

Mississippi Section Report for February 2021

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Be ready! Check out your transceivers and antennas. The Mississippi QSO Party is from 9AM until 9PM on April 3. There is always a lot of activity on 3862 which is good but spend a little time on 40 and 20. Give Hams around the country a chance at working your county. Complete rules are on www.arrlmiss.org.

For those of you who have been trying to attend the 7290 Traffic Handling sessions on the First Wednesday and First Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM and 12 Noon, long skip has been a problem. KA5AZK is the instructor, who lives in northeast Texas. Because of this, Jo Ann may be too close to Mississippi for the first session due to long skip although the 12 PM Session seems to be OK as the skip shortens up. The 9 AM skip problem should go away this summer.

New fees are coming! In a Report and Order released on December 29, the FCC scaled back from \$50 to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. No implementation date has been set, but a 30-day warning will be given. Get your requests in ASAP to avoid a fee.

Scott County EC K1REZ reports: on Saturday, February 20, the Mississippi Radio Direction Finding Association held its first T-Hunt. The transmitter, a 5mW MicroFox, was hidden in a tree within the public-right-of-way along a rural road in Scott County. A horizontally polarized dipole made out of piano wire and measuring 37 inches long was used. The beacon transmitted from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on 146.565 simplex. The signal was receivable for approximately 4 miles in all directions, except for one big hill which blocked the signal but added some interesting reflections back towards the transmitter.

First time direction finders, KI5HGX and his wife, won the T-hunt by being the first to find the transmitter. They used a home brewed version of WB2HOL's tape measure Yagi. Since their HT did not have an S-Meter, they used a Software Defined Receiver which consisted of a Nooelec NESDR dongle, a Raspberry Pi, and Cubic SDR software. Their unique equipment enabled them to see the signal on a spectrum, attenuate its strength, and take bearings which eventually led them to the transmitter. They won a First-Place medal and the grand prize, which was a 2021 ARRL Handbook donated by the ARRL Mississippi Section. For details on future radio direction finding events in Mississippi please visit MSRDF.com

Project Chairman KG5YEE reports that the Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club provided radio communications for the 42nd annual Run Thru History 10K run/5K walk on Saturday March 6. This race is normally held within the Vicksburg National Military Park, but due to Covid restrictions, it had to be moved this year. The course started at the Mississippi riverfront and

wound through some of the old Confederate siege lines. There was a cool breeze, but it was a beautiful sunny morning. Those participating in addition to Jenny were KG5OVR, N5JGK, KC5GIB, KC5GHU, KK5ED, W5WAF, KD5DHR, KC5VTN, K5IMT, K5VXV, N5KWT, and KC5ZCY.

In EC Reports from around the state Carroll County EC KF5IAY reports that ARES operated a net during the winter storm in their area for three days checking roads and assisting motorists.

EC N5AAS advises from Forrest County that ARES sponsored communications for a foot race. They have races scheduled for March and April, and they are planning for and getting ready for hurricane season. They will be practicing digital nets in March.

In Jackson County AEC K9EYZ reports ARES has been actively practicing sending digital traffic over their analog repeater using NBEMS. This practice has generated more interest in digital modes and has generated NTS traffic that they probably would not have otherwise received. They have also started updating their ARES roster including a list of individual radio assets with Two Meter coverage maps for the purpose of revising their emergency communications plan.

From Lamar County DEC KF7DLW advises reports that the Petal Lighthouse Walk and 5K Race went well. Justin wants to personally thank the following operators: AG5AB, NG5C, K5JBA, N5MZ, N5JOZ, KE5KJP, KG4AFY, KF5ZCI, WB5TJK, and KD5XG for their participation. They are now looking for operators for the Hattiesburg 1/2 Marathon and need about 35 operators to cover the course. The date of the race is April 10 starting at 7:00 AM. Please Email KF7DLW at strmspotter@gmail.com, if interested in helping.

And from Lauderdale County EC KB5SZJ reports that the wx5mei-10 is working great, and w5fq-10 is almost ready to go back on the air. They will be holding a Technician class in Clarke County, date to be determined.

2020 was a frustrating year for Mississippi Hams with most events being cancelled or scaled down. As Covid 19 continues into 2021 circumstances promise to be about the same for the first part of this year. Attached for your information below is the current status (updated from last month) of known Ham events in and around Mississippi:

- Acadiana Hamfest, Rayne, cancelled, see www.w5ddl.org/hamfest for updates.
- 2021 Mississippi QSO Party, April 3, see www.arrlmiss.org FT8/FT4 this year!
- 7290 Message Traffic Handling Session, April 3 and 7. Sessions at 9:30 and 12:00
- Monroe Hamfest. Cancelled. See you in 2022. POC: w5la@arll.net
- Mobile Hamfest, May 22. New date. POC: w4nnf@arll.net
- Hamvention, Xenia, May 21-23, 2021. Cancelled.
- Hamcom, Plano, QRT after 41 Years.
- Black Warrior Hamfest, June 19, 2020, Tuscaloosa, (tentative), POC:KF4DGS
- ARRL Field Day June 26-27, 2021. See Covid rules on www.arll.org
- ARRL Mississippi Section SET, August 7, Prepare !! POC:KC5IMN
- Shreveport Hamfest. Cancelled for 2021. See you in 2022!

