

Mississippi Section Report for February 2020

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Congratulations to Kirk, AA1NA, who has been selected as the 2020 Mississippi Ham of the Year. In addition to serving several terms as President of the Hattiesburg ARC, he has served as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Operations. In this position he scripted, organized, conducted, and reported on Section Emergency Tests for the past two years involving the dreaded QRM Virus and a seismic event in North Mississippi. See the plaque presentation picture at www.arrrlmiss.org.

Thanks to the George County ARES Group, the Hattiesburg ARC, the Jasper County ARC, the Lamar County ARC, and the Marion County ARC for hosting the Pinebelt Hamfest. Chairman AG5AB says the turnout was outstanding, and the fellowship was great. Planning has started for 2021.

PIO K5RFL reports that on February 20 several members of the Magnolia Amateur Radio Club setup a table as part of the first Oktibbeha County Disaster Preparedness Expo. The event took place in the new safe room on Lynn Lane in Starkville where approximately 30 plus organizations were setup for the public. Magnolia Club members chose to showcase emergency battery powered radios for this event along with a couple of homebrew dipole antennas in order to raise awareness for Ham Radio capabilities in response to disaster situations in which commercial power is rendered useless. Manning the table were K5RFL, K5DDY, and N5MPC. And stopping by for a visit were KF4KQS, AD5HM, KD5FRY, KG5EDC, and AD5HN.

Thanks to EC KF5WFJ's preparing documentation on the ARES Response to the January 11 Tornadoes in DeSoto County, Mississippi ARES received great write ups in the February 19 ARRL ARES Newsletter and the February 20 ARRL Weekly Newsletter. Kudos to KF5WVJ and DeSoto County ARES!

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Mississippi State Amateur Radio Club, W5YD. PIO K5RFL reports that the entire year will see several different events as part of the celebration. On February 1st the W5YD club hosted an open house at their new location on campus at 120 Morgan Street on the 2nd floor of Bullys Closet. Members from the W5YD Club and the Magnolia and Lowndes County ARCs gathered for a breakfast that morning and then carpooled over to campus to see the new clubhouse and meet some new faces. Continuing the celebration, the W5YD club set up on the MSU drill field on February 14th, from 12-4 to demonstrate a bit about Ham Radio, recruit new hams, and pass out some Amateur Radio related information. They had a good time and stirred up some interest among some of the passersby they hope to turn into future Amateur Radio operators and W5YD club members, as well. A yearlong special event station is in the works and details are being ironed out at this time, so keep an eye out for additional information to come.

The seventeenth Mississippi QSO Party is just weeks away on April 4-5. Complete Rules are on www.arrlmiss.org. Conditions are not currently very good so most of the daytime activity will be on 40 and 20 and at night on 75/80. The good news is that this is the year of the 'State QSO Party Challenge.' Some 200 plus operators around the US and VE have signed up to see how many State QSO Parties they can work during 2020. Mississippi is one of the 47 QSO Parties to be on the air in 2020. Be prepared for some pileups, if conditions cooperate. If you plan to conduct a portable or mobile operation, please advise W5XX so this can be publicized across the country

KD5DHR reports that the Vicksburg ARC had a series of fox hunts on February 29. These hunts were for recreation, but also reflect a real world need to practice these skills for many different reasons. Participants were K5VXV, KD5DHR, KG5YEE, KG5OVR, KG5YZT, K5IMT, N5JGK, W5DRF, and KC5GIB. Everyone had a great time!

DEC KB0ZTX notes that the Marshall County (Holly Springs) Repeater has been down and looks like it may be a long-term situation. ARES will continue to use the 146.91 in Desoto County.

Lauderdale County EC KB5DZJ advises that ARES has a new repeater in place and is currently working out the bugs.

AEC KD5NDU reports that the Yalobusha County ARES Facebook page has grown to 65 followers. They are currently keeping the public updated on the severe weather that is happening in the area of Yalobusha County.

Check the Section web site at www.arrlmiss.org from time to time for new information. Most recently the VE Test Schedules for Mississippi for the remainder of 2020 was posted. It has been suggested that a listing of licensing and training classes be added to the website. Comments? Any updates that need to be made to the various listings on the site should be sent to webmaster w5ue@arrl.net.

