

# Mississippi Section Report for March 2023

SM: Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Section Website at [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org). Webmaster: W5UE, ASM: KB5HC, KA5ICO, N5OMK, K0UPW, W4WLF, KB5YEE, AG5Z, KB0ZTX; ACC: W5VMS, PIC: K5RFL, SEC: KC5IMN, ASEC: AA1NA, W5DIX; SGL: AK5J; TC: N5JGK.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Mississippi QSO Party is now history. The number of Mississippi stations on the air was outstanding, but conditions were not good. In fact, the ionosphere did not really wake up until the late afternoon.

In highlights, W1AW/5 was on the air from Mississippi during the QSO Party thanks to the coordination efforts of AG5Z. W5YD at MSU was on the air with a multi-multi staffed my N4OGW, K4MAG, KG5XR, K5TRP, and KI5YYX. WQ5L made 400 plus QSOs from his home QTH in Harrison County and then QSYed to his portable location in Hancock County making nearly 300 more QSOs. Wow! Ray is a hard worker. K2FF and W5UE set up shop in Newton and Neshoba Counties with a ping pong table net laid out along the line separating the two counties. K2FF was on the air from Newton County as KZ5DX and W5UE as N5N from Neshoba County. Other known Mobile/portable operations were from K5OMC/M, AB6Z/P, K5RFL/M, W5SGL/P, N5OS/P, K4FMH/P.

W1AW/5 visited Mississippi on March 29 through April 4 as part of VOTA (see January QST). Spring Coordinator AG5Z reports in a preliminary summary that Mississippi Stations collectively made 4800 plus QSOs. Participants were KC5LK, WQ5L, AG5Z, N5CW, WJ5K, N5YT, K5TLL, K0RO, NA5DX, KD4VVZ, W5UE, KF8PD, K2FF, and W5XX. Did you miss your opportunity to be W1AW/5? You will have another chance November 14- 20 with W5UE as the Fall Coordinator.

From SEC KC5IMN on the severe weather event that occurred in Mississippi on Friday March 24. The Jackson Amateur Radio club activated the 146.940 SkyWarn Storm Spotters net early in the afternoon as did the Central Mississippi ARES Group with their linked repeaters covering the periphery of the Jackson metro area. I'm fairly certain that Vicksburg/Warren County ARES was up and running as were several non-ARES affiliated nets across the state. Notifications went out via phone, Facebook groups, and GroupMe messaging platforms. Unfortunately, for the two most impacted areas, there was no local repeater coverage and not a lot of local amateur radio operations were working Storm Spotting in those counties. The Memphis NWS was sponsoring a Storm Spotter SkyWarn net on DMR Talk Groups 31471 and 31472 (Brandmeister Network) and appeared very engaged in the happenings since the impacts were just south of their area of operations.

DEC KF7DLW reports on April 1st that ARES provided Communications for the Hattiesburg half marathon. They set up 14 stations along the half marathon, the 10K, and the 5K route. All Communications were done through the 2M repeater located in Hattiesburg on 147.315. Communications for this event went very smoothly and anytime the race coordinators inquired about racers' positions within moments ARES was able to provide the information that was requested.

No major events were reported except one minor medical situation which actually turned out as a non event as the runner wanted to keep on running, and the runner completed the course with no difficulty. ARES got extreme praise from the city of Hattiesburg and other organizers in the area. ARES is looking forward to supporting this event next year. Those participating were KF7DLW, KC3HLT, K6SDM, KD5FIJ, N5MZ, KI5OAI, WB5JTK, KF5CE, K5REY, KE5KIP, KM0I, KD5XG, NT5DB, and KI5TMR.

KG5SQZ reports that Central MS ARES was asked to assist with communications for the RWB Breaking the Loop Race at the Reservoir on March 25. The event consisted of five-foot races at staggered intervals around an 11-mile circuit. After meeting with race officials and law enforcement agencies involved with the event, K5FIT, Director of Training, rode the racecourse with AECs WM5A, KJ5ET, and KI5TRX to determine the best vantage points for radio operators. K5FIT then developed an Operations Order for the event.

