

Mississippi Section Report for November 2024

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The first “Repeater Roundup” sponsored by the Magnolia ARC is now history. The goals of the Roundup were to get more activity on the repeaters, introduce Hams to repeaters they don’t normally use, and get new repeaters programmed into mobile radios.

Club Project Coordinator AG5ND reports that the repeaters on the Roundup Work List were all repeaters suggested by club members, and with a footprint that was within 50 miles of Starkville. Repeater they weren't familiar with or repeaters they hadn't heard from in a long time weren't on the List. They tried to make sure all the repeaters were active but ended up with two repeaters that were down during the Roundup. The repeaters were as far north as Oxford, and as far south as Philadelphia, covering at least ten counties. Initial results show that about 35 Hams took part in the event.

After all the logs were received, AD5HM took the high score with 11,550 points. He worked the contest mobile, getting “First QSO” points on 13 of the 18 available repeaters, which accounted for 3,250 of his points. The rest of the points were mostly accumulated by having lots of QSOs (a total of 79), including numerous YLs. The second highest score was K5BAK with 9,500 points, and 66 contacts.

The Repeater Roundup was a great success based on the increased level of repeater activity and interest in having another Roundup in 2025.

From Project Coordinator KG5YEE. On December 7, the Vicksburg ARC provided radio communications as well as route turning directions for the annual Reindeer Run, a 5K walk/run, and a kid’s fun run. This run is a fund raiser for PAWS Rescue in Vicksburg/Warren County. This event is a particular favorite of the club because the participants, as well as the dogs that accompany many of the racers, dress up in wacky holiday attire. The race began at Catfish Row and wound through the streets of downtown Vicksburg. Hams participating this year were: KG5YEE, KG5OVR, KC5GIB, AF5OQ, KC5IBO, N5JGK, N5ZNN, W5WAF, and K5IMT. This race was an opportunity to try out their “new” repeater installed at the Court House, which greatly improved the ability to have reliable communications in downtown Vicksburg.

KD4VVZ reports in from Lucedale that Christmas Parade 2024 turned out to be the largest float and vehicle entry in the history of Lucedale parades. Amateur Radio volunteers did a fantastic job communicating the float staging area and street barricade status, real time route status locating the front and end of the parade, as well as keeping a watchful eye on the pedestrian's safety. At each Ham’s location the primary goal was safety for the parade attendees by watching

for proper vehicle flow, answering questions from the public, helping direct traffic, and keeping folks lined up on the route free from dangers of the floats. All of the information was communicated and coordinated via Ham Radio providing valuable service to all those involved. Many Hams pulled double duty on the barricades moving from one position to a second just to make sure that ARES could cover all areas, Team members were on assignments from 3pm until 7:30pm, yes, a long day.

The Lucedale Rotary Club, who sponsors and is responsible for the parade, passed their deepest thanks for each volunteer that gave of their time. A Facebook post from the Lucedale Rotary recognized George County ARES and the Ham volunteers which can be viewed on their Facebook page. ARES participants were KC1FXA, WF5W, W5PYR, KG5VXY, N5MES, KD4VVZ, KG5AZM, KG5AZL, KI5RGH, KI5QFE and NI5I which included Hams from George County and four surrounding counties.

Having trouble keeping up with Cycle 25? You want info on real-time conditions or maybe just a weekly forecast? Go to the Section Website and click on the "Links" tab. Randy has put four propagation sites on this page all starting with the letter "S." These sites should answer all of your questions about our active Sun and propagation.

In EC Reports from around the state ...

From EC KG5SQZ in Hinds County. On October 23 and 24 the Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association (CMARA) was the proud sponsor of the Pro Rodeo at the Crossroads of Life Church in Byrum. CMARA members set up and manned an information booth for the two-day event to recruit new members, showcase the various aspects of Amateur Radio, and generate interest in numerous ways Amateur Radio can be invaluable during times of disaster. A VE Test Session was also offered.

And in another event Maury reports that with the growing interest in VARAC, K4UNK presented a program to ARES on what VARAC is, how to set it up, and ways it can be used for EMCOMM.

From Lauderdale County EC KB5SZJ reports that testing has gone well this year, VE Team Leader W4IOS reports that no test session has had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. He has been lucky enough to have at least one person show up at each of the test offerings.

