

Mississippi Section Report for October 2020

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This has been an extraordinary Hurricane Season, and it may not be over yet. Hurricanes Laura and Marco were headed in our direction but turned to the west. Hurricane Sally turned to the east. Hurricane Delta skirted West Mississippi but caused minor damage. Unfortunately, our luck ran out. Zeta hit the Gulf Coast dead on and caused considerable damage.

Gulf Coast DEC KD4VVZ reports that the Harrison and Jackson Counties ARES teams did a great job during the storm maintaining their nets and providing crucial information on weather stats and road conditions for First Responders. The SE Mississippi Wires-X Link was able to maintain link for most of the storm period and pass traffic from Harrison, Jackson, and George Counties, and there were some folks from the Hattiesburg area that were connected as well. The Lucedale VHF repeater never lost power.

From Harrison County EC AG5RI reports a tremendous turnout and response from the Harrison County ARES team, the Ham operators along the Gulf Coast, and the Jackson County ARES team. Harrison County was activated by the EMA director, and ARES worked the local net from W5SGL at the EOC and from remote QTH's. KJ4NJT, KC5IMN, W4WLF, and AE5MI were instrumental in pulling off this response. Also, thanks to W5THT for relief.

Post event, Harrison County ARES was able to get their repeater up on emergency power until commercial power was restored thanks to N5LBZ with traffic being passed via W5JGW. Hams provided updates on weather, power, road closures, etc. when there were no commercial coms available.

AG5RI would like to provide a special thank you to the net control operators of Jackson County. They were able to provide critical road and weather conditions during the storm so ARES could advise AMR regarding transporting a patient to Mobile.

Jason would also like to thank K9EYZ for getting W5SGL linked with George County. While the link was tenuous, it was effective, allowing us to link with Stone County EC during the onset of tropical conditions.

Jackson County AEC K9EYZ reports that he would like to commend the ARES group for exemplary service during the landfall of Hurricane Zeta. All stations on the net were professional and dedicated, and particularly he would specifically point out the dedication of net control stations N2PKW, KI5JJP, and KM4EWZ.

Laurence further advises that ARES was not officially activated by Jackson County EMA; however, Jackson County ARES activated the local 2M net, maintained liaisons with the Harrison County Net, and kept the section NBEMS net up throughout the landfall of

Zeta. ARES repeatedly adapted and reassigned net control duties during power losses and kept the net running continuously during hurricane conditions.

In damage reports from around the State, K5YG, in Ocean Springs, says that all three of his towers survived although one of his rotators could not handle the wind load. Shortly after a peak winds of 80 MPH the mast went into "auto-rotate" and the antenna array went wherever the winds wanted it to go! The coax was wound tight to say the least. K2FF, in Ocean Springs says, he went outside several times during the Zeta's passing which made him appreciate what antennas can endure. Several gusts had those elements looking like noodles! His tower and Yagi antennas are fine but will need to repair a couple wire antennas.

W4WLF reports from Gulfport that a guy across the street from his house brought his company's Bobcat and bucket truck over and got the tree limbs down off of Tom's roof. The helper turned out to be an inactive ham from Ocean Springs. Get him back on the air! From George County, DEC KD4VVZ had 32 trees down on his property with three big pines missing the house by inches, two pine trees taking out his power lines, eight pine trees across his driveway, and several on his fence. He had to literally cut his way out (600 feet) to the main road. And last, but not least, WV5Q reports from Vancleave that he lost all of his antennas and commercial power for six days. Fortunately, his backup generator kept him on the air.

Project Chairman KG5YEE reports that on October 17 members of the Vicksburg ARC provided safety and security radio communications for the Annual Over the River Run. The Run is a 5-mile run/walk over the Mississippi River Bridge starting at the Mississippi Welcome Center into Louisiana and turning around back into Mississippi. Over 325 runners and walkers participated in this year's race. It turned out to be a cool and windy day with a beautiful blue sky and plenty of sunshine. Participants from the club were KG5OVR, N5KWT, KD5DHR, W5VMS, N5JGK and KG5YEE. Proceeds from the Run benefited the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Club President AK5J relays that Hams from the Jackson Amateur Radio Club and Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association provided communications for the Natchez Trace Century Ride on October 17. There was a 100-mile bicycle ride and several shorter bicycle rides. Hams were placed in strategic locations and reported important information including one accident. Ridgeland Parks and Recreation, sponsor of the event, was very complimentary of the Hams and stated that the Hams always look after the safety of the riders. Hams participating were K5XU, K5KKD, K5CID, WB5OFZ, AK5J, K4FMH, KI5JCL, K5ERB AND WM5A.

Last call to get a free 2021 ARRL Handbook for a door prize at your next in person club meeting. Check with your Club President or S/T to make sure your ARRL Annual Club Report is current. If you need help contact W5VMS at w5vms@arrl.net. Thus far, 16 clubs will be receiving a Handbook.

Thanks to the Jackson County ARC for hosting the Gater Trader at Vancleave in spite of Zeta. Event Chairman N2PKW says over 50 Hams were in attendance with demos provided by System Fusions and FLDIGI. Charlie notes that a great meal was provided by Tony's Barbecue, and the Grand Prize winner was KI5LCF of D'Iberville

The Vicksburg ARC set up a Special Event Station in Transylvania, Louisiana on Halloween Day. Unfortunately, the Line Noise Monster was wandering around the town; however, around 75 stations qualified for the special SES certificate. Those participating were N5JGK, W5VMS, KK5ED, KC5GHU, KG5OVR, KG5YEE, K5VXV, W5SFL, and W5XX.

