

Mississippi Section Report for June 2025

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(From SEC KC5IMN in Madison) On Saturday, August 9th, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Mississippi Section ARES will conduct a statewide exercise titled "Protecting the Homeland." This Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will challenge Amateur Radio operators to provide vital emergency communications support in a scenario involving coordinated threats from local terror activities across Mississippi.

Participants will simulate responses to attacks on critical infrastructure and public safety, operating from various locations including home stations, mobile units, and deployed positions at Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), utilizing HF, VHF, UHF, analog voice, SSB, and digital modes to relay critical traffic to federal, state, and local law enforcement, homeland security entities, and government agencies.

The primary objective of this comprehensive exercise is to rigorously assess and showcase the effectiveness of Amateur Radio's emergency preparedness in supporting counter-terrorism and homeland security efforts, particularly when conventional communication infrastructure is compromised. With limited federal assistance immediately available in the simulated scenario, the abilities of volunteer Amateur Radio operators to establish and maintain reliable communication channels for emergency and welfare traffic will be critical for first responders and public safety officials in affected areas such as the Pine Belt, Delta, and central regions. This drill, which will incrementally reveal scenarios and guidelines throughout the 12-hour period, underscores the dedication of Mississippi ARES to enhancing the state's resilience against unforeseen threats.

Field Day 2025 in Mississippi was as expected. So So band conditions and hot hot.... hot. Of the 14 known clubs on the air, most retreated to the AC. On the other side there was plenty of fellowship and food and a few folks learned how to operate a radio in a contest type environment. And here are comments for some reporting clubs from around the state.

(From K5LDA in Meridian via the Splatter). The Meridian Amateur Radio Club and the Chickasawhay Repeater Group mobilized at Archusa Creek Park Lodge for Field Day. This year's objectives were threefold: to test their ability to contact as many Amateur Radio operators across North America as possible, to demonstrate

their capacity to provide critical communication services during commercial outages, and — of course — to have fun doing it. They are proud to report that they succeeded on all counts.

Eighteen hams and guests participated in the event, operating entirely off-grid using solar, generator, and battery power. Throughout the 24-hour period, they logged 266 QSOs across 68 states and sections, earning a total of 584 QSO points — with more bonus points coming after the official ARRL submission.

(From KF8PD in Coldwater) The Chickasaw ARA had Field Day at Hernando Point Campground. and man was it hot! They ran 4A using wire dipoles strung up in the trees along with verticals on tripods. There were approximately 33 people on site including the children. Several members brought their campers and spent a few days relaxing and enjoying the quiet, peaceful atmosphere that this area provides.

Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings were coordinated by W5AJT. Dinner on Saturday evening was managed by AB8LA and several members of CARA. They had a raffle before dinner for a Nano VNA analyzer. The lucky winner was Stacy KJ4MDA.

Several scattered thunderstorms rolled through the area and made contacts quite challenging at times. The numbers are still coming in, but it looks to be approximately 150 QSOs.

Desoto County EMA provided their Special Operations Comm Trailer for use over the weekend. This was a chance to test the radios and generator etc. and provided some much-needed A/C.

(From KG5YEE in Vicksburg) The Vicksburg ARC held Field Day at the Vicksburg Municipal Airport. All totaled they had about 22 people involved in set up, operations, food, and drop in visitors. N5JGK, KG5OVR, and W5WAF operated all night long with limited “naps” in the time period. KG5OVR did mostly FT8 on 40meters using a new vertical antenna. N5JGK did FT8/FT4 on 20meters using a G5RV antenna strung high on an existing tower. W5WAF did SSB on 20meters using a new 20w radio and an end fed half wave antenna. KI5ZNE did SSB using a folded dipole antenna mostly 40meters. Others there took a time or two on the various radios. They had an accumulation of about 500 contacts between all the operators.

KG5YEE and KC5IBO provided sandwich fixings, breads, cookies, and brownies for a late afternoon meal, and leftovers for later snacking. K5IMT brought her much requested Rum Bundt cake that was totally eaten with no leftovers!

Vicksburg Mayor elect Willis Thompson dropped in during set up and had a nice visit. Airport Director Ron Davis also dropped by twice. He seemed impressed that on Monday morning, when all was cleaned up, he couldn't tell Hams were even there! They had a very enjoyable Field Day and hope to be able to use the Airport in the future for events like this.