The Central MS ARA repeater (147.345) was utilized for all communications. Net Control was established at the Start/Finish Line and a Mobile Unit was enabled to respond to any location needing assistance. Seventeen ARES members were assigned to 12 locations to report any issues, incidents, or emergencies to Net Control and appropriate officials. No incidents were experienced, and the event was a success thanks to those ARES members who participated. Participants included KI5JCL, KI5ZOQ, KI5ZRU, W9NG, K0UPW, AC5Z, W5SSJ, KI5RQE, KJ4HRG, WM5A, KI5TRX, K5FIT, KJ5ET, KG5ZDZ, KI5WOT, KI5ZIG, and WN4RWL

PIO KG5AZL reports from Lucedale that George County ARES was honored to have Bob Heil, K9EID, from Heil Sound, do a presentation for ARES at their meeting on Saturday, April 8th. He told the group about his start at a very young age, and how it all proceeded from there into his love for developing the sound systems and microphones that Heil Sound has today. He also told our group about how he got involved with rock and roll bands and about all the years that he toured with the big rock legends like Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Peter Frampton, Bad Company, and the Eagles, just to name a few. The Heil Sound company is the only manufacturing company to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and it was a great honor to have Bob speak to George County ARES, and they truly learned a great deal from him.

For your reference the listing of Mississippi VE Test dates for 2023 is on [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org). Please forward any corrections or additions to [w5xx@arrl.org](mailto:w5xx@arrl.org).

In EC Reports from around the State ...

From Carroll County EC KF5IAY reports that the ARES Net was activated when a tornado was headed to the area. The tornado passed on the ground through the Blackhawk community and KI5HKE (Reggie Daves) house took a direct hit. The only communication for help was his HT. Traffic was monitored and passed through the EOC. This I firmly believe not only helped with rescue but saved lives.

EC W5VMS for Warren/Claiborne Counties presented a program titled "GMRS and FRS: An Introduction to the Personal Radio Services" to the Scott County Amateur Radio Club. The program highlighted how GMRS and Amateur Radio can complement each other, and how

GMRS could augment Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. There is considerable interest in this topic. W5VMS will be presenting the program to the Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association in April.

W5VMS also reports that he has been appointed to FEMA Region IV Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG). The group serves as a key coordination point for State, Local, Territorial, Tribal, and Federal emergency responders at a regional level for emergency communications. By coordinating with whole community partners, RECCWGs support regional preparedness efforts, serving as a mechanism for discussing, defining, and integrating emergency communications support across any jurisdiction. (This is part of my role as a Civil Air Patrol Communications Officer, but ARES is a partner in the program).

DeSoto County EC KF5WVJ reports that March 23 was setting up to be the highest risk enacted by the NWS for severe weather and a 30% or higher risk for tornadoes. EC KF5WVJ, AEC KF5KVL, AEC KG5TTU, AG5FG, KI5HWA, KD5BS, and EMA Director KE5WKF assembled and opened the Desoto County EOC at 2 PM to begin watching and tracking the severe thunderstorms into our area. DEC KB0ZTX was able to monitor from an out of state location and phone in assistance.

At 7:35 PM we received the first tornado warning for our area and started a Skywarn Net. At approximately 8:35 PM we received a PDS Tornado warning for DeSoto County and other areas in our watch. A funnel cloud was spotted in Tunica County moving ENE. This funnel cloud was tracked into DeSoto County. At the completion of this warning, we began receiving reports of tree damage and homes damaged, SAR was Deployed to Eudora where the most reports originated from. At this time a tornado or funnel cloud was suspected of moving through that area.

EC KF5WVJ and AEC KG5TTU deployed to the area east of Eudora to search for damage in the suspected damage path. We located trees across the roadway and on vehicles and homes in the Horn Lake Rd and Dean Rd area. Approximately 30 minutes later we were informed of another mesocyclone following the same path. We then relocated to Highway 269 and Tulane on the overpass to watch the next impending storm cross about 3 miles from our location. While parked at this location they began to hear roofing tin banging to the SW of their location which turned out to be a large horse stable being blown apart by another tornadic cell. At this time, we were advised by KB0ZTX to hasten our exit to a safer area south of our location since this cell had turned to the east and was headed toward our now unsafe location. Five minutes later the tornadic cell passed within a 1/4 mile of our previous location. We then continued back to the EOC after the cell was out of the area.

