

# **2023 New Year's Eve Party**

**11 PM Local – 3862 KHZ**

## **W5XX NCS/K5CUB Commentary**

**Special Guests: K5UR – ARRL President, K5UZ – Delta Division Director**

**WB4RHQ – Delta Division Vice Director**

### **Major Events**

(January) Thanks to the efforts of the Jackson ARC with help from the Central Mississippi ARA, the Vicksburg ARC, and the Scott County ARC over 700 Hams attended the Capital City Hamfest at the Trademart on the Fairgrounds on January 27 and 28. The Hamfest was dedicated to the memory of KE5JKD, who worked tirelessly for this Hamfest for a number of years. His surviving spouse, KE5WAC, was an honored guest.

The Hall C Conference Room was kept busy with a Friday Night DX Forum hosted by K2FF and W5UE featuring a presentation by K5LDA on his DXpedition to Montserrat. VE Exams followed on Saturday Morning. VE Team Leader AE5SK reported on four new Technicians, three upgrades to General, and one new Extra.

In the following ARES Meeting, SEC KC5IMN overviewed the Mississippi ARES organization and plans for the 2023 SET in August., The ARRL Forum featured an update by Delta Division Director K5UZ on ARRL issues and upcoming initiatives, followed by Section Manager W5XX, who made Annual State of the Section comments. And to close out the day MSPN Net Manager W5JGW chaired a joint meeting of the Magnolia Net and the Mississippi Section Phone Net.

(February) N5OCT reports that the Mississippi Coast ARA met at the QTH of WB4YBY for the club's annual participation in the CQ Worldwide 160-meter Contest ending up with a total of 305 contacts. N5FTY had his famous chili for everyone to enjoy. Other MCARA members brought cookies, sandwiches, chips, drinks, etc. for meals when not on the radio.

(March) Congratulations to NA5DX who made it to the DXCC Honor Roll after 25 years and 9 months of trying. 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.

(April) PIO KG5AZL reported 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 of electronics, and how it 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.

(April) W1AW/5 visited Mississippi on March 29 through April 4 as part of Volunteers on the Air (VOTA). Spring Coordinator AG5Z reported 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.

(April) 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 MSQP highlights, W1AW/5 was on the air from Mississippi during the QSO Party thanks to the coordination efforts of AG5Z. Further, 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. (Lee: read M as mobile and P as portable)

(May) From NA5DX in Saucier, the Magnolia DX Association conducted a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation from the Big Biloxi Campground in the De Soto National Forest (Park K-4494) using club call W5NO and logging a total of 208 contacts. They made contacts with stations in 26 states and 12 DXCC entities. Operators making contacts were AE5MU, K5IJ, KB5HC, N5GD, NA5DX, W5DAW, W5XMD, WG5GK, and WQ5L. Last, but not least, the camaraderie and the food were excellent!

(May) DEC/EC KD4VVZ, reports that George County (GC) ARES again hosted the 2023 Scratching Post event at the City Park in Lucedale. The famous Scratching Post is actually located in downtown Lucedale on Main Street which has been a stopover for many years for weary travelers who want to scratch their backs on the 4X4 serrated post, most noteworthy of which was President Ronald Reagan.

Stations were set up in the Park using special event call K5K. The digital station was manned by NI5I, KI5QFE, KF5TJO, and KD4VVZ. The SSB station was manned by WA5MVG, KO5F, KI5QFE, KG5AZM, KI5OWW, KF5SQA, and PIO KG5AZL, Delissa also set up the

information booth but still had time to make 300 SSB QSOs. Wow! Maybe we have an up-and-coming contest operator.

And further in George County ARES action, each month on the Second Saturday the city of Lucedale blocks off part of the downtown area with stores and restaurants staying open late. George County ARES provides an additional set of eyes for the PD by helping with crowd control and rerouting traffic around downtown.

(June) The logs for the 2023 Mississippi QSO Party have all been logged in and checked. Scanning the 240 logs shows that at least 83 Mississippi Stations were on the air with 26 stations making over 100 QSOs. 56 of Mississippi's 82 counties were on the air. Mississippi activity was good on 20 and 40 even though conditions were not that great. There was more activity on 15 as compared with years past. This should continue to improve as we head to the peak of Cycle 25.

