President of the ARRL, David Norris, Delta Division Director, and Malcolm Keown, W5XX, ARRL Mississippi Section Manager, and of course comments by Martin Jue, K5FLU, on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary Celebration.

Several prizes were given away at the end of the event including gift certificates from the ARRL and different products from each of MFJ's sister companies: a Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics. In addition, MFJ gave away a MFJ-269C analyzer with all of the accessories which was the second main prize, and the first prize was an Ameritron AL-811H 800-Watt amplifier won by KG5LLO of Walnut, Mississippi. Thanks to Richard Stubbs and Randy Romero for providing an overview of the information provided above.

On the following Saturday, the Tupelo ARC sponsored their annual Papa Jack's Trade day at the Tupelo Airport. Some 70 plus Hams enjoyed the fellowship, food, and horse trading.

Don't forget we still have three big events before we close out 2017. The Jackson County ARC will hold their annual Hamfest on November 17-18 at the St. Martin Community Center in Ocean Springs. POC: K5MOZchrisswift@chrisswift.com. Followed by the Pearl River County ARC Annual Hamfest on December 9 at the Pearl River EOC. POC: k5rda@att.net. And lastly our annual 'New Year's Eve Party on the Air' scheduled for December 31 at 11PM on 3862.

And just when we thought Mississippi was about to skate through the 2017 Hurricane Season unscathed, Nate came charging out of the Gulf making landfall in Harrison County. Damage seems to be confined to the lower three counties. In preparation for Nate's Landfall SEC KC5IMN activated ARES. Net managers KA5ICO (Magnolia Net) and W5JGW (MSPN) lined up Net Controls for the Mississippi ARES Emergency Net which operated from 1600 local on Saturday to 0700 local on Sunday. Thanks to the following for taking a NCS Slot: KA5ICO, W5JGW, W5XX, WA4VGZ, K5GLS, N4CBS, N5LKE, AA1NA, KG5FRX, K5DSG, K1JHS, and K5UZ. In addition, W5DIX reports that MS ARES NBEMS activated at 1900 Local on Saturday.

AB6Z reports that the digital backbone in the Southern portion of the state has approximately 13 nodes and 7 RMS gateways on-line. Tom is not including the VHF/HF P2P systems that are activated during an event. He notes that we have come a long way as we only had one gateway when he started this organizational endeavor. Tom hopes to continue to expand the system this next year along with training in procedures and messaging requirements. The systems of both Mississippi and Louisiana were activated and utilized both in the recent Mississippi SET and in recent storm activity in Louisiana with messages delivered directly to county ARES personnel operation in their EOC's.

DeSoto County EC KF5WVJ passes along that four ARES Members participated with the Delta Club to man checkpoints for the MS150 FedEx Rockin' Ride to Oxford on September 23 and 24, which is a bike ride from Byhalia to Oxford to benefit Multiple Sclerosis. Those supporting this effort were W5TOD, KF5MMR, KC5RDP, and K5DKR.

EC KE5BSB advises that the NEMRA conducted their first ever Technician Training Class this month. The instructors were W1LAW, N5VGK, and KE5BSB. All students passed their test. There was one walk-in that took the Technician test and passed also. Two of the students went on and took the General Test and passed. So, the total was seven Technicians and two Generals. NEMRA will be sponsoring a Skywarn Spotter Class shortly.

Congratulations to AF5NG, who completed the NIMS ICS All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader Course and the MEMA EOC Management and Operations Course.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in September: KG5UXG, Vonhatin – Moselle; KG5UXI, Michael – Lucedale; KG5UXJ, Janice – Lucedale; KG5UYK, Anthony – Booneville; KG5UZE, Christopher – Ocean Springs; KG5VBF, Douglas – Florence; KG5VBP, Herbert – Brandon; KG5VCJ, Harold – Lucedale; KG5VDD, Shane – Meridian; KG5VEI, Anthony – Ocean Springs; KG5VEJ, Len – Mooreville; KG5VEK, Brian – Blue Springs; KG5VEL, James – Myrtle; KG5VEM, John – Amory; KG5VEN, Tracie – Potts Camp; KG5VEO, Nicholas – Tupelo; and KF5VEP, Susan – Blue Springs.