ARES will be holding the first beginners soldering class soon, date to be determined at the December meeting on 12/07/24. The class is restricted to four students so that time can be allocated for each individual. The only charge in the class is for the items used during the class, and participants can take home the items at the end of the class.

From DEC/EC in Warren County W5VMS. Members of both the Vicksburg and Jackson CAP Squadrons toured the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Air Care 1 facility. Attendees learned about the aircraft, communications, both air and ground specialized equipment, and witnessed two helicopters take off. Overall this was a thorough introduction to something few people experience

EC AB6Z reports a lot going on in Pearl River County. A new 420-foot tower will be up in the first quarter of 2025. The Pearl League Club will have two spots at the top for their 147.090 Repeater and a packet node. At 620 ft. above sea level, the repeater will have wide coverage from I-10 to Hattiesburg. Its primary purpose is for emergency communication. Further, AB6Z was honored by the Picayune City Council for his work towards emergency communications. And the Pearl League Club has been assigned as a member on the Pearl River County Search and Rescue Team. And lastly. ARES had a booth at the Picayune Street Fair (2 days) and at the Slidell Hamfest.

Jones County EC AA5SG reports that ARES set up a booth at Ellisville Market Days. They put up the ARRL Banner and passed out Ham Radio literature supplied by ARRL Headquarters, Those manning the booth were AA5SG, N5HOA, N5CRS, and NE5L.

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

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- New Years Eve Party, Dec 31, 11 PM, 3862, POC: W5XX
- EMCOMM Checkin on 3862, 5:30 PM, Jan 3
- Capital City Hamfest, Jan 31 - Feb 1, 2025, Trademart, Jackson, POC: AK5J
- Mississippi QSO Party, April 5-6. 2025, POC: W5XX and W5UE

And on the national level, the ARRL information system has been partially down since Mid-May. As a result, no monthly information has been available on New Hams in Mississippi, Upgrades, or New ARRL Members; however, the system is coming back on line and info should be available next month.

EC Reports for November: WJ5ES (Adams), AE5FK (Walthall), N5MIS (Pontotoc), AG5ND (Oktibbeha), AA5SG (Jones), KG5SQZ (Hinds), K5TCO (Lowndes), W5VMS (Warren/Claiborne), KF5WVJ (DeSoto), KC5VCB (AEC)(Stone) KD4VVZ (George), AB6Z (Pearl River).

Welcome to W5OA as EC for Alcorn County.

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

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

Magnolia Section Net 30/1192/7 (KF5BA)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/23/0 (WF5F) Sunday, 7263 at 4PM

MSPN 30/2607/14 (W5JGW)

Pine Belt ARC 10M EmTraining Net 2/11/0 (K5TLL)

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

Bluff City ARC EMCOMM Net 4/77/0 (WJ5ES)

Capital Area Em Net 4/42/0 (K5XU)

Central MS ARES 8/187/0 (KG5SQZ)

Chickasaw/Choctaw ARES Net 4/56/0 (N5MIS)

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

Jackson ARC Net 3/26/0 (K5XU)

Lowndes County ARC 4/41/0 (K5TCO)

Meridian ARC Net 4/20/0 (KB5SJZ)

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/118/0 (N5GQ)

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

Pine Belt ARC 2M Em Training Net 4/30/0 (K5TLL)

Pine Belt ARC 2M Em Training Simplex Net 2/11/0 (K5TLL)

Pontotoc ARES Skywarn 3/21/0 (N5MIS)

South Central MS ARES Net 4/45/0 (AA5SG)

Stone County ARES 2/24/0 (KC5VCB)

Vicksburg ARC/MLEN 4/75/0 (KG5YEE)

Walthall County ARES 4/54/0 (AE5FK)

Digital Net Reports

East MS EMCOMM Net 29/303/14 (K5TCO)

K5FIT WL2K Hybrid Gateway – 125 connections to pass traffic.

MS WL2K Net QNI 102 by 7 stations (K5FIT)

Traffic: WV5Q 86, AE5MI 60, and W5XX 3.

PSHR: WV5Q 146, AE5MI 100, and W5XX 73

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