Mississippi Section Report for April 2014

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W1AW/5 came to Mississippi April 16-22 as part of the ARRL Centennial Celebration. This gave Mississippi hams a rare chance to be W1AW for a few days. Coordinator N4OGW reports that the following stations were on the air as W1AW/5 collectively making over 31,000 QSO's: W5DAW, K5DSG, NE5DX, WM5DX, W5ETZ, K5IJ, K2FF, N5FG, N5GD, AD5IT, K5JAW, W5KK, WQ5L, KF8PD, AE5SK, N5SP, W5TFW, K5TLL, AE5TR, W5UE, KA5VFU, K5XU, W5XX, WB4YBY, W5YD (KO1N op), AB6Z, AG5Z, NM5Z, and N5ZNL. Also at the KA5VFU multi-op/multi-xmtr second ops KB5CSQ, WQ5L, W5RWF, WD5BJT, and N5TF put Q's in the log. Any other second ops? W1AW will visit Mississippi again November 12-18.

As we approached the end of April, it looked like Mississippi was going to skate through the 2014 Tornado season unscathed; however, NWS started issuing foreboding forecasts the weekend of 23-24 April. During 26-28 April three storms moved through the State. MEMA unfortunately reports 15 fatalities, 615 structures destroyed, and 593 structures suffering major damage.

VHF Nets were activated statewide and passed a multitude of weather and damage reports to NWS-Jackson and NWS- Memphis. Those nets reported activated were: the Central Mississippi Skywarn Net, the Delta ARES Net, the DeSoto County Emergency Net, the Lowndes County ARC Net, the Mississippi Digital Skywarn Net, the North Mississippi Storm Chasers and Spotters, the Northeast Mississippi Skywarn Weather Net, the Scott County Skywarn Net, the Stateline Skywarn Net, and the Tishomingo ARC Net. Thanks to all of the NCS and check ins who stepped up during this weather crisis to provide critical information to the NWS.

EC KB5NMB reports that the 400 foot tower on Auburn Road was unfortunately lost which supported multiple Ham repeaters. Thanks to quick action by N5VGK, AB5OR, WB5EIN, KF5APO, KD5KXJ, KE5BSB, and N5MIS the repeater equipment in the Radio House was saved from the in-progress storm.

KD5VMV, DeSoto County EC, was deployed to Tupelo to help at the EOC with damage assessment, and KF5QIQ was deployed to Tupelo with the Mississippi Animal Response Team for damage assessment at the local animal shelter.

Lee County EC WA5TEF notes a frequent problem in this part of the country. The devastating EF-3 Tornado that crossed north Tupelo and moved into Northeastern Lee County was impossible to see. Due to trees the only video footage obtained was in an open area at the intersection of Highways 45 and 78. The Tupelo Repeater stayed on the air on battery backup because of the widespread power outages. It pays to be prepared with battery backup!

Instructors Bill Richardson, N5VEI, and Bobby Robinson, and their students launched another near-space balloon April 11 from Olde Towne Middle School. Many hams were on site to assist but K5GCY, WB5YKR, and N5WXW helped with all of the launch logistics. K1REZ, W5JMJ, and KF5IZ went out ahead of the balloon to chase it down on its return to Earth.

Instructors Bill and Bobby left the launch with parents, students, and Vincent Webb (N5WXW), who

was in the WLBT storm chaser vehicle, to pursue the balloon from the launch site. The balloon landed in the Hurricane Creek area just outside of Sebastopol, MS. While the balloon was only 1/3 of a mile off of the road, it was in the middle of a swamp. It took three trips in over 2 days to get the payload down. K1REZ and W5JMJ were the first to find the balloon in tall oak trees at about 100 feet off the ground. While APRS got the teams relatively close, a SPOT locator device got them to within about 50 feet of the tree top balloon. The Teams had to cross waist high creeks, knee deep mud, slick ground, bamboo groves, vines, and poison ivy several times to get there, but on the last trip in with a few saws, potato cannon (antenna launcher), and more man-power, the payload was recovered.

The balloon reached approximately 62,000 feet which was short of the goal of 90,000 feet, but was still a good flight. Pictures were taken and science experiments were on the balloon. The cameras fared much better than the experiments which were damaged by trees and recovery efforts. N5WXW composed a video of the whole launch, chase, and recovery which can be viewed on YouTube by searching "Old Towne Middle School Weather Balloon Launch."