On your long-range calendar note the Mississippi QSO Party on April 4-5, see www.arrlmiss.org for rules; Field Day on June 27-28; and the ARRL Day in the Park in Vicksburg date TBD.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades in February: KC5CDV, Gregory – Corinth; KI5HVD, Jesse – Pass Christian; and N5LLR, Thomas – Pearl.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in February: AG5YH, James – Hattiesburg; KI5HZP, Rickey – Meridian; KI5HZQ, Jack – Stonewall; KI5HZR, Ralph – Quitman; KI5HZZ, William – Brandon; KI5IAA, Jack – Florence; KI5IAB, Tommy – Carthage; KI5IAD, William – Brandon; KI5IAE, Galen – Pearl; KI5IAF, David – Vicksburg; KI5ICX, Rena – Rienzi; KI5ICY, William – Corinth; KI5IFU, Dale – Hernando; KI5IFV, Scott – Olive Branch; KI5IGZ, Jerry – Booneville; KI5IHB, Devin – Brandon; KI5IHK, Angel – Abbeville; KI5IHL, Acyn – Oxford; KI5IHM, Arhiya – Abbeville; KI5IHN, Tatum – Taylor; KI5IHO, Aiden – Oxford; KI5IHP, Carson, Oxford; KI5IIM, Elmer – Gloster; KI5IJP, Lee – Gautier; and KI5IKE, Steven – Byhalia.

Also, welcome to the following new ARRL Members in February: KI5EWC, John – Carriere; KE5FAY, Paul – Starkville; N5GFH, Gary – Purvis; W5HGB, Hughie – Biloxi; KI5IAF, David – Vicksburg; W5KOZ, Billy – Kosciusko; KG5HGO, James – McComb; KG5NSV, David – Pascagoula; N5LLR, Thomas – Pearl; N5MSJ, Jimmy – Gautier; KB5SMK, Paul – Brandon; KB5SVF, Carl – Pearl; KJ4TDY, Danny – Iuka; K5WDX, Glen – Lucedale; and KG5ZJO, Nellie – Saltillo.

ARRL membership in Mississippi is now 984 no change from last month.

SEC/ASEC/DEC Reports for February 2020: KC5IMN (SEC), N5ZNT (SW MS), and KB0ZTX (DEC NW MS).

EC Reports for February 2020: K5CRJ (AEC) Harrison, AE5FK (Walthall), KF5IAY (Carroll/Montgomery), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), KF5IMA (Lafayette), AF5NG (Marion), KD5NDU (AEC)(Yalobusha), AE5SK (AEC)(Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin), AA5SG (Jones/Wayne), KB5SZJ (Lauderdale), KF5TEX (Forrest), KG5WJM (Jasper), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), N5ZNT (Lincoln/Wilkinson), and KB0ZTX (Marshall).

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

HF Net Reports – sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)
Hattiesburg ARC HF Net 4/40/0 (KD5XG)
K5TAL Net 4/64/0 (WV1Q)
Magnolia Section Net 29/1228/10 (KA5ICO)
MS Baptist Hams Net 4/24/0 (WF5F)
MSPN 29/2242/4 (W5JGW)

VHF Net Reports - sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)
Capital Area Emergency Net 4/41/0 (K5XU)
Carroll/Montgomery ??/149/0 KF5IAY
Copiah, Hinds, Rankin 1/7/0 (AE5SK)
DeSoto County Training and Information Net 4/79/0 (KF5WVJ)
Forrest/Perry Counties Net ARES 2/23/0 (KF5TEX)
Hattiesburg ARC 2 M Net 4/55/0 (KD5XG)
Hattiesburg ARC 2 M Simplex Net 1/12/0 (KD5XG)
Jackson ARC Emergency Net 3/34/0 (K5XU)
Jasper County ARES Net 4/27/0 (KG5WJM)
Jones/Wayne Counties ARES 6/88/0 (AA5SG)
Madison County ARES 3/17/0 (W5DIX)
Marion County ARES Net 4/24/0 (AF5NG)
Marshall County ARES – meets with DeSoto County Net (KB0ZTX)
Mississippi Coast ARES, Weather, and Tech Net 5/80/0 (K5CRJ)

Meridian Area Emergency Net 4/70/0 (KB5SZJ)
Metro Jackson ARES Net 1/7/0 (AE5SK)
MSU ARC Net 4/112/1 (N5OMK)
Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Net 4/63/0 (W3PII)
Southwest MS ARES Team 2/7/0 (N5ZNT) One Skywarn Net

Sundancer Solar ARES Net 4/69/0 (KA5ICO)
University of Mississippi ARES Net 4/48/0 (KF5IMA)
Vicksburg ARC MLEN Net 4/120/0 (KD5DHR)
Walthall County ARES Net 3/41/0 (AE5FK)
Yalobusha County ARES 2/5/0 (KD5NDU)

Digital Net Reports

EMTARG – 567 via the following methods:
WINLNK-PACTOR 1
RMS EXPRESS-THRU BBS K5LAM-1
FLDIGI-USING THE ARQ METHOD
VHF PACKET ON 145.01

K5TAL Digital Voice Net 4/65/0 (WV5Q)

MS Winlink Net 2/24/0 (W5DIX)

NBEMS 4/65/5 (W5DIX)

Traffic: K5LAM 443, WV5Q 4, and W5XX 1

PSHR: W5XX 76, WV5Q 64