

Mississippi Section Report for February 2011

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The Ninth Mississippi QSO Party is now history. There was a very high level of participation from both inside and outside of the state. One big plus was 15 meters being open for the first time in many years. As of this early March writing 70 logs have been received with three unchecked logs coming in from out of state with over 100 QSOs and one Mississippi station claiming over 1,000 QSOs. Thanks to W3DYA, K4ZGB, W4SIG, N5CW, K5WBM, K5MMS, and KB6UF for putting many rare counties on the air from their mobiles. Also thanks to the Chickasaw ARA that put on another portable operation from very rare Tunica County (only one ham listed on QRZ). A first listing of the high scores (unchecked) may be available by next month's Section Newsletter. Mississippi has really come from nowhere to having a first rate QSO Party! All logs are due to W5XX by March 31.

DEC AG5Z reports that the VHF link from Jackson to the Coast is in serious danger of being lost. Towers used by the South Mississippi Repeater Coalition (SMRC) to maintain part of the link are owned by Verizon. SMRC has been told to vacate the sites or sign cost prohibitive leases for each site. All repeater owners should be sure that they are on firm legal footing with tower owners to avoid future problems.

W4IOS advises that the Meridian W5YI-VE Team hosted a Amateur Radio Revitalization Seminar at the EMEPA auditorium in Meridian. Overall it was a tremendous success! Not only was there a great turn out from the local hams, but hams from Jackson, Starkville, and Alabama attended. The topics covered included Packet Radio, NEMBS, Antenna Building, Digital Modes, APRS, and Echolink (VoIP). AE5FE had two packet stations set up for a demo and W4IOS had a digital mode (PSK31) set up for a demo station using HRD + DM780 software running thru a microHAM DIGITAL KEYSER II interface. A actual contact (QSO) was made and logged! Special thanks to AE5FE, KB5SZJ, KA5PSG, and KB5ASR for making presentations. For planning purposes the W5YI-VE Team will try to hold another seminar sometime the first of April 2011. An announcement will be made when details can be finalized!

The Vicksburg ARC again provided communications for the 32 nd 'Run Through History' held annually at the Vicksburg National Military Park. In spite of threatening weather some 700 runners and walkers completed the tortuous 5 mile course. VARC members kept judges apprized of the first three runners/walkers in the various categories and were spaced around the course to report any problem areas. Fortunately none were reported. Event Chairman K5NRK reports that those participating were K5IMT, KB5YEE, KD5CQX, KD5WCR, KD5ZIP, KE5HTG, N5JGK, N5KWT, W5WAF, K1REZ, W5JMJ, KC5QCW, and KC5QZN.

From below the AM Broadcast Band WD2XSH/6 (W5THT) reports that the FCC renewed and modified the ARRL-sponsored WD2XSH/6 license to include proposed new ham band frequencies (461 to 478 KC) in addition to the original part-5 frequencies. However, Hams have been cautioned to only use the upper part of the new band due to financial interests wanting to locate their new commercial system there. Pat is taking part in the daytime digital (WSPR) ground wave tests. It appears that his receiving system is not very good, or something unexpected is happening. He currently has 8,201 hours of interference-complaint-free transmitting time and 159 QSOs with other

experimental stations.

DEC/EC WB5CON reports that the status of the 180 foot tower slated for placement at the new Alcorn County EOC is still in limbo. As it turns out AT&T donated a self supporting 180 foot tower to the EOC; however, the tower is still in place at the phone central office in Corinth. It has to be removed, inspected, and erected. There is concern that it is not heavy duty enough for the planned antennas and associated wind loading. Standby for more information.

EC KD5VMV advises that DeSoto County experienced the first severe weather outbreak of the year on February 24, 2011. The DeSoto County EOC was manned and reports were taken from across the Mid-South region. Tim says 28 hams participated in this activation including KD5VMV, KB0ZTX, W5GD, KE5EOQ, KD5CKP, KF5EQD, KF5HRD, W5LJD, N5UOV, KE5RHM, KF5EQE, KE5EOR, KC5YYW, WA4ZYN, KE5GYQ, N5PYQ, KE5MXY, W9IK, KB4MU, KA5JNK, KE5TMY, KE5NBC, KE5NBD, KI4OTF, K5OMC, KF5JAK, W5KK, and KU4AS.

