

Mississippi Section Report for November 2023

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VOTA Fall Event Coordinator W5UE reports that Mississippi had our second turn at this year's ARRL VOTA W1AW/5 event from Nov 15 - 21. Thirteen Mississippi operators stepped up to support the event by operating CW/SSB/Digital from their home stations signing W1AW/5. A total of 690 CW, 970 SSB and 1777 Digital QSOs were made for a total of 3,437 from 160M to 70CM. A few Satellite and SSTV QSOs were also made by one of our operators, W2NNU. Those stations participating were K2FF, K5TLL, NA5DX, WB5SKM, W5XX, N5YT, WQ5L, AD5IT, W5BAM, WJ5K, KF8PD, W2NNU, and W5UE.

We are losing two of our hardworking appointees this month. KB0ZTX has retired from Fed Ex. Ken has held EC, DEC, and ASM appointments over the years beginning in 2003. Ken is already getting involved with ARES activities from his new hilltop QTH in Oklahoma.

AG5RI is retiring as Harrison County EC after coordinating several ARES responses to hurricanes on the Gulf Coast starting since 2020. Jason's ARES Team is one of the best organized in Mississippi. Jason is moving up in the professional world and taking on new responsibilities but will surely be available to help ARES in an emergency response.

From WF5W in Ocean Springs. The Jackson County ARA conducted a POTA Campout from Shepard State Park in Gautier (K-2551) on November 17-19. There were plenty of contacts from this POTA activation with AE5MU having a run on 20 SSB of over 100 QSOs. Campers were WF5W, W5SMN, WG5GK and AE5MU. See ParksOnTheAir .com for more POTA info.

VARC Project Chairman KG5YEE reports that on a drizzly, breezy cool day the Vicksburg ARC provided radio communications as well as turning directions for the annual Reindeer Run 5K race. This 5K walk/run is a major fund-raising event with proceeds benefiting PAWS Rescue. This race is particularly enjoyable because many of the participants dress up in wacky holiday attire and their dogs, sometimes in costumes, run along with them. The race winds through the streets of downtown Vicksburg. Radio operators participating were: KG5OVR, N5JGK, KC5VTN, KC5GIB, KC5IBO, AF5OQ, K5VXV, W5WAF, W5SFL, K5IMT and KG5YEE.

The Pine Belt ARA again supported the annual USM Powwow with a weeklong operation of special event station W0W. This USM event is sponsored by the Golden Eagles Intertribal Society which supports American Indian Heritage.

A powwow is a gathering involving traditional dancing, singing and feasting. Powwows occur in a casual atmosphere where people observe the activities, participate in some activities, learn about Native cultures, and visit with friends.

PBARA Project Coordinator N5CW reports that during November 12 -18 W0W made 2690 contacts by operators on the air from their homes working all states, 854 counties, 76 countries and 6 continents. On the last day of the event W0W was on campus with nine PBARA members operating and several visitors stopping by the station for questions about Ham Radio.

DEC KD4VVZ reports from Lucedale that George County ARES once again helped the Lucedale PD with crowd and vehicle safety control for the Lucedale Christmas Parade 2023. This is the fourth activity in the past year the Lucedale PD has requested the Hams participation for city events. Hams were stationed along the hour-long parade route directing traffic, assisting police, giving routine updates on the staging area, and locations of front and rear positions of the parade. From 3pm until 7:30pm Hams from four counties gave their time and talent back to our community and represented Amateur Radio well. Efforts of the Hams were recognized by the PD Chief Fairley on The City of Lucedale's Facebook page as well at the Monday meeting of the Lucedale Rotary Club which is in charge of the yearly parade. With our signature yellow safety vests and radios in hand the folks in George County and Greene County are becoming more aware of our presence and what Ham Radio can offer.

General thanks Jackson County EC K9EYZ and Perry County EC NI5I for putting a call for Hams in their area to help George County ARES. Participating Hams from Jackson County were KI5TDZ, WF5W, WG5GK, and N5MES as well as KJ4NJT from Harrison County and NI5I from Perry County. George County ARES participants were KG5AZL, KG5AZM, KD1VVZ, WA5MVG, KD4VVZ and KI5YTQ. Being the first time as Net Control KI5YTQ did a good job and handled himself calmly with consideration and patience.