Plaque winners were:

High single OP score: N5YT,  
High Score Single Op Portable: W4XK/5  
High Score Multi Op Fixed: W5YD  
High Score Multi Op Portable: W5SGL  
High Score Single Op Mobile: K5OMC  
Most MS Counties Worked: KG5PBJ with 35 counties worked

Interest in FT4/FT8/RTTY continues to increase. Of the 41 Mississippi logs submitted 17 operated partially digital and 7 were digital only.

Thanks to AG5Z, N5NA, K2FF, W5VMS and W5UE for helping to make the QSO Party a success.

(June) Field Day 2023 is now history. Conditions were so so and the heat was tough, but the fun, food, and fellowship were great. The following clubs/groups were on the air:

The Area 51 Group, the Central Mississippi ARC, the joint Chickasaw/Olive Branch ARAs , George County ARES, the Jackson County ARA, the Jones County ARC, the Marion County Ham Radio Club, the Meridian ARC, the Mississippi Coast ARA, the Mississippi State ARC, the Pine Belt ARA, the Southwest Mississippi ARC, Stone County ARES, the Tupelo ARC, the University of Mississippi ARC, and the Vicksburg ARC.

(July) ... and now on to the DX front. All Hams like to work some DX at one time or another. If you work hard, you can make DXCC in a weekend during a contest. If you want to make the DXCC Honor Roll allow about 20 years. To make it the Top of the Honor Roll allow about 30 years, if you are lucky and all of the entities are on the air. Well, there is one more giant step. 3000 on the DXCC challenge. With 340 entities on the list, it looks like a Ham would need 300 entities on 10 bands. To make 300 entities on 6 Meters is impossible. That means a DXer would have to make more than 300 entities on the other 9 bands, Good Luck! Well, K2FF in Ocean

Springs did exactly that. Congratulations to Glenn to being the first in Mississippi to make 3,000 on the DX Challenge!

(August) From SEC KC5IMN: Mississippi ARES conducted its statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET for short) on Saturday August 12, 2023. The Mississippi ARES team spent the last 7 months planning and training for this operation and initial reports are that the SET was very successful. The ARES Team operated for 12 continuous hours beginning at 430am and completing the day at 430pm. Numerous instances of simulation emergency communications were passed via Amateur Radio networks on behalf of local, county, and state organizations. In case you missed it, this year's SET scenario was a landfalling hurricane named ICYMI. ARES County emergency operations as well as MS State RACES operators got into the fray. Everyone that checked into the nets got traffic handling experience for when the real deal happens.

For 2023, there was significant use of NBEMS digital as well as WINLINK-email that was directed to the main state level served agency, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). While the scenario included a hurricane, there were also power disruptions, flooding, tornados, traffic accidents, and even a downed NASA satellite that the Civil Air Patrol simulated a search and recover effort in the Tupelo area.

(September) From K4FMH in Ridgeland. The Churches on The Air program was brought across the Pond to the U.S. on Saturday, September 9. Highlands Presbyterian Church in Ridgeland fully supported this effort using part of their 16-acre campus, including the provision of a food truck for Hams and news media. The group operated on 20 Meter SSB, 40 Meter CW, 10 & 15 Meter FT8, and VHF/UHF FM for satellites. Wire dipoles cut for each HF band were used. The team made over 100 contacts throughout the U.S. and Europe.

This operation resulted in widespread publicity for Ham Radio. A feature segment by well-known TV journalist Walt Grayson of WJTV channel 12 was aired on Monday's September 11 evening news. The Clarion-Ledger published a front-page story the next day with a huge photo of N5JGK and AC5Z monitoring a satellite pass with their handheld aero antenna pointed skyward.

(September) Thanks to the Jackson County ARA for hosting another great Hamfest at the St. Martins Community Center in Ocean Springs. This event was moved from last year in mid-November to Mid-September this year. Club President WG5GK notes that this looks like a good move in that the flea market tables were sold out. Seminars were presented by W5DDX on setting up your first station, WG5GK on Introduction to WL2K, WF5W on operating POTA, and N2PKW on resonant antennas. Big prize winners were W4NNF, W5LAC and AD4IV.

