

Mississippi Section Report for February 2026

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***** THIS WEEKEND !!! SEC KC5IMN advises that the upcoming Mississippi SET, code named 'Operation Undead,' is scheduled for this Saturday, March 14 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The scenario involves a disruption of commercial communications infrastructure, coupled with a localized biological threat that requires specialized public health coordination for quarantine and resource allocation.

The mission for Mississippi ARES will be to coordinate Amateur Radio operators to support overflow and emergency communications for Public Safety, Public Service, and State and Local Government entities, focusing on the Public Health sector. The exercise will utilize various Amateur Radio networks including HF, VHF, UHF, Analog, SSB, and Digital modes, with the primary goal being to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of emergency preparedness and demonstrate Amateur Radio capabilities to served agencies and the public. For more info contact kc5imn@arrl.net

***** From Randy, W5UE. In a fashion similar to the 2023 Volunteers on The Air (VOTA), ARRL will be celebrating the Year of The Club, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL Field Organization, and will be holding a Year-Long Worked All States (WAS-250) operating event to recognize the 250th Anniversary (Semi quincennial) of the Declaration of Independence. Additional details about the event and awards that will be available can be found at: <https://www.arrl.org/america250-was> .

Each state/providence will get two opportunities to actively participate using W1AW/Portable. Mississippi's first time to operate W1AW/5 will be April 1-7, 2026. W5UE will be coordinating the activity and can be reached at w5ue@arrl.net. Mississippi stations wishing to participate will operate from their home stations signing W1AW/5. You MUST contact W5UE to sign up and obtain access to an online scheduling spreadsheet to reserve band/mode/timeslots to operate as W1AW/5.

ALL Mississippi hams are encouraged to participate as much as their personal schedules allow. Note that our April week will coincide with MS QSO Party. Operators may choose to participate in the MSQP using the W1AW/5 callsign if they wish. Operators MUST utilize some form or electronic logging capable of producing an ADIF formatted log. Some popular examples are: N1MM+, N3FJP, WSJT-X, JTDX as well as many others. There will be an online form for operators to submit their ADIF logs to ARRL for uploading into LoTW. Individual operators WILL NOT directly upload to LoTW, and no individual certificates are needed on your end.

Please feel free to reach out to Randy, W5UE at w5ue@arrl.net for any questions you may have.

***** The 2026 Mississippi QSO Party is just three weeks away. This is the time to put Mississippi on the air! Nervous about participating? How do you do it? First check out the rules on the Section Website at www.arrlmiss.org. Then get your game plan together. On the morning of April 4 at 9 AM start your operation on 40M SSB by calling 'CQ Mississippi QSO Party' When you start getting calls from multiple stations don't panic if you can't get the full call of one of the stations. If you get a letter or two then say, 'the station with ABC in the call please call again.' The other stations will wait because they want the Mississippi Contact. You also may hear other Mississippi stations on the air looking for contacts. Give them a call.

About 10 o'clock, move up to 20 or 15 SSB and make more contacts. Then about 4 PM move down to 40 SSB for an hour and then to 3862 to work some Mississippi Counties to build up your multiplier total. Keep in mind that the Mississippi Section Phone Net (MSPN) will be on 3862 from 6PM to about 6:30, so steer away from 3862 then.

At that point, if you have any energy left, go back to 40SSB until the QSO Party is over at 9PM. After the smoke has cleared, send your log to W5XX. You may get a certificate! Questions? Send W5XX an Email at w5xx@arrl.net.

If you also plan to operate CW or FT8 W5XX can answer your questions. See you for a contact during the MSQP!

***** K0UPW reports that the Central Mississippi ARA 3rd Saturday Expedition was once again a success. On Saturday, February 21st, Hams and even non-Hams were in attendance at the Pearl Mississippi Park to participate in what turned into a

family affair. One new Ham brought his wife and three kids. She even supplied us with home-baked cookies. There were five stations set up and operating on SSB and FT8. Antennas were everything from slopers, dipoles and verticals and most were home-brew.

The next Saturday's Expedition will be on March 21st at Crystal Lake on Flowood Drive in Flowood. The purpose of this outing is to have fun, fellowship with others and make contacts. For more information see the Central Mississippi ARA Facebook page or email centralmsara@gmail.com

***** WJ5ES reports from Natchez that Amateur Radio operators in Adams and Amite counties are happy to announce that a new repeater site and tower have been acquired with help from Hams in both counties. The site is a 400 ft commercial tower and is located just outside of Gloster in Amite county.