DEC KF7DLW reports from Hattiesburg that ARES Southeast District (MEMA District 8) was asked by the coordinators for the Zach Little Ride which is a 32 mile and a 62 Mile course in Sumrall Mississippi for help and to provide communications for the event that took place on Nov 11 at 8:00 am. This event was a big challenge for ARES in that we had very little to no repeater coverage in the area. The ways we had overcome this obstacle were to utilize two cross band repeaters to bring in the 146.775 from Hattiesburg and utilize 2 Meter simplex and radio traffic relays. We Used 146.550 Simplex as our primary Net Frequency and the 146.775 repeater as an alternate. Net Control Monitored both frequencies. One crossband repeater was set up at the Rock Hill Baptist Church (about the center of the race course) with permission, and the other was set up by KK4TXB at his station on the northwest part of the race course.

All operators were provided with antennas made from ladder line and secured to a 13 ft fishing pole to give them some elevation. 95% of the race net was conducted on simplex frequency and the rest on 146.775. This would not have been possible in this area without the elevated antennas. Also, KC3HLT rode the area of the course as he was staged to cover three stations. Participants were N5MZ, KE5KJP, KK4TXB, KM0I, WB5TJK, NC5Y, K5YVA, N5LRE, KC3HLT, and KF7DLW.

Only two more months left for VOTA. Time to get on the air and make some points. As of November 1, the top 10 in Mississippi were: N5YT, WQ5L, W5XX, K5TLL, N4OGW, WD5CCA, AE5MI, AH6SU, KD5BS. The current leader board is on the ARRL Website. Start to locate it by typing in VOTA in the ARRL website search engine box.

In EC Reports from around the State ...

EC AB6Z reports from Pearl River County that ARES built a packet node for relay to the EOC from the southern part of the county to reach the EOC in Poplarville. ARES has secured a location on a water tower in Picayune to place the packet node. It is not up and running until they install the antenna and node equipment. ARES is planning for a simulation to be given to us by the County Emergency Director. Further, added two members to the PEARL club one ham and one not. Added packet gateway 145.010 to 145.030 for frequency cross-over. And, ARES configured and placed on the air a new packet node on a water tower supplied by the Fire department. In burn in mode will be installed soon.

From EC KB5SZJ in Lauderdale County: we are applying for a grant to help build a comms trailer for both a portable learning station for prospective new Hams and as an information station in an emergency event. VE Testing in the area is still going very well. We have had at least one candidate at every test session and are working with a group now with hopes of having them ready for testing soon. Our goal is to teach them more than just the test questions by the time we are finished.

From EC KF5WVJ in DeSoto County: KF5WVJ, KG5TTU, KI5HWA, and three other members set up the county Communications Trailer for display at the Olive Branch City Park in conjunction with the CARA and OBARC clubs for the ARRL for Day in the Park.

From EC W5VMS in Warren/Claiborne Counties: The Vicksburg ARC provided communication services for the 35th annual Over the River Run. Participants were KC5IBO, AF5OQ, K5IMT, KG5OVR, KG5YEE, N5JGK, N5KWT, and W5WAF. Additionally, KC5QCN, an out-of-town participant, ran in the race carrying an HT. W5XX and W5VMS participated in ARRL Day in the Park, hosted by Olive Branch and Chickasaw Radio Clubs in Olive Branch, MS. Capt. Scott Larsen, Vicksburg Squadron Commander (W5VMS in his CAP role); Col. Robert Mims, Mississippi Wing Commander; and Mr. Ron Davis, Vicksburg Municipal Airport Manager, met to discuss the CAP building at the airport. One course of action discussed is repurposing the building as an alternate EOC or communications hub. A building inspection is required before any future plans can be developed.

Further, Scott says that the Vicksburg ARC is holding bi-monthly Technical Working Group Sessions. This meeting is open to all interested hams and features a wide variety of technical topics (Contact KK5ED for more information). And, W5VMS and KD5SBP (in their Civil Air Patrol roles) presented a certificate of appreciation to the Vicksburg ARC for their donation of two HF transceivers. The equipment is intended to establish Amateur Radio links between the squadrons in Jackson and Vicksburg, augmenting both Wing and Section EC capabilities.

From Harrison County, new EC WX5RJ reports that the County Board provided a new HF and two VHF radios and a 1K solar generator with associated equipment.