K1REZ reports that on May the Scott County ARES Team and the Scott County Amateur Radio Club were the first in the state of Mississippi to transmit live video via Amateur Radio Broadband. Live color video of the start and finish line of the Morton Day in the Park Bike Race was transmitted over a quarter of a mile away and projected onto a screen at the club's demonstration booth. Festival goers enjoyed being able to view the race from the convenience of the booth. The Scott County ARC plans to provide this service to other bike and foot races around the state as a means of keeping our video over amateur radio skills sharp for emergency communications purposes. As an EmComm focused club, the primary goal for Live Broadband Video is to be trained, ready, and capable of deploying to emergency and disaster areas for transmitting live video of disaster scenes and staging areas back to viewing screens at Incident Command Posts and Emergency Operations Centers. Rez notes that if a picture is worth a thousand words then live video is worth ten thousand words, especially during an emergency.

K1REZ offers to have the Scott County ARES Team deploy Live Broadband Video at a race, parade, festival, or other public service event which your club works. Contact Rez at k1rez@arrl.net for more information. Also contact K1REZ if you are interested in serving on the Live Broadband Video Team or helping us establish one or more Broadband Ham Nets in your area.

In addition to establishing deployable broadband video capabilities, the Scott County ARES Team has established the first official Broadband HamNet in the state of Mississippi. The Scott County Broadband HamNet is a high speed, self discovering, self configuring, fault tolerant, wireless computer network that can run for days from a fully charged car battery, or indefinitely with the addition of a modest solar array or other supplemental power source.

The Team's focus is on providing emergency communications to our served agencies and team members by linking their computers via amateur radio during emergencies or disasters which knock out normal communications. Every computer connected by amateur radio to their MESH is able to do everything a computer in a standard office computer network can do, except the Team can do it over a very large area: send and receive network wide email, host chat rooms, instant messaging, view and edit network wide web-pages, send forms, documents, photographs and video, share files and peripheral devices, and talk on the phone with each other using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP).

In addition to establishing nodes in Scott County, the Scott County ARES Team has also been

establishing linking nodes in other counties in order to create a direct network link from the Scott County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's State Emergency Operations Center (MEMA's EOC).

KD5IWH is now publishing a free newspaper for Hams entitled the 'Mississippi Ham Radio Weekly.' You can download a copy and subscribe at http://mshamnews.com. There is a new edition each Friday Morning.

K5GCY reports that the Jackson ARC provided communications for the 58-mile Hinds Ride for the Jackson Metro Club. The event went well with no reported problems. Those participating were K5GCY, K5CID, and N5GT.

And also in the area of public service EC KF5EZT reports that the Central Mississippi ARA/Rankin ARES provided communication for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Eric says those assisting were KE5JKD, KE5WAC, WX5H, KA5TJW, KF5IZ, WM5A, and KF5EZT.

K5LMB reports that the University of Mississippi Amateur Radio Club provided directional race marshaling and communications for the Double Decker Spring Run 5K/10K on April 26. Information from the course on the progress of the 5K/10K participants was relayed to from the Start to Finish Lines and to the Race Organizers allowing the all participants to complete the race and making sure all participants were accounted for. Those UMARC members manning the Spring Run were K5DSG (also NCS), K5PTM, KF5IUY, KF5OYC, KZ7H, KE5TMY, KS5U, AB5TR, KF5UHW, KF5IMA, KG5UAW, K5LMB, K5SMB, KF5UHV, N5RB, and WF5N, who walked the route following the final participants. K5LMB was the POC and organizer for UMARC.

KB5CSQ notes that The Southern Mississippi YL Group took a tour of the Harrison County EOC guided by Gulf Coast DEC N9OKV. The YL Group's youth member KF5WTU called the Group's Net from the EOC. Betty Jo further reports that all of the YL's (and their OM's) enjoyed the tour and learned a lot about the operations during an emergency thanks to N9OKV.

The logs (116) for the 2014 Mississippi QSO Party are in. While conditions were not good for stateside, they were great into Europe. Five logs were received from across the Atlantic with over 50 Mississippi QSOs. OM2VL led the way with 91 claimed QSOs. Unreal! Now let the log checking begin.

