

Mississippi Section Report for August 2006

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District Emergency Coordinators: KD5CKP, WB5CON, KD5FUO, KA5ICO, AB5WF, W4WLF, and N5ZNT.

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The Jackson ARC will host the 2006 ARRL Day in the Park on September 30 at Shiloh Park in Brandon. Festivities will start at 8 AM. Lunch will be available at 11:30 at a nominal cost. Tailgating will be allowed. Bring along a lawn chair, as seating is limited. Talk-In will be on 146.76. Directions to Shiloh Park are available on the web at www.msham.org/dayinpark.html compliments of KC5LK.

After a few comments and prizes, activities will conclude around 12:30 after which we will QSY to the new MEMA State EOC for a tour (15-minute drive from Shiloh Park). Following the MEMA Tour the group will QSY to the National Weather Service Office at Thompson Field which is the site of SKYWARN Operations in Central Mississippi (10-minute drive from MEMA). The Chairman for the Day in the Park is Ron Brown, AB5WF, at 601-278-5968 or ab5wf@arll.net.

Be sure to get a copy of the September CQ. On the cover you will find a photo of Katrina survivor WD5BJT followed by an article on pages 13-18 entitled 'Mississippi Mud.' This article authored by W1DAN and WD5BJT chronicles WD5BJT's survival during and after Katrina (as well as reports on other hams in Hancock County). Charlie is still in a FEMA Condo in a former state campground.

Speaking of nationwide PR, W5LEW authored an article (with photos) on meeting his Czech friend, OK1MCW, after corresponding for 35 years. The article is now published on the ARRL website. You might enjoy reading it. Check it out at www.arll.org/news/features/2006/08/30/1/

The Hattiesburg Amateur Radio Club just finished another CW/Tech class and had eleven of eleven pass the test session; 5 passed the code test also. Kudos to the Hattiesburg instructors! Some of the other students decided to wait and take their test at the HARC regular test session in September, so the new ham numbers may still grow even more! HARC plans to begin yet another CW/Tech class at Forrest General Hospital in October.

And speaking of the HARC, Zero Beat (the HARC Newsletter) reports that the HARC VE Team has been conducting sessions for 18 years with AA5IO as the head honcho. He has been ably assisted by AG5Z (14 years), AC5E (14 Years), KD5XG (14 Years), N5MZ, WZ5Y, KD5ELS, W5NA, and AD5HG. Thanks, folks!

The Tupelo ARC provided communications for the 1st Annual King of the Hill Triathlon at Tombigbee State Park (cell phones didn't work!). This race consisted of a 1/3 mile swim, 22 mile bike ride, and 3 mile run. Those assisting with communications were KB5MDD, KC5IJP, KD5NSP, KD5JXL, KB5WVH, KC5NIY, W5OYK, and W5LMW, all of whom would have probably participated in the Triathlon, but being good hams, manned their radios instead.

DEC KA5ICO reports that the Choctaw County ARES Net is now in operation on 146.46 and will move to 146.895 (141.3) when the new repeater arrives. EC K5WSY reports that the Tishomingo Repeater is finally on the air after many months of frequency coordination. It's tough when you live in an area where three states intersect.

Starting in September EOCs, served agencies, DECs, and ECs are invited to check in to the regular session of the MSPN on the first Thursday of the month. This once a month check in will give ARES/RACES stations a chance to regularly check out equipment and to provide an opportunity for new operators to become familiar with net operation. During the September session 12 EOCs, the Salvation Army, 3 DECs, and 6 ECs checked in.

Congratulations to N5MOI, who reached his 93rd birthday on September 6th. James is probably the Senior Ham in Mississippi (any challengers?) and was a regular checkin on the MSPN until physical problems overtook him. James still claims to be the "weakest station in the nation."

Mississippi DXers should be aware by now that IRCs expire on December 31 and after that date can no longer be exchanged for a first class airmail stamp. Most post offices don't have a clue about what an IRC is and the teller usually gives you a blank stare when you ask about an IRC for airmail stamp exchange. The normal response is that he/she will have to check with the supervisor. To avoid this administrivia be aware that the Jackson Post Office has their act together, so if there is a problem, have your post office call the supervisor on duty in Jackson to straighten things out. New IRCs will be available at the counter after January 1 according to the Jackson Post Office.