In EC Reports from around the State KB5DZJ advises from Lauderdale County that digital packet traffic is on the rise. They have one new ham in the area, and Charlie has been working with him on getting a station set up to work Packet. And from Oktibbeha County N5OMK reports that the Magnolia ARC is working on 'A Day in the Park.' They will gather at a location and set up stations as well as projects like building antennas and other Ham Radio projects

On your long-range calendar note that:

- Capital City Hamfest, Trademart, Jackson, January 29-30, Cancelled. See you in 2022!!
- New Year's Eve On the Air Party, 11 PM on 3862, December 31. POC: W5XX
- 2021 Mississippi QSO Party, April 3, POC: w5xx@cablelynx.com

Upgrades in October: N5ERX, Darrell – Ocean Springs; KI5GTO, Jacob – Tupelo; KN4JKX, Andrew – Flowood; and KI5KRZ, Colby – Mississippi State.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in October: KI5LIK, Gary – Columbus; KI5LIS, Jana – Aberdeen; KI5LIT, Charles – Aberdeen; KI5LIX, Andrew – Petal; KI5LIY, Patrick – Enterprise; KI5LIZ, Scott – Laurel; KI5LMD, Nathaniel – Ocean Springs; KI5LME, Jillian – Biloxi; KI5LMF, Paul – Vancleave; KI5LMG, Briar – Vancleave; KI5LMH, Michael – Biloxi; KI5LMI, Gabriel – Gulfport; KI5LMJ, Pamela – Gulfport; KI5LMK, William – Ocean Springs; KI5LML, Matthew – Brandon; KI5LRC, Christopher – Biloxi; KI5LRD, Stephen – Hattiesburg; KI5LRE, James – Olive branch; KI5LVO, Chessa – Brandon; and KI5LVP, Henry – Flora;

Twenty new Hams in Mississippi in October despite Covid -19 and well distributed across the whole state! Keep up the good work mentors and VE Teams! If you see a new Ham listed above in your area, make sure he is welcomed into the local Ham community.

Also welcome the following new ARRL Members in October : KG5CBC, John – Natchez; AD4IV, Ronald – Moss Point; N5KLT, Kerry - Madison; WB8LEM, Mark – Brandon; KG5NSN, Robert – Sherman; KD4PJN, Daniel – Nesbit; KF5TQL, Heather – Tylertown; and W5WGF, George – Iuka.

ARRL membership in Mississippi is now 982 down 2 from last month. Thanks to all who support ARRL Membership in Mississippi!

SEC/DEC Reports for September 2020: KC5IMN (SEC), KD4VVZ (Gulf Coast), N5ZNT (SW MS), and KB0ZTX (NW MS).

EC Reports for October 2020: N5AAS (Forest), K9EYZ (AEC Jackson), AE5FK (Walthall), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), AF5NG (Marion), N5OMK (Oktibbeha), K1REZ (Scott), K5RTW (Lee), AA5SG (Jones/Wayne), KB5SZJ (Lauderdale), KD4VVZ (George), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), N5ZNT (Lincoln/Wilkinson), and KB0ZTX (Marshall).

ACC Report: W5VMS. Scott says that the September/October Mississippi Section Affiliated Club Newsletter has been published. See www.arlmiss.org.

PIC Report: K5RFL

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

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

Hattiesburg ARC 10M Net 1/10/0 (KD5XG)

K5TAL 80M Net 4/59/0 (WV5Q)

Magnolia Section Net 31/1110/5 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 5/17/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 31/2929/20 (W5JGW)

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

Capital Area Emergency Net 4/48/0 (K5XU)

Central Mississippi ARES Training Net 4/42/7 (KG5SQZ)

DeSoto County Training and Information Net 4/57/0 (KF5WVJ)

George County ARES 6/32/3 (KD4VVZ)

Forest County ARES 2/16/0 (N5AAS)

Hattiesburg ARC 2 M Net 4/53/3 (KD5XG)

Hattiesburg ARC 2 M Simplex Net 3/28/0 (KD5XG)

JARC Emergency Net 4/47/0 (K5XU)

Jackson County ARES 5/219/0 (K9EYZ)

Jones/Wayne Counties ARES 5/65/0 (AA5SG)

Lowndes County ARC 4/62/0 (KF5AZ)

Marion County ARES Net 4/27/0 (AF5NG)

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

Meridian Area Emergency Net 4/65/0 (KB5SZJ)

MSU ARC Net 4/105/0 (N5OMK)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Net 4/73/0 (W5BAQ)

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

Sundancer Solar ARES Net 4/73/0 (KA5ICO)

Vicksburg ARC/MS-Lou WX Net 5/101/0 (KD5DHR)

Walthall County ARES Net 5/41/0 (AE5FK)

Digital Net Reports

Central Mississippi ARES Digital Training Net 4/25/23 (KI5JCL)

EMTARG – 1014 (WB5AKR)

K5TAL Digital Voice Net 5/64/1 (WV5Q)

Traffic: WV5Q 21, KG5FRZ 10, and W5XX 4

PSHR: WV5Q 81 and W5XX 79.