KI5TRX for EC KB5SQZ reports that on Saturday, November 18th several Hams set up NVIS stations at various QTHs to test local range on 40m. Contacts were made between stations within a mile of each other and between Central MS down to the Gulf Coast and up to Tupelo.

On Monday, November 20, 2023, Central MS ARES activated an emergency net in support of NWS for severe weather event.

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, 5:30 PM, Jan 2 (1st Thursday Each Month)
- New Year's Eve On-the-Air Party, Dec 31, 3862, 11 PM, POC: W5XX
- Capital City Hamfest, Feb 2-3, Trade Mart, Jackson, POC: AK5J
- 2024 Mississippi QSO Party. April 6-7, POC: W5XX

Welcome to the following new Amateurs in Mississippi in November: KJ5DDI, Blake – Booneville; KJ5DFR, Brittany- McHenry; KJ5DIL, William – Meridian; KJ5DKC, Edwin – Mathiston; KJ5DKQ, John – Walnut.

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 November 2023: KJ5CWI, Walter – Wiggins; KJ5DKC, Edwin – Mathiston; KG5FAO, James – Jackson; WG5GK, Gus – Biloxi; KI5PCD, David – Corinth; K5TCO – Terry - Steens; KI5VMV, Tara – Kosciusko; KD5ZNO, Charles – Pass Christian.

ARRL Membership in Mississippi was 986 as of December 1. Sponsor a deserving Ham with an ARRL Membership for Christmas!

Welcome to WX5RJ of Gulfport as EC for Harrison County, W4BWW of Holly Springs as EC for Marshall County, and KJ5ET of Brandon as EC for Rankin County. Also, N5MZ of Petal as AEC for Forrest County.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades in November: KJ5ASH, Brian – Mendenhall; KJ5CZT, Bradford – Coldwater; KJ5DCB, Joseph – Gautier; AI5NU, Brian – Ridgeland; KI5OWU, Brenda – Gulfport; KI5SKB, Walter – Gautier; KI5YKK, Katherine – Hernando.

Congratulations to KG5PEA in Corinth who completed ARRL Course EO-016 on Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs.

SEC/DEC Reports for September 2023: KC5IMN (SEC), KF7DLW (SE MS), KD4VVZ (Gulf Coast), and W5VMS (West Central MS),

EC Reports for September: K5DSC (Newton), AE5FK (Walthall), KA5ICO (Chickasaw), N5MIS (Pontotoc), WX5RJ (Harrison), KG5SQZ (Hinds), KB5SZJ (Lauderdale), W5VMS (Warren/Claiborne), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), AB6Z (Pearl River).

Club Newsletters (Editor): the Meridian ARC Spark Gap (W5MAV)

Regret to report the passing of KB5VAI of Clinton. In addition to his Ham Radio activities, Heath was regularly active in the CAP in his younger days. He was a retired employee of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

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

Magnolia Section Net 30/1287/11 (KA5ICO)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/26/0 (WF5F) Sunday, 7263 at 4PM

MSPN 30/2694/12 (W5JGW)

Pine Belt ARC 10M Net 4/36/0 K5TLL)

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

Capital Area Em Net 4/41/0 (K5XU)

Central Mississippi ARES Training Net 6/60/0 (KG5SQZ)

Calhoun/Chickasaw ARES Net 4/51/0 (KA5ICO)

DeSoto County Training and Information 4/64/0 (KF5WVJ)

Harrison County ARES 2/19/0 (WX5RJ)

Jackson ARC Net 4/31/0 (K5XU)

Lowndes County ARC 4/38/0 (K5TCO)

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/118/0 (W5JGW)

Meridian ARC EM Net 5/29/0 (KB5SZJ)

Northeast Mississippi Skywarn 4/50/0 (W5BAQ)

Pearl River County ARES 4/42/0 (AB6Z)

Pine Belt ARC 2M Net 4/60/0 (K5TLL)

Pine Belt ARC 2M Simplex Net 1/9/0 (K5TLL)

Pontotoc ARES Skywarn WX Net 5/50/3 (N5MIS)

Vicksburg ARC/MLEN 4/89/0 (KG5YEE)

Walthall County ARES Net 4/48/0 (AE5FK)

Digital Net Reports

Central Mississippi ARES Digital Net 3/23/23 (KI5JCL)
(2 VHF nets and 2 HF nets)

Traffic: WV5Q 70 and W5XX 4

PSHR: WV5Q 130 and W5XX 72