Initially, a two-meter repeater (146.745) has been coordinated and installed at the site using a repeater donated by K5SVC from Natchez. The footprint for this two-meter repeater reaches from north of Natchez to well south of Baton Rouge. Additionally, a new dual band Yaesu DR-2X repeater has been purchased and is currently being programmed to be installed at the site (449.975 Mhz). Also, the Old Natchez Amateur Radio Club purchased another new DR-2X and installed it in Adams county on 70-cm (445.91 Mhz). The two 70-cm repeaters are planned to be linked together and provide a very large footprint to cover the Miss-Lou area during normal operation and emergency events.

Additional work is being planned to expand the Amite county site to include emergency power. Many Hams from both the Old Natchez Amateur Radio Club (K5OCM) and Bluff City Amateur Radio Club (W5KHB) have donated both time, money, and experience to the project and formed the Old South Amateur Radio Association (OSARA) to support and manage the new site. If you are visiting the Miss-Lou area, or just passing through, don't hesitate to give us a shout on one of the repeaters to say hello! 73, OSARA.

***** Project Chairman KG5YEE reports that the Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club handled communications for the 47th annual Run Thru History at the Vicksburg National Military Park. This challenging race is the only race in the nation held entirely in a national park and is chock full of steep inclines and plenty of rolling hills. Radio operators that participated were : KG5YEE, KG5OVR, KC5IBO, AF5OQ, W5VMS, K5IMT, N5JGK, KI5ZNE, K5VXV, W5SFL, N5ZNN, and

N5KWT. KC5QCN participated as a runner carrying his HT.

***** KJ5ET reports from Rankin County that members of the Central Mississippi Amateur Radio Association and Central Mississippi ARES provided communications support for the fourth annual Breaking the Loop race held February 28 at the Ross Barnett Reservoir. The event supports military veterans by promoting fitness and mental well-being and helps raise awareness of veteran suicide. Race activities included a 22-mile run (two laps of the course), an 11-mile run, a 10K, a 5K, and a 1-mile fun run.

A total of 92 participants took part in this year's event. Seven runners started the 22-mile race, with five completing the full distance, and 26 runners participated in the 11-mile event. The races were conducted with staggered starts beginning at 7:30 a.m., with subsequent races starting at 10-minute intervals.

Twenty-three Amateur Radio operators were deployed along the 11-mile course at key locations including water stations, turns, and areas with limited visibility. A net control station was established near the start/finish line at Run Strong headquarters. Communications were conducted using the KE5LIO club repeater on 147.345 MHz. Recent improvements to the repeater system allowed operators to use handheld radios for reliable communications across the entire course.

Here are some upcoming events to put on your calendar:

- SET, Operation Undead, Mar 14, POC: KC5IMN
- CMARA, 3rd Saturday, Mar 21, Crystal Lake, POC: K0UPW
- EMCOMM Checkin, Apr 1, 3862, 6 PM, POC: W5XX
- W1AW/5 on the air from Mississippi, Apr 1-7, POC: W5UE
- Mississippi QSO Party, Apr 4-5, POC: W5XX
- ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, see www.arrl.org
- W1AW/5 Second visit to Mississippi, Nov 18-24, POC: W5UE
- 2027 Capital City Hamfest, Trade Mart, Jan 29-30, POC: AK5J
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..... and in EC Reports from around the state.

From KD5KMO in Chickasaw County. We had our first in-person club meeting Wednesday Feb 4. This was our first meeting since the passing of KA5ICO.

From AEC KG5RRRF in Carroll County. During the ice storm ARES helped the county with communications and blocked roads and helped people trapped that couldn't get out of their drives or homes. ARES assisted an elderly couple with no power or heat . Moved them to a warm location and got food and water for them. Hard put to estimate how many hours we worked, but it was none stop for a couple of weeks.

From K5WZL in Pearl River County. Newly appointed last month, I have been assessing the county and networking with operators in both Hancock and Pearl River Counties with my fellow EC K5VOL (Hancock). Monthly online and in person meetings are coming soon.

We have also been taking stock of reliable radio infrastructure that is in place or that could be deployed permanently for better coverage/usage in training and disasters (Vara FM gateways/digipeaters, Vara HF gateway, another dedicated vhf repeater linked with the Stennis VHF repeater at the north end of the county along the I-59 corridor to back fill serious shadowing with in that region.)