- Huntsville, August 20-21, 2021. All systems go. www.hamfest.org
- Jackson County Hamfest, November 12-13. POC kj4njt@arrl.net
- Greater New Orleans, November 13. POC: Joen5ozq@hotmail.com

Anybody have additional information? Thanks to all who helped pull this information together. This list will be updated in future Section Reports.

And congratulations to the following who upgraded in February: KI5LCF, Ken – D’Iberville.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in February: KI5NKI, Vaughn – Hattiesburg; KI5NKU, Joseph – Union; KI5NKV, William – Union; KI5NMD, Stephen – Oxford; KI5NME, James – Oxford; KI5NOK, Jonathan – Lucedale; KI5NSM, Gary – Madison; KI5NSO, Cody - Oxford; and KI5NSP, Patrick – Water Valley.

Also welcome the following new ARRL Members in February: KI5BKM, William – Madison; KI5DGY, James – Laurel; KE5GIU, Louis – Bay Saint Louis; KC5HPU, Wayne – Meridian; KI5JNC, Christina – Columbus; KF5KPH, Cynthia – New Albany; KF5KPK, James – Oxford; KI5LCF, Kevin – D’Iberville; W5MLJ, Michael – Ocean Springs; KI5MOK, Mark – Meridian; KI5NBI, Rob – Hattiesburg; KJ6NKA, Bobby – Saltillo; KI5OAL, John – Gautier; WJ5P, Lee – Raleigh; NH7PN, Bryan – Jackson; KG5RSA, Raymond – Water Valley; N5SRT, Roger – Poplarville; KC4TTN, Douglas – Canton; K9TTX, Devon – Tupelo; and KG5ZZZ – Matthew.

ARRL Membership is now 1,014 up 8 from last month. We are holding above 1,000. Let’s keep it there! Thanks to all who support ARRL Membership in Mississippi.

And last, but not least, welcome to K7QI as a Technical Specialist. Jim just moved to Picayune from Washington State. Also, welcome to AE5MI and WX5RJ as AECs for Harrison County and K5FIT as AEC for Rankin County.

SEC/DEC Reports for January 2020: KC5IMN (SEC), KF7DLW (SE MS), and KB0ZTX (NW MS).

EC Reports for January: N5AAS (Forrest), N5CRS (Jasper), KF7DLW (DEC - Lamar), K9EYZ (AEC Jackson), AE5FK (Walthall), KF5IAY (Carroll), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), KF5IMA (Lafayette), N5KDA (Adams), AF5NG (Marion), AG5RI (Harrison), KB5SQZ (AEC)(Hinds), KB5SZJ (Lauderdale), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), KB5ZEA (Attala), and KB0ZTX (Marshall).

ACC Report from W5VMS. Scott reminds clubs to check their club record! Make sure the information is current and accurate. A spot check indicates there are a lot of blank and invalid entries within the section. Help is available from w5vms@icloud.com

Also, the 2020 Clubs Annual Report has been printed and is available. A copy of the report was sent to the same POCs, who received the 2021 ARRL Handbooks. If your Club did not receive a

copy of this report, please advise either W5VMS or W5XX of a valid mailing address and a copy will be mailed.

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

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

Hattiesburg ARC 10M Net 4/35/0 (KD5XG)

K5TAL 80M Net 4/57/0 (WV5Q)

Magnolia Section Net 28/1155/2 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/19/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 28/2355/21 (W5JGW)

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

Adams County ARES 4/52/0 (N5KDA)

Attala County ARES 1/3/0 (KB5ZEA)

Capital Area Emergency Net 4/51/0 (K5XU)

Central Mississippi ARES Training Net 4/53/7 (KG5SQZ)

DeSoto County Training and Information Net 4/111/0 (KF5WVJ)

Delta ARA Net ?/157/0 (KF5IAY)

Forest County ARES 2/24/0 (N5AAS)

Harrison County ARES 1/8/0 (AG5RI)

Hattiesburg ARC 2 M Net 4/52/4 (KD5XG)

Hattiesburg ARC 2 M Simplex Net 1/14/0 (KD5XG)

JARC Emergency Net 4/48/0 (K5XU)

Jackson County ARES 5/60/5 (K9EYZ)

Jasper County ARES 4/20/0 (N5CRS)

Lamar County ARES 2/22/0 (KF7DLW)

Lowndes County ARC 4/72/0 (KF5AZ)

Marion County ARES 4/27/0 (AF5NG)

Marshall County ARES – meets with DeSoto County Net (KB0ZTX)

Meridian Area Emergency Net 4/62/0 (KF5SZJ)

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/97/0 (AB5FU)

MSU ARC Net 4/125/0 (N5OMK)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Net 4/86/0 (W5BAQ)

Sundancer Solar ARES Net 4/103/0 (WOW!)(KA5ICO)

University of Mississippi Net 4/49/0 (KF5IMA)

Vicksburg ARC MS-Lou WX Net 5/174/0 (KD5DHR)

Walthall County ARES Net 4/68/1 (AE5FK)

Digital Net Reports

Central Mississippi ARES Digital VHF Net 4/27/38 (wow!) (KI5JCL)

K5TAL Digital Voice Net 4/62/0 (WV5Q)

Traffic: WV5Q 23, KG5FRZ 12, and W5XX 4.

PSHR: WV5Q 83 and W5XX 76.