Mississippi Section Report for April 2017

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Mississippi had more than its share of severe storms in April. Vicksburg had over 10 inches of rain during the April 2 Storm Event, and NWS-Jackson reports 26 tornados during the April 30 Storm Event. Skywarn was active all over the state on multiple occasions. Activation was reported by the Bluff City ARES Net, the Central Mississippi Skywarn Net, the Desoto County ARES Net (2), the Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Net, the Southwest Mississippi ARES Team (2), the Stone County ARES Net (2), and the Yalobusha County Skywarn Net. (Number in parenthesis indicates number of severe weather activations).

164 logs were received for the 2017 Mississippi QSO Party as of the cutoff date of April 30. This is a record in spite of the crummy conditions. Preliminary reports show that mobile multi/single team NO5W/W5GAI made 630 QSOs by driving 601 miles through 22 Southern Mississippi Counties. Good Show! Now let the log checking begin!

The Jackson ARC and Central Mississippi ARA provided communications for the Century Ride in Ridgeland on May 6th which is a 100-mile bike ride on the Natchez Trace. The Ride started at 7 AM and the last rider returned at 4 PM. There were several spills, but only one was bad enough to send the rider to the hospital with a possible broken pelvis. The others were either SAGGED in or continued the ride. Hams working this event were K5BLL, K5GCY, KG5IIS, WM5A, AG5CL, AF5QD, W5SSJ, AK5J, K5IMT, KD5DPB, K4YCD, N5PAN, AG5BC, and AE5SK (who worked an HT in the ride).

KF5IMS Lafayette County EC reports that the Ole Miss ARC Club Members served as race marshals for the 2017 Double Decker 5-10 K Run with over 1,300 participants. Those supporting this effort were WB5VYH, KF5IMA, N5RB, KC5KLW, AB5TR, W1IBL, K5LMB, KA7DOG, and WF5N.

AEC AA5SG notes that the Jones County ARES net meets each Thursday night at 7:30 PM Central Time on Jones County linked repeaters 147.060+ (146.2) and 442.300+ (179.9) with EchoLink node AA5SG-L (1512). Also, the "Jones County MS ARES" Facebook group was created and is active. The ARES Group is using it to communicate ARES related information to the active group, plus to communicate with prospective and any non-active ARES members in the local area.

EC WB5CON reports that Alcorn County ARES volunteers had a 2-hour training session with the county EMA director and company representatives of the inter-agency radio communications device (the EMA director calls it a talk box'). This is a "portable" device (takes 4 people to move it) that interfaces to the cellular voice and data network and also multiple public service and ham radios. It allows flexible and programmable voice and data paths to be programmed for inter-agency communications during a natural or man-made disaster. The EMA director wants Alcorn County ARES to know how to set it up and manage it.

Itawamba County EC KE5BSB sends us some not so good news from Fulton. The Northeast Mississippi ARA has been able to use the County EOC over the past few years to have a home for their Emergency Operations Center. They used this location for meetings, Field Day, and Emergency Operations. The Corps of Engineers owned the compound and leased it to the City of Fulton. The City of Fulton Administration decided not to continue with the lease, so NEMRA asked the Corps of Engineers if they could lease the compound, but unfortunately the Corps declined their request. So NEMRA is trying to find a new home. This will be a major effort to move the equipment and antennas

ASEC K1REZ reports that he is dividing the MS-NBEMS Net into two different nets which alternate meeting each week: The MS Digital ARES Training Net meets on the first and third Monday night of the month. The MS Digital SKYWARN Training Net meets on the second and fourth Monday night of the month. Rez' reason for splitting the MS-NBEMS Net this way, is to encourage the two different groups (ARES and SKYWARN) to participate in their own version of the net, with a focus on practice sending and receiving real and test traffic using FLMSG forms pertinent to their specific group (i.e. ARRL Radiograms, ICS forms, NWS Storm Spotter Reports). He is currently rewriting the scripts for these two nets and also creating a special FLMSG form template which will allow them to have their own MS ARES Station Status Report Form in FLMSG. This form can be used by individuals and agencies to give a quick station status report during training nets and more importantly, during emergency activations.

ASEC K1REZ also reports that he recently reestablished the MS-Winlink Net, and it is already getting good usage. Four sessions were held in April, with 85 check-ins and 85 pieces of formal traffic passed. Checking in requires sending K1REZ a formal message via a Winmor connection with any official gateway station in the Winlink system, or via a direct Winmor P2P connection with his digital station. Stations have 12 hours (9am – 9pm) on Tuesdays in which to check in, giving them some flexibility to work within their schedule and work around band conditions. Starting on Tuesday, May 9th KD5NDU in Yalobusha County will join Rez in serving as a backup Net Control Station, making his digital station available during those 12 hours to receive email check-ins to the net via Winmor P2P connections.

W5ILR notes that Field Day is coming up on June 24-25th. You can earn bonus points by originating a message to the Mississippi Section Manager and for each formal message originated, relayed, or received during Field Day. Stations operating Field Day can check into one of the formal traffic nets to pass your traffic. You can also send your messages via the Winlink (www.winlink.org) Radio Email System through HF and VHF Gateway stations around the country and State. All messages must be sent via RF from the Field Day Site. An Internet origination does not count.

His W5ILR-10 Winlink Gateway (145.010 simplex) is on the air in Gulfport for your convenience. Using Winlink Express software and a Terminal Node Controller (TNC) through a VHF transceiver you can connect to W5ILR-10 via GPT. W5ILR's Gateway is a little different than most in that it has no roof mounted antenna. It is located on first floor of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. You must connect through the W5ILR Packet Node which is on the roof of the eight story residential building and has a gain antenna at 140 feet. Connect to W5ILR-10

VIA GPT, which is his Node Alias. There are several local Gulfport hams that are connecting successfully and passing radio email traffic.

