# Mississippi Section Report for July 2022

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In order to be prepared for events requiring emergency communications support the ARRL Mississippi Section annually holds an ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET).  The initial narrative reports from the SEC/DEC/ECs on the last Saturdays SET are provided below in the following paragraphs.

From SEC KC5IMN: On Saturday 6 August 2022 from 7AM-7PM, ARES conducted the annual statewide SET. The main purpose of the SET is to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in Amateur Radio emergency preparedness as well as to demonstrate Amateur Radio to our served agencies and the public.

The SET Scenario this year was a Cyber Event impacting the entire state of Mississippi. Adversaries against the United States launched a coordinated cyber-attack impacting the Mid-South.  Disruptive factors simulated during the SET included focused denial of service to infrastructure command and control communications and all things internet based. ARES simulated a requirement to provide emergency communications support for our served agencies and utility service providers.

Many Mississippi ARES teams and state RACES operations activated their local county emergency operations centers as well as the MEMA EOC (this was a virtual activation). ARES had one of the largest turnouts of Mississippi Ham Radio volunteers in recent history.

From ASEC W5DIX: Digital operations were even better than last year!  The digital planning team consisted of K9EYZ, KG5SQZ, KI5JCL, KI5JJP, and K5FIT.  The Team met several times before the SET to plan and streamline support using the NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency System) and Winlink Net/traffic.

The approach this year was to prioritize the NBEMS as the main tactical net with Winlink as the large information traffic information system directly linked to the MEMA and supporting the Winlink net for stations that did not have access to Winlink. This approach made it much more manageable and lessened the load of the Net Controls Stations. As a result stations were able to pass immense amounts of traffic between both Nets and directly to MEMA. Stations from as far away as Oklahoma supported the SET (AE5ME and his team).  While the main bulk of the digital team supported the statewide nets, K5FIT supported the Central Mississippi Digital and VHF Nets passing the bulk amount of traffic into the Winlink system and then directly to KM5EMA. Thanks to K5FIT for a great job. Also, Thanks to our newest NBEMS NCS, KG5SQZ, who did a great job in managing the NBEMS net during his time slot.

Special note: with severe storms traveling the entire breadth of the state from the Gulf to the northern part of the state, band conditions were horrible with the associate lightening.  However, with teamwork between the NCS on their rotation and the supporting digital team, not a single

station was NOT heard including the numerous ICS213 traffic flowing hourly via the NBEMS being relayed to KM5EMA!

From AEC K0UPW in Rankin County: The Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Club was totally involved in the Mississippi SET. We had 12 Net Controls Operators that worked one-hour shifts from 7am to 7pm on our ARES VHF Net. K5FIT, KI5JCL, and KG5SQZ were the liaisons that worked digitally between the VHF Net and the Digital Net. K5FIT passed 7 voice and 8 digital messages to MEMA. K0UPW passed 16 messages on the VHF Net and N5SPJ even passed a 43-word Radiogram message. Thankfully, K0UPW had a version of the ARRL Radiogram that is used by the National Traffic System that would handle any number of words. The VHF net worked perfectly, and first reports indicate that ARES did very well overall.

From DEC KF7DLW in Southeast Mississippi (MEMA District 8): Eight ARES members and nonmembers participated in the SET. Just a little after 7:00 AM we activated the 146.670 Repeater Emergency Net and started taking roll call. Stations from Jones County, Forrest County and Lamar County were active during the check in portion of the net and received and passed traffic using ICS213 to the MSPN and the NBEMS net. The net stayed active for the whole SET with 15 stations checking in during the day.

At 15:00 KF7DLW put a call out on the net that simulated a repeater malfunction and had all operators move over to 2-meter simplex where a net was held for one hour. Stations started off by checking in on reduced power of 10 watts or less for the first half hour. After receiving check-ins, net control would assign each station to put a call out for the other stations on the net and give a signal report. After the first half hour, all stations were asked to increase power to 50 watts if possible, then the same procedure was repeated. This helped us find out our 2-meter coverage in the area for simplex in the event of a repeater outage, and also demonstrated how increasing power can improve a contact, also using improved antennas for handheld HTs. Several operators made some quick antenna builds and improvised with what they had with maximum effectiveness. After the one hour on the simplex, the repeater net was restored which continued till 19:00 when the SET was closed.

From EC AG5RI in Harrison County: We had 14 participants in our ARES Net and were interviewed by local television WLOX . See https://www.wlox.com/2022/08/07/harrison-county-amateur-radio-emergency-services-participates-simulated-disaster-drills/

We set up an alternate EOC site and also deployed to a shelter where we were able to send Winlink email status to the Harrison County EMA and the alternate EOC site via HF VARA Winlink. We utilized Winlink email (pactor and VARA), our VHF local net, and the HF statewide net, and provided HF net control operators. Four new Hams tested at our alternate EOC site and were able to see the SET in action. Big thanks to the entire team, and to KF5BA, WX5RJ, AE5MI, and KJ4NJT for their hard work in making the local SET happen.