Welcome to the following new ARRL Members in September: AD5HN, James – Starkville; K5JBG, James – Olive Branch; KA7KWJ, Brady – Brandon; KG5LIN, Kimberly – Hernando; AG5MX, John – Purvis; KF5NSL, Stanley – Saucier; K7OAL, Stephen – Perkinston; KG5OVS, Stephen – Carthage; AD5TJ, Jason – Ellisville; K5VOK, Edward – Clinton; and W4WWP, Bruce – Perkinston.

As of September 30, ARRL Membership in Mississippi was 1,037 down 4 from the last report on August 31.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades in September: WD5FNW, Edward -Saltillo; KG5MUE, Wayne – Gulfport; N5NCK, Joel – Diamondhead; and KG5UBE, Billy – Waynesboro.

Welcome to N5DU as State RACES Officer and KD5FOX as EC for Lowndes County.

SEC//DEC Reports for August) 2017: KC5IMN (SEC), AD5PO (NE MS), and N5ZNT (SW MS).

EC Reports for August 2017: KG5AVT (AEC)(Rankin), KE5BSB (Itawamba), WB5CON (Alcorn), AE5FK (Walthall), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), KG5IIS (Madison), KC5IIW (Scott), KF5IMA (Lafayette), N5KDA (Adams), AD7KJ (Franklin), NS5M (Washington), KF5MWE (Clarke), WX5N (Prentiss), AF5NG (Marion), AD5PO (Tishomingo), AA5SG (AEC)(Jones), AE5SK (Copiah/Hinds), WA5TEF (Lee), K5VBB (Lamar), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), and N5ZNT (Lincoln/Wilkinson).

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

Regret to report the passing of KB5RHD of Corinth, who was a retired Industrial engineer and known on the air as the Red Headed Duck.

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

Hattiesburg ARC 10M Net 4/28/0 (K5TLL)

Magnolia Section Net 30/1123/5 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/18/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 30/2431/10 (W5JGW)

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

Alcorn County ARES 3/49/0 (WB5CON)

Bluff City ARES 4/71/0 (N5KDA)

Booneville and Prentiss County Weekly Net 3/48/0 (WX5N)

Capital Area Emergency Net 4/40/0 (K5XU)

DeSoto County Emergency Training and Information Net 4/103/0 (KF5WVJ)

Hattiesburg ARC Emergency 2M Net 4/67/0 (K5TLL)

Hattiesburg ARC 2M Simplex Net 1/10/0 (K5TLL)

Itawamba County ARES Net 5/70/0 (KE5BSB)

Jones County ARES Net 5/49/0 (AA5SG) One Skywarn Activation

Lowndes County ARC Net 4/48/0 (KF5AZ)

Madison County ARES 4/57/0 (KG5IIS)

Marion County ARES Net 4/37/0 (AF5NG)

MDXA Net 4/29/0 (N5GD)

Meridian Area Emergency Net 3/19/0 (KF5ETN)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 3/26/0 (AE5SK)

Mississippi Coast ARA 5/88/0 (N5AHM)(August Report)

MSU ARC 4/70/0 (N5OMK)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Net 5/51/0 (WA5TEF) One Skywarn Activation

Rankin County ARES Net 3/49/0 (KG5AVT)

Scott County ARES Training Net 4/32/0 (KC5IIW)

Scott County ARES Simplex Net 2/4/0 (KC5IIW)

SE MS Training Net 4/28/0 (K5VBB)

Southwest MS ARES Team 4/13/0 (N5ZNT)

Sundancer Solar ARES Net 4/23/0 (KA5ICO)

Tishomingo County ARC Net 4/89/0 (AF5PO)

UMARC VHF Net 4/35/0 (K5LMB)

Walthall County ARES 3/26/0 (AE5FK)

Washington County ARES 4/10/0 (NS5M)

Digital Net Reports

MS NBEMS Traffic Net 4/40/3 (W5DIX)

PSHR – KA5DON 78 and W5XX 72.

Traffic: AD5O 149, KA5DON 28, KG5FRZ 8, and W5XX 7.

Compilation of Net Statistics provided by KB5RCJ.