(October) Thanks to the Olive Branch ARC and the Chickasaw ARA for hosting the 2023 ARRL Day in the Park. By any measure, the Day in the Park was very well organized and resourced, even with glasses to watch the eclipse! And just to mention a few of the highlights, the speakers were outstanding, the prizes were great, new event coins were provided for everybody, the

AB8LA hamburgers were super good, and the hospitality was unsurpassed. Event Chairman KF8PD notes that over \$3,000 in prizes were given away which were donated by 35 vendors.

(November) The first Mississippi Section Website was put online by K5IBM in 1999 as [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org). This site has served us well over the years but is now difficult to maintain as compared with new software. Webmaster W5UE made a major effort to update the site with the availability of greatly improved tools. When you see Randy, W5UE, give him a pat on the back for a job well done.

(November) Prior to this spring the Ham Station at MEMA had been off the air for some time. Thanks to the efforts of State RACES Officer K5FIT and WM5A and WA5GYM new equipment has been secured and the antenna farm rehabilitated. KM5EMA now has capability on 75 Meter SSB, WL2K on 40, and 2 Meter VHF. K5FIT is now looking for experienced volunteers to staff the station which would require training on equipment operation and MEMA requirements.

(November) Our hard-working VEs don't get much appreciation. Mississippi currently has 252 registered VEs. And we have 9 super VEs who have proctored over 100 sessions: W5EG (208), W5ACS (166), K5KMU (SK) (150), K5BLL (139), KF5BA (131), WX5H (106), AD5DO (105), AE5MV (102), and WB4YBY (100). WOW!! And we have plenty of enthusiasm among new VEs. New VE K5MCK has proctored 83 Test Sessions in just 11 months. Thanks to all of the VEs who proctor the Test Sessions!!

(November) 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.

(November) 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 QSOs from 160 Meters to 70 Centimeters. 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.

(November) 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 in 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.

# Emergency Communication

(January) Hinds County EC KG5SQZ reports that a group of Central MS ARES operators and members of Central MS Amateur Radio Association met at Osborn Stand on the Natchez Trace on January 21 to set up portable operations and get on the air using UHF/VHF/HF. This gave operators a chance to practice setting up and using their equipment simulating an emergency deployment.

(March) 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's house took a direct hit. The only communication for help was his HT. Traffic was monitored and passed through the EOC. EC KF5IAYI firmly believed that this not only helped with rescue but saved lives.

(March) DeSoto County EC KF5WVJ reports that March 23 was setting up to be a high-risk storm event by the NWS for severe weather and a 30% or higher risk for tornadoes. Emergency Coordinator ARES Members assembled and opened the Desoto County EOC at 2 PM to begin watching and tracking the severe thunderstorms into the area.

At 7:35 PM they received the first tornado warning for the area and started a Skywarn Net. At approximately 8:35 PM they received a tornado warning for DeSoto County and other areas. A funnel cloud was spotted in Tunica County moving east northeast. This funnel cloud was tracked into the Eudora Community. EC KF5WVJ and AEC KG5TTU deployed to the area east of Eudora to search for damage in the suspected damage path. They located trees across the roadway and on vehicles and homes in the Horn Lake Rd and Dean Rd area which was reported to the EOC.

Approximately 30 minutes later they were informed of another mesocyclone following the same path. They then relocated to Highway 269 and Tulane Road on the overpass to watch the next impending storm cross about 3 miles from their location. While parked they began to hear roofing tin banging to the Southwest of their location which turned out to be a large horse stable being blown apart by another tornadic cell. At this time, they were advised to hasten their exit to a safer area. Desoto County suffered major damage to trees and 47 homes in the Eudora area. KG5TTU and KF5WVJ assisted the Desoto County EMA with Damage Assessment Reports on Saturday morning after the storms.

(October) EC AB6Z reported from Pearl River County that the Pearl River Emergency Radio League (PEARL) has been organized with ARES and a new Explorer Post as subsets which will focus on emergency communications and public service. Further, two repeater locations have been secured on a 525 ft tower in Millard, MS, and another one in Picayune. These locations will provide sites for repeaters for ARES to cover the area from the Coast to Hattiesburg.