From AEC AD5HM in the Golden Triangle: Members of the Magnolia ARC and the Lowndes ARC participated in the SET. We had 15 members participate and practiced passing traffic, net operation, and digital HF. Some teams physically went to various locations to pick up and relay

or deliver messages.   We activated the Oktibbeha EOC and had a physical presence at the Clay County EOC to pick up a message.  The exercise concluded with a hamburger cookout at a Starkville park and a foxhunt.  Other than the hot weather, the exercise was a good time and a learning experience.  We already have a list of items we hope to improve on and will conduct local exercises more often! (see photo on www.arrlmiss.org)

From EC KC3HLT in Lamar County:  The 2022 SET started like any other SET with a bit of confusion and a lot of caffeine.  After a little while, we got into our groove. We ended up on the proper digital frequencies, began our coordination with sistering counties (Forrest and Jones counties) and started to pass traffic and exercise our capabilities. From a technology perspective, we had everything from a cross band repeater to an APRS iGATE setup with an SDR. We had low power NETS, EchoLink Check-ins, Simplex Nets, mobile net controls (from a Walmart parking lot) and temporary antennas erected. We had participation from over a dozen operators throughout the day even though most of our ARES members were out of town. As like every SET and other ARES activity, we uncovered some things we would like to focus on improving and some ways we can make uninterrupted communications possible. We hope everyone else had such discoveries!

From DEC/EC KD4VVZ in George County: The scenario involved local businesses losing internet and power. County and state boarders were closed except to local residents. All stations were able to access and use the local repeater which is equipped with backup power. This SET gave a realistic view of radio coverage for mobile, base, and handheld stations.

The George County ARES Net was in operation from 9 AM to 10:30 with NCS KG5AZL and KG5AZM.  Participants were WB4SHX, KI5QFE, KI5TLW, KG5UXI, KO5F. and KF5TFU. The entire SET operation was transcribed by PIO KG5AZL and copies are available.

And now a word from Affiliated Club Coordinator W5VMS:

For clubs with an interest in contesting, CW still rules.  Results of the recent 2022 Worldwide 160-meter contest show that even when conditions are less than optimal, there were still sixteen Millionaire Clubs --that's one million points for contacts; no one came close to that on SSB.  Conditions were not good in either the CW or SSB tests, with one participant stating "worst propagation of all time to USA from Europe."  Conditions on 160 meters may continue to decline as sunspot levels increase.  Complete details of the contest are available in the August 2022 issue of CQ Amateur Radio magazine.  Upcoming CW contests include the SARL HF CW Contest (http://bit.ly/H0lqQf) August 28; the MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint (www.miqrp.net/contest) September 5-6; and the North American CW Sprint (http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf), September 11.

From EC Monthly Reports from around the state …

From KG5SQZ in Hinds County: A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Technician Class licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, September  8, and will run through Thursday, October  20  (7 sessions).   The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time.  These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics

Museum. Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email me at roland.anders@comcast.net

From KB5SZJ in Lauderdale County: We are working on having a test session sometime in the last two weeks of September.

Attached for your information below is the current status (updated from last month) of known upcoming Ham events in and around Mississippi:

- EMCOMM Checkin on 3862. September 1 (1st Thursday Each Month)
- Huntsville Hamfest, August 20-21. www.hamfest.org
- Jackson County Hamfest, Nov 11-12, POC: Charles.hardt@mgccc.edu
- Capital City Hamfest. Jan 28-29, Trade Mart, POC:ak5j@arrl.net
- 2023 Mississippi QSO Party, April 1-2  2023, POC: W5XX

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

Regret to report the passing of:

WF5T of Harrisville.  Richard was a 37-year veteran of the Mississippi Air National Guard having served 3 tours in Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield.  In civilian life he was in the bank equipment business working for Diebold.  Besides Ham Radio he was an enthusiastic beekeeper and helper to several agencies in Simpson County having computer issues.

KG5QLS of Pearl.  Richard was a retired Viet Nam vet serving in the Navy and Coast Guard. Richard was a former Officer (pastor/clergy) in the Salvation Army serving as Divisional Finance Secretary for the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi Division.

SEC/DEC Reports for July 2022: KC5IMN (SEC), and KD4VVZ (Gulf Coast).

EC Reports for July 2022:  K9EYZ (Jackson), AE5FK (Walthall), KF5IAY (Carroll), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), KD5NDU (AEC) (Yalobusha), KG5SQZ (Hinds), KB5SZJ (Lauderdale), KG5TTU (Tate), KD4VVZ (George), and KF5WVJ (DeSoto).

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


HF Net Reports

Magnolia Section Net 31/1080/9 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 3/10/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 31/2140/10 (W5JGW)

PBARC 10M Net 5/44/0 (KD5XG)


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

Central Mississippi ARES Training Net 3/52/0 – joint net count (KG5SQZ)

Delta ARA EM Net ?/174/0 (KF5IAY)

DeSoto County Training and Information 4/91/0 (KF5WVJ)

George County ARES Net 4/44/0 (KF5TJU)

Jackson County ARES 1/60/0 (K9EYZ)

Lowndes County ARC 4/37/1 (K5TCO)

Meridian ARC Em Net 4/16/0 (KB5SZJ)

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/105/0 (W5JGW)

Mississippi State ARC 4/95/1 (K4MAG)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn 4/73/0 (W5BAQ)

PBARC 10M Net 5/63/3 (KD5XG)

PBARC 2M Simplex Net 1/6/0 (KD5XG)

Sundancer Solar ARES Net 4/67/0 (KA5ICO)

Tate County ARES 4/51/0 (KG5TTU)

Vicksburg ARC/MLEN 5/89/0 (KG5YEE)

Walthall County ARES 4/53/0 (AE5FK)

Yalobusha County ARES  ?/72/0 (KD5NDU)


Digital Net Reports

Central Mississippi ARES Digital Net 3/19/11 (KI5JCL)

Central Mississippi WL2K Net - QNI 16 (KI5JCL)


Traffic: WV5Q 123 and W5XX 2

PSHR: WV5Q 173 and W5XX 73