W5ILR suggest that you don't wait until Field Day; master the connect technique now. Write your message traffic and put it in your Winlink Express Outbox to be sent during Field Day. You can also use the Digipeaters operating on the Louisiana/Mississippi Packet Backbone (https://sites.google.com/site/lmpacket/) on the same frequency of 145.010. to reach the W5ILR Gateway.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in April: KG5SRY, Alan – Diamondhead; KD5SRZ, Thomas – Saucier; KG5SQC, Iyyob – Ellisville; KG5SQZ, Maury – Terry; KG5SSB, Daniel – Tupelo; KD5SUO, Charles – Edwards; KD5SUP, Joseph – Brandon; KG5SUR, Dennis – Clinton; KG5SUS, Joseph – Raymond; KG5SUT, Cody – Raymond; KG5SUU, Jason – Clinton; KG5SUW, Joey – Southaven; KG5SWA, Michael – Madison; and KG5SYZ, Stephen – Oxford.

Welcome to the following new ARRL Members in April: KF4CMJ, Randy, Olive Branch; WT4E, David – Lamar; WB5F, Ray – Meridian; KD5FOX, Richard – Columbus; NE5L, Johnie – Ellisville; KE5NSE, Doores – Perkinston; KE5OFR, Gary – Gulfport; KG5RRS, Willie – Clarksdale; and AD5VS, Dykes – Port Gibson.

As of April 30, ARRL Membership in Mississippi was 1,062 Down 8 from the last report on March 31. Not good.

And lastly welcome to WA5CAM as AEC for Adams County.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades in April: KG5NOE, Clayton – Waveland, KG5OGH, Jimmy – Corinth; and KG5PXU, James – Southaven;

SEC/ASEC/DEC Reports for April 2017: KC5IMN (SEC), K1REZ (ASEC), WX5N (NE MS), KD4VVZ (Gulf Coast), N5ZNT (SW MS), and KB0ZTX (NW MS).

EC Reports for April 2017: KG5AVT (AEC)(Rankin), KE5BSB (Itawamba), WB5CON (Alcorn), AE5FK (Walthall) KF5GMI (Hinds), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), KC5IIW (Scott), KF5IMA (Lafayette), N5KDA (Adams), AD5KJ (Franklin), N5LJC (Marion), KF5MWE (Clarke), K5MOZ (Jackson), NS5M (Washington), WX5N (Prentiss), KE5NDU (AEC) (Yalobusha), AF5PO (Tishomingo), AE5QP (Greene), AA5SG (Jones), WA5TEF (Lee), KF5UJD (AEC)(Stone), K5VBB (Lamar), KD4VVZ (George), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), N5ZNT (Jefferson), Lincoln, Wilkinson), and KB0ZTX (Marshall).

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

Regret to report the passing of N5OH. Orris was a Navy veteran in addition to being a very active community leader having being an organizer of Alta Woods United Methodist Church, Scoutmaster of Jackson Boy Scout Troop for 18 years, and building Wingfield High School. Also, regret to report the passing of AF5MU of Collins. Rich was a regular checkin to the MSPN for many years.

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

Hattiesburg ARC 10M Simplex Net 5/53/0 (K5TLL)

Magnolia Section Net 30/953/15 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/12/0 (WF5F)

MS NBEMS Network 4/22/2 (W5DIX)

MSPN 30/2278/3 (K5NRK)

MPP HF Net 4/22/0 (W5DIX)

MS Winlink Net 4/85/85 (K1REZ)

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

Bluff City ARES 4/71/0 (N5KDA) (one severe weather activation)

Booneville and Prentiss County Weekly Net 3/40/0 (WX5N)

Capital Area Emergency Net 4/60/0 (K5XU)

DeSoto County Emergency Training and Information Net 4/99/0 (KF5WVJ)
(Two severe weather activations)

Hattiesburg ARC Emergency 2M Net 5/82/0 (K5TLL)

Hattiesburg 2M Simplex Net 1/12/0 (K5TLL)

Itawamba County ARES Net 4/60/0 (KE5BSB)

Lowndes County ARC Net 4/45/0 (KF5AZ)

Marion County HRC Net 4/37/0 (N5LJC)

Marshall County ARES – meets with DeSoto County 4/4/0 (KB0ZTX)

MDXA Net 4/39/0 (N5GD)

Meridian Area Emergency Net 4/49/0 (KD5GWM)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/49/0 (AE5SK)

Mississippi Coast ARA Net 4/73/0 (N5AHM)

MPP 2M Net 4/47/0 (W5DIX)

MLEN 5/36/0 (K5NRK)

MSU ARC 4/72/0 (N5OMK)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Net 4/48/0 (WA5TEF)(one severe weather activation)

Rankin County ARES Net 5/81/0 (KG5AVT)(one severe weather activation)

Scott County ARES Training Net 4/38/0 (KC5IIW)

Scott County ARES Simplex Net 3/10/0 (KC5IIW)

Stone County ARES 4/42/0 (KF5UJD)(two severe weather activations)

UMARC UHF Net 5/17/0 (K5LMB)

UMARC VHF Net 5/46/0 (K5LMB)

Yalobusha Skywarn Net 4/7/0 (KD5NDU)(One severe weather activation)

PSHR – W5XX 74 and KA5DON 63.

Traffic: AD5O 111, KA5DON 13, KG5FRZ 9, and W5XX 5.

Compilation of Net Statistics provided by KB5RCJ.