## Public Service

(February) DEC KF7DLW reports that on February 11 the Petal Children's Task Force 5K Run took place in downtown Petal. Nine ARES Volunteers helped with communications along the route. The Race started at 7:00 AM and came to an end at 8:00 AM. Participants were KG5FXN, KI5YTQ, N5MZ, N5MES, KF5JJV, NT5DB, WB5TJK, KF5GGX, and KF7DLW.

(March) Mississippi Coast ARA Project Coordinator KF5BA reported that the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi held a fundraising walk in Gulfport, March 4 including a 1-mile fun walk and a 3-mile Run/Walk. MCARA has provided communications needs along the route for the last two years. Twelve operators were stationed in locations along the courses providing information about the progress of this year's walk and fun run. MCARA members assisting were KF5BA, coordinator, and K5OP, net control, KF5KDL KI5OWU, AI5O, W5SPF, AG5ZH, W5JDH, KJ4NJT, KI5YZA, N5KSS, and KG5UN.

(March) Project Coordinator KG5YEE reports that the Vicksburg ARC provided communications support for the 44th annual Run Thru History on March 4. The 5K Walk/ 10K Run was held within the Vicksburg National Military Park, celebrating the 160th anniversary of the Vicksburg Campaign (1863-2023). Radio operators called out race positions throughout the event and were on hand to help with the kid's 1-mile Fun Run. Supporting this year's event were: KG5YEE, KG5OVR, AF5OQ, KC5IBO, W5WAF, K5IMT, N5JGK, K5VXV, W5SFL, KC5VTN, and N5KWT. Perennial visitor from Virginia KD5QCN participated as a runner carrying his radio, and as a note, Gary has participated in every one of the 44 years of racing in the Park!

(March) 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.

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, Participants included KI5JCL, KI5ZOQ, KI5ZRU, W9NG, K0UPW, AC5Z, W5SSJ, KI5RQE, KJ4HRG, WM5A, KI5TRX, K5FIT, KJ5ET, KG5ZDZ, KI5WOT, KI5ZIG, and WN4RWL

(April) 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. Those participating were KF7DLW, KC3HLT, K6SDM, KD5FIJ, N5MZ, KI5OAI, WB5JTK, KF5CE, K5REY, KE5KIP, KM0I, KD5XG, NT5DB, and KI5TMR.

(May) Jackson ARC President AK5J reports that Hams from the Jackson Amateur Radio Club and the Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association provided communications for the Natchez Trace Century Ride on May 6. This event was a 100-mile bike ride which started at Old Trace Park on the Reservoir in Ridgeland and went up the Trace towards Kosciusko, although parts of it were off the Trace.

There were about 1,000 bike riders in this event. Hams were placed at all rest stops and turn around points and reported important information. Hams reported a rider who had to stop for health reasons and the location of several riders who broke down. 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. The Hams participating were K5XU, K5KKD, K5FIT, AK5J, N5KLT, K0UPW, K5ERB, AC5Z, KD5KHI and WM5A. AE5SK actually rode in the event with his hand-held and reported important information to net control.

(May) Project Chairman KG5YEE reports that the Vicksburg ARC provided communications support for the former Chill in The Hills, which used to be held in January. A decision was made to take advantage of better weather, so the event was moved to May and the name was changed to Chillin in The Hills which this year was held on May 13. The event is a major fund raiser for the Grace Christian Counseling Center, which is a non-profit service providing professional counseling. The 5K walk/run winds through downtown Vicksburg and surrounding neighborhoods. Club members that participated were: N5JGK, N5KWT, W5WAF, KG5OVR, KG5YEE, AF5OQ, KC5IBO, K5IMT, W5VMS, K5VXV, W5SFL, KC5VTN, W5SRF, and new ham KI5ZNE.

(July) JARC President AK5J reports that Hams from the Jackson Amateur Radio Club, the Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association, and the Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club assisted with communications for the Soul City Cycling Summer Sizzler Bike Ride on July 15. There were about 200 bike riders in this event. Hams were placed at all rest stops and major intersections and gave progress reports and reported any problems. The event was very well organized and went very smoothly except for one rider who fell down but was not seriously injured. The ride officials were very complimentary of the Hams and the help they provided. Hams participating were K5XU, K5KKD, AK5J, K4FMH, N5KLT, K5ERB, KG4HRG, AC5Z, KI5MJT, W5VMS, and K5CID.

