



The Mississippi Section AFFILIATED CLUBS NEWSLETTER

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So ... anyone been up to anything? That is somewhat of a loaded question with COVID-19 shutting down just about everything. Consequently, there is not much in this newsletter either. Just about all clubs in the section, with a couple of exceptions, are not meeting in person. Most venues are not allowing large groups to meet in person. That and the social distancing requirements are keeping just our clubs locked down for the foreseeable future. What this means for the future of Amateur Radio remains to be seen.

Several clubs have tried online meetings, several are doing over-the-air meetings (The *Southwest Mississippi Amateur Radio Club* just completed its sixth over the air meeting on September 10th!). Recently QSO Today sponsored a virtual hamfest that by all accounts was a huge success. For those of you who did not take advantage of it, they are planning another one on March 13-14, 2021 (see <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com> for details).

The *Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club* is planning a series of foxhunt events. They believe that this type of event can both involve participants and maintain social distancing. What they are waiting for is some cooler weather. They are also planning a special event station on Halloween.

The takeaway is that clubs can, and should, remain active during these exceptional times. If your club is meeting in person, or planning some type of activity, please let your Affiliated Club Coordinator (w5vms@arrl.net) or Section Manager (w5xx@arrl.net) know what you are doing. We would like to keep up-to-date with what our clubs are up to, as well as recognize special activities and achievements.

Stay safe. Anything I can do for your club please let me know. Next newsletter should be out in October-November.

--Scott Larsen, W5VMS

WELCOME SCOTT COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Welcome to our newest ARRL affiliated club, the *Scott County Amateur Radio Club*!

Okay, they have been around for quite some time—since at least 2013—but through a series of administrative errors, their ARRL affiliation never got recorded. That has all been fixed now.

The Scott County club is extremely active in their community and the section. They specialize in general interest radio, VHF/UHF operations, digital modes, and especially public service and emergency operations. Their president, Rez Johnson (K1REZ) serves as the Scott County Emergency Coordinator.

Like everyone else, COVID-19 restrictions have suspended their in-person meetings. For anyone interested, they are holding their monthly meetings and featured programs on the first Thursday of every month, 145.39 MHz (77 Hz tone) at 7:00 pm. More details are available on their website at <http://www.scottcountyarcl.org>. Once again, welcome Scott County to the Mississippi Section family of affiliated clubs!



CLUB RECORD UPDATES

ARRL club affiliation is perpetual. Once a club is affiliated, it is always affiliated. However, a club may be listed as either active or inactive. In order to remain on the active affiliated club roster, clubs must update their information annually. Updating the club record

(formerly referred to as the annual report) is easy using the online update tools available on ARRL's site (www.arrl.com/clubs). If two years pass without an update, ARRL will move the club to inactive status.

If an affiliated club needs assistance with getting their record updated, contact your Affiliated Club Coordinator, Section Manager, or clubs@arrl.org. Please take care of this important business (and kudos to the section's active clubs for being on top of this).



VICKSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RENEWS SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB STATUS

The *Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club* renewed its Special Service Club status for another two-year period. The ARRL has recognized the club's commitment to improve the visibility of Amateur Radio as a positive force in the community by assisting in emergencies; providing and encouraging training; and furthering club activities for the betterment of the membership and the Amateur Radio Service.

The *Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club* remains the sole Special Service Club in the section. Other clubs are invited to become Special Service Clubs. In order to participate, a club must commit itself to establish a more effective local presence for Amateur Radio for a period of twelve months. Clubs can apply online at www.arrl.org/ssc-application. Your club must have an up-to-date ARRL affiliation record before applying to become an SSC. Also note that once approved, SSC status requires renewal every two years.



ARRL LEARNING NETWORK CALL FOR SPEAKERS

In another effort to advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio, ARRL is developing the ARRL Learning Network, which is a series of webinars presented by member-volunteers, for members. Like hamfest forums and radio club presentations, these webinars are intended to help members get more active, involved, and engaged in Amateur Radio. Recorded presentations will also provide a resource to affiliated clubs for quality programming, particularly clubs that lack ready access to presenters, or have last-minute speaker cancellations.

Invited guest presenters will cover topics from three categories: personal communications, emergency communications, and radio electronics and technology. Presentations should be short; 30 minutes plus a 15-minute question and answer period. Presenters will use live video to share their knowledge, advice, smiling faces, PowerPoint slides, screen-sharing, or other demonstration items. If you have given a forum, you already know what to do. Presentations will also be recorded, so members can view these anytime afterwards.

In order to get started, complete the online speakers form at www.arrl.org/ARRL-Learning-Network-Speakers-Form (also inform our Section Manager, W5XX, so we can keep track of participants). ARRL will contact selected presenters and schedule their webinar from a list of available date/time slots. An ARRL staff member will help coordinate details, so you will be ready for presentation day.

—Thanks to Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Product Development Manager, for providing this information.

The Mississippi Section Affiliated Clubs Newsletter is an unofficial, authorized publication of the Mississippi Section, American Radio Relay League to provide information on clubs, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of, about, and of interest to the Mississippi Amateur Radio community. It is published bimonthly or more frequently as needed and distributed using Portable Document Format reproduction for online distribution.

Contents of the newsletter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Mississippi Section, the Delta Division, or the American Radio Relay League. The editorial content of the newsletter is the responsibility of the Mississippi Section Affiliated Club Coordinator and Public Information Coordinator. Submission of announcements, articles, photos, letters, and graphic art of interest to the general readership is encouraged. All material is subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. For submission of announcements to the newsletter, contact:

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