We observed numerous Mesocyclone cells moving through the area with multiple areas of rotation through the duration of this event. The county had 5 shelters open, and all had 50 or more people with the FEMA Safe room having approximately 130 individuals during the storms. The Desoto County EOC Classroom held approximately 60 family members of the County agencies during the storms as well. Desoto County suffered major damage to trees and 47 homes in the Eudora area in which KG5TTU and KF5WVJ assisted the Desoto County EMA with damage Assessment reports on Saturday morning after the storms.

KB5SZJ reports from Lauderdale County that he and SEC KC5IMN had a phone conference with James Blackwell MS Dept. of Health, who is also a Ham. He is very interested in putting DMR hotspots in all the hospitals around the state. They believe this will help in getting supplies and help like what was needed for the citizens at Rolling Fork. Also, they are looking into getting a node or two added in Meridian soon.

N5MIS reports from Pontotoc County that they had one Skywarn activation in March. There was one tornado warning in the county and some damage was done, and unfortunately one person lost their life.

From Winston County EC KI5SAG says she assisted Blackhawk with supplies for the tornado disaster. Angela has continued helping with disaster relief efforts at Blackhawk. Others in the Winston County ARES Group are on standby in case anything else is needed.

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, 6:00 PM, May 4 (1st Thursday Each Month)
- Field Day, June 24-25, see June 2023 QST for announcement.
- SET, August 12, POC: KC5IMN
- ARRL Day in the Park, Oct 14, Olive Branch Park, POC: KF8PD and KF5WVJ
- W1AW/5 VOTA Operation from Mississippi Nov 15-22, POC: W5UE

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

Welcome to the following new Amateurs in Mississippi in March: W3ACX, Ryan – Cascilla; KJ5AAO, Edward – Gulfport; KJ5AAZ, Kenneth – Caledonia; KJ5ABH, Robert -Madison; KJ5ABP, Micah – Madison; KJ5ACV, KJ5ACE, Davey – Vicksburg; KJ5ACV, John – Brandon; KJ5AEI, Jimmy – Lumberton; KJ5AGZ, Dylan – Collinsville; KJ5AHO, Jacob – Meridian; KJ5AJT, Joseph – Starkville; KJ5AHT, Thomas – Belden; KJ5AHU, Glen – Tiplersville; KJ5AHX, Greg – Saltillo; KJ5AIN, George – Olive Branch; KJ5AJB, Peter – Forest; KJ5AKP, Adam – Starkville; KJ5AKT, Jose – Carriere; KI5ZYU, Robert – Lumberton; and KI5ZYY, Bryant – Pass Christian;

What to do with this list? Club Officers and members, if you see a local on this list that you are not familiar with, locate and ask them to visit your next club meeting. Ask W5XX for contact information, and also ask if they need help getting on the air.

Welcome to the following new ARRL members in March: WB5CNY, William – Madison; K5UDA, Gabriel – New Albany; KI5YDD, Janice – Pearl; KI5YTR, James – Lucedale; KI5ZOG, Michael – Madison; KI5ZOR, Eric – Mendenhall.

ARRL Membership in Mississippi is 995 as of March 1. Keep working towards 1000. Thanks to all who help promote membership.

Remember, if a member signs up through your club, the club gets a rebate of \$15 for new members and \$5 for a current member renewal. See Club Reconciliation Form on the ARRL Website.