(October) JARC Club President AK5J reports that on October 1, 2023, Hams from the Jackson Amateur Radio Club provided communications for the annual Walk for Diabetes in Jackson sponsored by the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi. Hams were placed at all rest stops and reported on the status of the walk to net control and the Director of the event. The Hams were



able to help race officials with any reported problems and with ordering supplies for the rest stops. The Director of the Diabetes Foundation was very appreciative of the help provided and stated that the Hams always looked after the safety of the walkers. Hams participating were K5XU, K5KKD, K5CID, N5KLT and AK5J.

(November) 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 wound through the streets of downtown Vicksburg. Radio operators participating were: KG5OVR, N5JGK, KC5VTN, KC5GIB, KC5IBO, AF5OQ, K5VXV, W5WAF, W5SFL, K5IMT and KG5YEE

(November) 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.

(November) DEC KF7DLW reports from Hattiesburg that ARES Southeast District 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. They used 146.550 Simplex as the 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.

(November) The Pine Belt ARA again supported the annual University of Southern Mississippi Powwow with a weeklong operation of special event station W0W. (Lee: read whiskey zero whiskey) 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 set up on campus with nine PBARA members operating and several visitors stopping by the station for questions about Ham Radio.

## Silent Keys

(February) Regret to report the passing of KG5HZU of Tylertown. Joe was a retired welder, a regular checkin to the MSPN, and EC for Washington Parish, Louisiana.

(April) KB5EKW of Beaumont. Wayne was retired Chief of Police in Beaumont and a regular check-in to the MSPN.

(April) W5RUE of Braxton. Rue was a retired HVAC Technician and Electrician. He was an active member of the Jackson ARC and the Central Mississippi ARA and builder for Habitat for Humanity. Rue had a large family and was very active in his church.

(April) AA5ED of Brandon. Ed was retired from the Rankin County EOC in logistics and response and an EMT/Firefighter for the Reservoir Fire Department.

(April) KC5ZLV of Vancleave. Tina was the XYL of K5CUB.

(June) KA5PSG of Meridian. Buck was a was a veteran navigator flying F4 Jets in the Air National Guard where he retired as a Colonel. He trained to become a Trooper with the Mississippi Highway Patrol and continued with his law enforcement career retiring as an Agent with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics serving as their helicopter pilot. In his spare time, he enjoyed checking into the MSPN and sailing with his family and friends. He also enjoyed spending time with his pilot friends at Meridian Aviation and Wednesday nights over a meal at the Western Sizzler.

(June) W5DRI of Purvis. Sylvia was the XYL of AG5Z.

(June) N5ELI of Lumberton. David was an Electrical Engineering graduate of the University of Alabama. In addition to his Ham Radio activities, he was Pearl River County Communications Officer, Assistant Chief and then Chief of the Northeast Volunteer Fire Department, and Deputy Coroner for the Pearl River County Coroner's Office.

(July) N4RUD of Summit. Robert was an Industrial Engineer with United Oil Products and was a very active member of Friendship Baptist Church in McComb. He was a regular checkin to the MSPN and member of the Southwest Mississippi ARC.

(November) 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.

## 2023 Mississippi Ham Statistics

New Hams	Upgrades
2010 – 178	2010 - 90
2011 – 186	2011 - 72
2012 – 244	2012 - 88
2013 – 174	2013 - 82
2014 – 200	2014 – 82
2015 - 229	2015 - 114
2016 - 200	2016 – 95
2017 – 148	2017 – 70
2018 - 102	2018 – 65
2019 - 101	2019 – 59
2020 - 155	2020 - 44
2021 - 156	2021 - 69
2022 - 76*	2022 – 35*
2023 – 115	2023 - 113

\* No information was available for five months for 2022 from the ARRL Data Base

13-year Total - 2033 new Hams and 1047 upgrades (does not include 2022)

13-year Average 156 new Hams and 81 upgrades (does not include 2022)