(From KJ5JAM in Columbia) The Marion County Ham Radio Club had a great Field Day hanging out and talking with the visitors. The Club operated 2A MS from the Columbia Water Park. A total of 19 people signed in. Unfortunately, there was no media coverage, and no local officials came to visit.

The Club had two transceivers on the air and a GOTA station. AF5ZAbrought his Yaesu Ft-991A along with a monitor and computer. He set up his system for FT8. using a 49-1 EFHW with 20 meters of wire. He also provided solar power for those who needed it. KJ5CAM brought a Kenwood TS 450s and did SSB using a 49 ft. EFHW. AG5AB hosted the GOTA station with a Kenwood TS-480 feeding 9-1 balun with a 64-foot element and a 40-foot counterpoise.

AF5NG provided a grill and cooked hamburgers and hot dogs. The club wrapped up operations around 9:00PM, and no one stayed overnight. An after-action summary showed the Club made a total of 82 SSB and digital contacts. Band conditions were not the best this year.

(From W5SPH and N5OCT in Biloxi) The Mississippi Coast ARA was on the air as 4A from the QTH of N5LBZ. With 22 members and 2 visitors present they operated SSB and CW making 42 CW QSOs and 446 SSB QSOs. A vertical was used on CW and end fed wires and dipoles on SSB. In addition, KG5UN set up a satellite station for extra points. WLOX visited the site and made a special events report. KI5VKI provided the great meals and W5KMA the water and drinks.

Here are some upcoming events to put on your calendar:

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- EMCOMM Checkin on 3862, 6:00 PM, August 7
- Protect the Homeland, August 9, POC: KC5IMN
- 2026 Capital City Hamfest, Jan 30-31, POC AK5J

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in June:

KJ5LNE, Gil – Hattiesburg; KJ5LPF, Elvis – Biloxi; KJ5LSF, Benjamin – Poplarville; KJ5LSD, Kelsey – Pearl; KJ5LTX, London- Guntown; KJ5LTY, Logan – Guntown; KJ5LUD, Phillip – Hernando.

Welcome to new ARRL Members: KJ5LNE, Gil - Hattiesburg; KJ5LUO, Phillip – Hernando; KJ5LVO, Ruth – New Albany; K5VOL, Paul – Diamondhead.

ARRL Membership in Mississippi on July 1 was 823 down 8 from last month.

Welcome to K5VOL as EC for Hancock County.

Congratulations to KC5TGT in Utica who worked Alaska on 6M FT8 to complete his 6 Meter WAS. Wow!!

SEC/DEC/EC Reports: KC5IMN (SEC), K5DSC (Newton), K9EYZ (Jackson), AE5FK (Walthall), NI5I (Perry), AG5ND (Golden Triangle/Oktibbeha), WX5RJ (Harrison), KG5SQZ (Hinds), W5VMS (West Central MS/Warren/Claiborne), KD4VVZ (Gulf Coast/George), AB6Z (Pearl; River)

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 30/1069/6 (KF5BA)

MS Baptist Hams Net 3/12/0, Sunday, 7263 at 4PM

MSPN 30/1943/22 (W5JGW)

Pine Belt ARA 10M Net 4/16/0 (K5TLL)

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

Capital Area Em Net 5/42/0 (K5XU)

Chickasaw/Calhoun County ARES Net 4/20/0 (KI5LKJ)

Jackson ARC Net 4/33/0 (K5XU)

Mississippi Coast ARA Net 4/108/0 (N5GQ)

NE MS WX Net 5/37/0 (W5BAQ)

Pine Belt ARC 2M Em Training Net 5/27/0 (K5TLL)

Stone County ARES Net 2/24/0 (KC5VCB)

Vicksburg ARC/MLEN 5/110/1 (KG5YEE)

Digital Net Reports

K5FIT WL2K Hybrid Gateway – 149 connections to pass traffic.

MS WL2K Net QNI 58 by 5 stations (K5FIT)

NE MS DMR Net – QNI 404 (KI5LKJ)

Traffic: WV5Q 82, AE5MI 35, and W5XX 12.

PSHR: AE5MI 160, WV5Q 110, and W5XX 78

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