Welcome to the following new Section Appointees: N5XXX as OES, N5OCT as PIO.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades in March 2023: KI5ACS, Carl – Meridian; KJ5AEI, Jimmy - Lumberton; K5ANK, Henry – Louisville; KO4EZG, Tim – Hernando; KI5HWA, Charles – Nesbit; KG5IAX, Ted – Hickory; KB5LIN, Kim – Hernando; N5MPC – Andy – Starkville; N5NUR, Nancy – Starkville; KI5RJM, William – Marion; KI5SAG, Angela – Louisville; KI5TMT, Chad – Hattiesburg; W5WCM – Mark – Caledonia; KI5WSM – Shingo – Hattiesburg; KI5YWQ, Larry – Shaw; KI5ZBM, Ellis – Blue Springs; and KI5ZKM, Kevin – Southaven;

Congratulations to NA5DX who made it to the DXCC Honor Roll after 25 years and 9 months of effort. On Christmas Day last year Bill was sitting at 328 Current and hadn't worked a new one since 2018. The next day started an incredible 62 day run working Crozet, Bouvet, and Cambodia for all time new ones. When the Bouvet confirmation arrived, he immediately made a LoTW application which was processed the next day. All of Bill's contacts to reach the Honor Roll were made from his home station using vertical or wire antennas.

SEC/DEC Reports for March 2023: KC5IMN (SEC), KF7DLW (SE MS), KD4VVZ (Gulf Coast), N5ZNT (SW MS), KB0ZTX (NW MS)

EC Reports for March 2023: N5AAS (Forrest) , N5EYZ (Jackson), AE5FK (Walthall), NI5I (Perry), KF5IAY (Carroll), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), KF5IMA (Lafayette), KG5IXV (Newton), N5MIS (Pontotoc), AG5ND (Oktibbeha), K1REZ (Scott), AG5RI (Harrison), KI5SAG (Winston), KG5SQZ (Hinds), KB5SZJ (Lauderdale), KG5TTU (Tate), W5VMS (Warren/Claiborne), KD4VVZ (George/Greene), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), KB5ZEA (Attala), N5ZNT (Lincoln), KB0ZTX (Marshall)

Club Newsletters (Editor): the Meridian ARC Spark Gap (W5MAV) and the Mississippi Coast ARA Splatter (N5OCT)

Note: The legend for the following net reports is number of sessions held/checkins/formal traffic.

HF Net Reports

Magnolia Section Net 31/1193/15 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/10/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 31/2540/8 (W5JGW)

PBARC 10M Net 4/47/0 (KD5XG)

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

Capital Area EM Net 4/52/0 (K5XU)

Central Mississippi ARES Training Net 4/131/0 (KG5SQZ) 2 Skywarn Nets

Delta ARES EM Net? /177/0 (KF5IAY) 1 Em Net

DeSoto County Training and Information 4/73/0 (KF5WVJ) 1 Em Net, 2 Skywarn Nets

Forrest County ARES 2/27/0 (N5AAS)

George County ARES 4/54/0 (KI5TJO)

Harrison County ARES 1/5/0 (AG5RI)

Jackson ARES EM Net 4/40/0 (K5XU)

Jackson County ARES Net 4/87/0 K9EYZ)

Lowndes County ARC Net 4/48/0 (K5TCO)

Marshall County ARES – Trains with Desoto County ARES (KB0ZTX)

Meridian ARC EM Net 4/26/0 (KB5SZJ) 1 Skywarn Net

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/118/0 (W5JGW)

MSU ARC Net 4/89/0 (K4MAG)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn 4/73/0 (W5BAQ) 2 Emergency Nets

Oktibbeha County ARES 1/3/1 (AG5ND)

PBARC 2M Net 4/61/2 (KD5XG)

PBARC 2M Simplex Net 1/12/0 (KD5XG)

Pontotoc ARES Skywarn WX Net 5/73/1 (N5MIS) 1 Skywarn Net

Southwest MS ARES Team 5/25/0 (N5ZNT)

Sundancer ARES Net 4/67/0 (KA5ICO)

Tate County ARES 4/73/0 (KG5TTU) 1 Em Net, 1 Skywarn Net

University of MS ARES Net 4/70/0 (KF5IMA) 2 Skywarn Nets

Vicksburg ARC/MLEN 4/86/0 (KG5YEE) 1 Skywarn Net

Walthall County ARES Net 4/50/0 (AE5FK)

#### Digital Net Reports

Central Mississippi ARES Digital Net 4/28/27 (KI5JCL)  
(2 VHF nets and 2 HF nets)

Traffic: WV5Q 124 and W5XX 8

PSHR: WV5Q 184 and W5XX 74