I have reached out to the EC and AEC in St. Tammany Parish (WI5ARD and KG5CEN), and we are working on how to assist each other as neighboring counties/parishes.

We have also started a training net on Sunday afternoons utilizing the Stennis VHF repeater (147.210+ PL136.5) and various HF frequencies to start trying to get operators versed in the various digital HF modes (FLdigi[MT63, Thor], and Winlink/Vara). We had 5 operators on the net, it lasted 2 hours dialing in their rigs, and we expect that the participation number to grow as we start building the group.

SEC/DEC/EC Reports: KC5IMN (SEC), K5DSC (Newton), WJ5ES (Adams), AE5FK (Walthall), NI5I (Perry), KD5KMO (Chickasaw), WX5RJ (Harrison), KG5RRF (AEC)(Carroll), K5RTW (Lee), KJ5V (Oktibbeha), KC5VCB (AEC)(Stone), K5WZL (Pearl River).

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in February: KJ5OCU, Devrice – Starkville; KJ5ODN, Robert – Columbus; KJ5ODZ, John – Madison; KJ5OJK, Mark - Gulfport; KJ5OMKE, Michael - Biloxi.

Congratulations to the following upgrades in February: KJ5ANB, Thomas – Philadelphia; KG5EVY, Henry - Kosciusko; N5JWZ, Danny – Grenada; KJ5OCS, James – Flowood; N5ZNL, Rick – Jackson.

Welcome to the following new ARRL Members in February: KJ5MKT, Robert – Vancleave, KJ5NUD, Matthew – Coldwater; KD5WZP; Miles – Picayune.

The ARRL Membership in Mississippi as of March 1, 2026, was 782 down 5 from last month.

Thanks for the Membership Renewals in February: KI5BLK, Michael - Red Banks; KE7BUD, Clifford - Picayune; KX5E, Willy – Gloster; KN6FLI, Ryan – Brandon; W5JGW, Jeff – Biloxi; K5NDA, Nathan – Pontotoc; KE5SWS, Jonathan – McHenry.

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

Reget to report the passing of WK5DX of Eupora. Lee was an active DXer and had just completed his DXCC. He was a practicing attorney and highly regarded high school basketball and track coach having let several high schools to state championships. Lee was awarded the Varsity Girls Track District Coach of the Year in 1999, 2000, and 2001. He was also awarded the State Girls Track Coach of the Year in 1998, 1999, 2000, and State Basketball Coach of the Year in 2000. He was recently awarded the MAIS 2025-2026 Class 1A District Boys Basketball Coach of the Year.

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

Magnolia Net 28/1051/16

MS Baptist Hams Net 3/21/0 (WF5F) Sunday, 7263 at 4PM

MSPN 28/2297/12 (W5JGW)

Pine Belt ARA 10M Net 4/29/0 (K5TLL)

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

Bluff City EMCOM Net 4/81/0 (WJ5ES)

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

Central MS ARES Net 9/139/0 (KG5SQZ)

Chickasaw County ARES 4/25/0 (KD5KMO)

Delta ARES Em Net 20/320/0 (KG5RRG) 8 EM operations

Chickasaw/Calhoun County ARES Net 4/21/0 (KI5LKJ)

HARCO ARES/Skywarn Net 3/12/3 (WX5RJ)

Jackson ARC Net 4/47/0 (K5XU)

Lowndes County ARES Net 4/32/0 (K5TCO)

Mississippi Coast ARC 4/111/0 (N5GQ)

NE MS WX Net 4/36/0 (W5BAQ)

Pine Belt ARC 2M Em Training Net 4/42/0 (K5TLL)

Pine Belt ARC Simplex 2M Net 1/7/0 (K5TLL)

Stone County ARES Net 2/26/0 (KC5VCB)

Vicksburg ARC/MLEN 4/83/0 (KG5YEE)

Walthall County ARES Team Net 3/34/0 (AE5FK)

W5YD Monday Night Net 4/8/0 (KJ5V)

Digital Net Reports

East MS Em Com Team 28/247/3 (K5TCO)

K5FIT WL2K Hybrid Gateway – 195 connections to pass traffic.

MS WL2K Net QNI 66 by 5 stations (K5FIT)

NE MS DMR Net – QNI 459 (KI5LKJ)

Traffic: WV5Q 60, AE5MI 38, W5XX 4

PSHR: AE5MI 138, WV5Q 110, W5XX 72

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