EC W5LMW reports Memphis NWS presented both the basic and advanced storm spotter sessions at Baptist Memorial Hospital Union County with 44 in attendance.

And for your end of the month calendar, N5VEI advises that a group of students from Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) in Ridgeland is preparing for a trip to space -- or as close as they can get. The [OTMS Radio and Technology Club](#), along with the School's Science Team, are planning a near-space balloon launch at 9 AM (CDT) on March 26 (the date and time are subject to change depending on weather). The balloon -- nicknamed Titans in Space -- will use the call sign KC5NXD and is expected to reach an altitude of 94,825 feet. Billy needs a lot of hams to help track the balloon and in spreading the word of the launch across the state especially over toward the Meridian Area. Check out the full story on the ARRL Web Site at www.arrl.org under the title 'Middle School Students to Launch Near-Space Balloon.' You can contact Billy at n5vei@arrl.net to help or for more info.

Welcome to the following new hams in Mississippi in November: KF5JSV, James – Ethel; KF5JSW, John – Clinton; KF5JSY, Adam – Ridgeland; KF5JSZ, Sammie – Winona; KF5JTK, Jeffrey – Diamondhead; KF5JUL, Mitchell – Sumrall; KF5JUM, Jason – Brooklyn; KF5JUN, James – Hattiesburg; and KF5JXH, Elizabeth – Southaven.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members: KE5DHC – Florence; KF5ICL – Gulfport; KF5JGE – Brandon; KF5JSV – Ethel; KF5JSY – Ridgeland; KF5JXH – Southaven; KA4LDU – Ocean Springs; K9LJQ – Southaven; KE5MWD – Petal; KE5OKI – Ocean Springs; and KE5QHV – Gulfport. ARRL Membership in Mississippi is now 1,081 down from the record 1,088 last month. Keep working!

And lastly, welcome to K1REZ as EC for Scott County. Additionally, Union County EC W5LMW advises that he is retiring from the position. Thanks for eight years of service, Gregg!

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KF5EVN – Ridgeland; KF5FAK – Laurel; KF5IKQ – Ocean Springs; KF5IXS – Collins; N5JRP – Biloxi; WB5SAX – Southaven; N5SPM – Jackson; KD5VMV – Hernando; and KA5YRK – Ridgeland.

Also congratulations to Asst. SM W4WLF, who now is also the State Navy MARS Director.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), W5LMW

(Union), K5MOZ (Jackson), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), WV1Q (Jasper), KD5VMV (DeSoto), KE5WJN (Pearl River), and AG5Z (SE MS).

2010 EC Annual Report: KB0ZTX (Marshall)

OO Report: W5TFW

Club Newsletter/Reports: Chickasaw ARA (KE5RHM), Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Mississippi Coast ARA (KB9ZR), Northeast Mississippi ARA (KE5SSB), and the Pearl River ARC (N5WLW).

Regret to report the passing of KD1EMT of Brookhaven.

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

Magnolia Section Net 28/1017/26 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/27/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 28/2972/36 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 20/27/0 (W3TWD)

MTN/OZK 27/138/24 (AA5J)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County 4/69/3 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 4/74/0 (K5XU)

Delta ARES Simplex Net 3/23/0 (K5JAW)

Hattiesburg AEN 4/103/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES 4/56/1 (KB5NMB)

Jackson ARC Em Net 4/44/0 (N5DU)

Jackson County EM Net 12/151/3 (K5MOZ)

Jasper County ARES 4/22/0 (WV1Q)

Magnolia DX Assn 4/42/0 (K5OAZ)

Meridian Area EN 4/43/0 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/70/2 (KE5PTL)

MS Coast ARA 4/57/0 (K5KMU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/20/0 (K5NRK)

NE MS Skywarn 5/92/1 (W5LMW)

Panola County ARES 4/32/0 (KC5DPJ)

Pearl River ARES 4/40/0 (KE5WJN)

SCMSG Info Net 4/41/0 (AE5JG) (Southern Coast Medical Support Group)

Scott County ARES 3/23/0 (K1REZ)

Southern MS Friendship Net 20/157/0 (WB5OHN)

Southern MS YL Net 4/38/0 (K5IJ)

Stone County ARES 4/76/0 (N5UDK)

Tishomingo ARC 4/121/3 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 4/49/1 (K5LMB)

PSHR: W5XX 70

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.