Welcome to new Mississippi Hams: KE5JLD, Donald – Como; KE5JOT, Joseph – Hattiesburg; KE5JOU, Keith – Carriere; KE5JOV, Wanda – Soso; KE5JOW, Charles – Hattiesburg; KE5JOX, Michael – Petal; KE5JOY, Wayne – Purvis; KE5JOZ, Kent – Sumrall; KE5JPA, Deborah – Purvis; KE5JPB, Ronald – Purvis; KE5JPC, Charles – Hattiesburg; KE5JPD, Brent – Lumberton; KE5JPE, Carl – Purvis; KE5JPF, Shari – Purvis; KE5JPG, David - Hattiesburg; KE5JPH, Dale – Sumrall; KE5JPI, Robin – Taylorsville; KE5JPQ, Jerome – Gulfport; KE5JQZ, Charles – University.

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KD5FSV, Gautier and KC5SJV, McComb. Notice how many new hams we have had in the state over the past few months vs the number of upgrades. It's time to do two things: help the new Techs get on the air and, secondly, start planning General Classes!

Also congratulations to KD5GWM, who completed FEMA IS-100/200/700/800 and N5TBB, who completed FEMA IS-700.

Welcome to new ARRL members: KE5AVI, Columbus; N1CTI, Como; W5DEK, Long Beach; KA6DLZ, Brandon; KE5FUM, Amory; KE5JIX, Nesbit; KE5JJB, Purvis; KE5JKC, Clinton; W5KDM, Olive Branch; KA4LDU, Ocean Springs; KD5RWF, Clinton; N5UDK, Wiggins; KC5VCB, Perkinson; KD5YTC, Columbus.

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Jackson ARC (K5VU), MDXA (K2FF), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Sundancer Solar Radio Club (KA5ICO), Tippah ARC (N5TBB), Vicksburg ARC (W5WAF).

Regret to report the passing of W5BSE of Jackson and KD5ASF of Kosciusko. Nanette was the XYL of KC5YCH.

PIC Report: N5TBB

DEC/EC Report: K5CBS (Stone), KD5CQT (Jackson), KC5EAK (Pearl River), WB5GUD (Newton), KD5GWM (Lauderdale/Clarke), N5TBB (Tippah/Benton), K5WSY (Tishomingo), AG5Z (Forrest), KB0ZTX (Marshall).

Net reports: sessions/QNI/QTC (Net Manager)

DRN5 62/Miss 100% Rep by N5FP, W5OXA, KB5DZJ, WB5ZED, WA5FB, W5XX (WB5ZED)

MS Section Phone Net 31/2246/34 (K5NRK)

MS Section Traffic Net 31/112/5 (KB5W)

Magnolia Section Net 31/909/6 (AD5J)

Jackson County EN 31/400/6 (KD5CQT)

MS Section Slow Net 22/59/1 (W3TWD)

Meridian Area EN 6/66/0 (KD5GWM)

Jackson ARC EN 5/55/1 (AB5WF)

Itawamba Co. ARES 5/54/0 (KB5NMB)

Pearl River ARES 4/41/0 (KC5EAK)

MS-LA EN 4/47/0 (K5NRK)

Metro Jackson ARES 4/70/0 (AB5WF)

Lowndes Co ARC Net 4/43/0 (KM5UH)

Hattiesburg AEN 4/56/0 (N5MZ)

Newton County ARES 4/24/0 (WB5GUD)

MS Baptist Hams Net 2/16/0 (WF5F)

PSHR: WB5ZED 150, N5FP 110, KD5FUY 87, W5XX 79

Traffic: WB5ZED 2308 (BPL), N5FP 40, W5XX 9, W5LEW 4, KD5FUY 2

Compilation of Net and Traffic Statistics provided by N5FP, Mississippi Section Traffic Manager