K4FMH is documenting the ages of Ham Clubs in Mississippi and needs the Section's help! If you're a member of a club, please find out when that club officially began. This can be from the earliest documented minutes or from the awarding of a club license by the FCC. For example, the Mississippi State University's Club, W5YD, reports that the callsign 5YD was issued to that club in 1920 by the FCC. Right now, the MSU Club is the oldest club that has been found through an informal reading of club websites, so please send your documentation to k4fmh@arrl.net.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in April: KG5BJA, Elisha – Tishomingo; KG5BJC, David – Horn Lake; KG5BJJ, Adam – Maben; KG5BJK, Purcell – Starkville; KG5BJL, Twanna – Steens; KG5BLE, Robert – Columbia; KG5BMC, Kenneth – Long Beach; KG5BMD, Janet – Long Beach; KG5BME, John – Long Beach; KG5BMF, Barbara – Pearl; KG5BMP, Alexander – Jackson; KG5BRM, Nathan – Randolph; KG5BRN, Michael – Saltillo; and KG5BTK, Robert – Horn Lake.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in April: KG5ABS, Sharon – Columbus; KG5ABV, Andrew – Brandon; KG5AVT, Michelle – Crystal Springs; KG5AXH, William – Brandon; KD5AXK, Chris – Hattiesburg; KG5BAX, Richard – Greenwood; KG5BBA, Terry – Crystal Springs; KG5BJC, David – Horn Lake; KE4EPR, William – Coldwater; K5FI, Robert – Union; AE5LO, Ricky – Byram; N5MED, William – Hattiesburg; KE5OGC, Jean – Gulfport; KF5QWZ, Joe – Columbus; W0WIG, John – Oxford; KF5ZLG, David – Lucedale; and W5ZRK, James – Hattiesburg. As of April 30 ARRL Membership in Mississippi was 1,149 up 5 from last month! A new record membership. Thanks to all who promote ARRL Membership!

Congratulations to to the following on their upgrades: KG5ABW, Edgar – Florence; KG5ANQ, Daniel – Booneville; KG5AWN, Jonathan – Collinsville; KG5AXH, William – Brandon; KG5BHV, Richard – Dundee; KC5BYO, Eddie – Mooreville; KD5CSI, Roy – Tishomingo; KF5FXS, Dakota – Tishomingo; KD4JON, Lawrence – Southaven; KF5PRS, William – Iuka; KF5QWZ, Joe – Columbus; and KF5TQJ, Christopher – Clinton.

And last, but not least, congratulations to KF5ZCI, who completed the ARRL PR-101 Course (EC-015).

Welcome to KF5QWZ as EC for Lowndes County, NU5Y as Assistant EC for Forrest County, KF5ZCI as PIO in the Hattiesburg area, and NG5C as Net Manager for the Petal Amateur Wireless Society 2M Net.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports for April 2014: KF5EZT (Rankin), N5KDA (Adams), KE5MIS (Yalobusha), K5MOZ (Jackson), N5MZ (Forrest), WX5N (Prentiss/Tishomingo), KB5NMB (Itawamba), WA5TEF (Lee), KE5WJN (Pearl River), and KB0ZTX (NW MS).

Club Newsletter/Reports (Editor): Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Lowndes County ARC (AD5DO), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), and the Northeast Mississippi ARA (KB5NMB).

Regret to report the passing of W5DRI, daughter of AG5Z and KE5YBV of Purvis.

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

Magnolia Section Net 30/1065/11 (K5DSG)
MS Baptist Hams Net 4/29/0 (WF5F)
MSPN 30/2196/2 (K5NRK)
MS Slow Net 22/44/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County Net 5/54/0 (WX5N)
Capital Area Em Net 4/62/0 (K5XU)
Chickasaw ARA Net 4/93/0 (N5PYQ)
Delta ARES Simplex Net 4/24/0 (K5JAW)
District 6 HEARS Net 4/26/1 (KF5QLL)
Hattiesburg ARC 2M Net 4/75/0 (K5TLL) also 5/118/0 (March)
Hattiesburg ARC 10M Net 3/33/0 (K5TLL) also 5/48/0 (March)
Itawamba County ARES Net 4/67/3 (KB5NMB)

Jackson County Em Net 26/467/0 (K5MOZ)
Lowndes County ARC Net 5/60/3 (AD5DO)
Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/53/0 (K5GCY)
Miss/Lou Em Net 4/30/0 (K5NRK)
MS Preparedness Project EN 4/40/0 (WX5H)
Olive Branch ARC Tech and Info Net 5/74/2 (KD5CKP)
Pearl River ARES Net 4/49/0 (KE5WJN)
Pearl River ARC Net 5/91/0 (K5RDA)
Rankin County ARES 4/51/0 (KE5EZT)
Scott County ARES 3/27/0 (KC5IIW)
Scott County Skywarn 3/24/0 (KC5IIW)
Southern Mississippi YL Net 4/47/0 (KB5CSQ)
Stateline Skywarn Net 6/97/7 (KB5NMB) 2 severe weather activations (April 4 and 28)
Stone County ARES Net 4/48/0 (N5UDK)
Tishomingo ARC Net 5/108/0X (WX5N)
UMARC Net 4/37/0 (K5LMB)
Yazoo County ARES Net 4/27/0 (KF5DJS)

PSHR – W5XX 87, K5JAW 80

Compilation of Net statistics provided by KB5RCJ.