

Mississippi Section Report for August 2012

SM: Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Section Web Site: www.arrlmiss.org. Web Master: w5ue@arrl.net.

District Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, KD5FUO, KE5KTU, K5XXV, AG5Z, N5ZNT and KB0ZTX.

Emergency Coordinators: WB5CON, AE5CY, WV5D, W5DYC, KI5F, AE5FE, AE5FK, KD5FUO, W4HOZ, KA5ICO, AD5IT, KB5JN, KF5JOO, W5JWW, KE5KTU, KD5KXJ, N5LJC, KG6LJN, K5LMB, N5LOK, KE5MIS, K5MOZ, WX5N, KB5NMB, K5NRK, N9OKV, NE5P, K5PJM, KA1RBA, N5SP, N5TBB, WB5TTM, K5TV, N5UDK, W5UQT, KD5VMV, KE5WJN, KE5WUN, N5XZF, KE5YES, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT, and KB0ZTX.

Mississippi has managed to escaped the hurricane silver bullet for three years in a row, but our luck ran out this year. Isaac came ashore on August 28 leaving substantial damage to the power grids in South Mississippi and Southeast Louisiana as well as long term flooding. MEMA reports that the most damage was experienced in Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, and Pearl River counties with 44 more counties north of the Coast being impacted.

The ARES/RACES response was well organized with KM5EMA on from MEMA, the Delta ARES Emergency Net handling tactical traffic, and the Mississippi Emergency Net handling health/welfare traffic. Thanks to WS7EOC, NF5B, and K5DSG, respectively, for managing these operations. In addition, N5LRQ activated the 2M link from Jackson to the Coast and several Skywarn Nets were activated. Operation from County EOCs was reported from Forrest, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lauderdale, Pearl River, Stone, and Warren counties. Others may have been activated but have not been reported as of this writing.

NF5B reports that the Delta Emergency Net operated continuously for 46 hours. Many thanks to the following Net Controls who manned one or more two hour shifts: K5GLS, KE5NZY, WB5LHS (with multiple operators) KF5NA, N9ACQ, K5DSG, KC5MP, KD5IGG, WW5AA, W5RXU, KE5UTN, KG4LTL, KC5MWZ, K5RT, NY4O, and NF5B. NM K5DSG reports that the Mississippi Emergency Net operated 30 hours in total over a three day period being QRX during the early morning hours. Net Controls were K5BBA, W5LJD, KB5YEE, W5MLO, N4CBS, W5XX, K5JAW, N5LRL, KC5AKX, and K5DSG. Doug passes along a special pat on the back to K5BBA, who took three 2 hour shifts.

A widespread communications emergency did not develop and there was not much resulting traffic; however, this was an excellent opportunity to test our readiness for catastrophic events in that we had not had an exercise of this magnitude since 2008. Many thanks the DEC's, EC's, AEC's, and ARES Members, who activated stations as part of the ARES response to Isaac.

K5YG advises from the Ocean Springs EOC that the Ocean Springs Command Center asked that an emergency message be passed to authorities in Louisiana regarding two adults and one child that were trapped in an attic as a result of attempting to escape flood waters. This message was passed on the Delta Emergency Net to the Louisiana State EOC. Later in the day word was received that the three people had been rescued plus 15 others rescued as a result of the message originating from the Ocean Springs EOC. Operators at Ocean Springs were K5EYK, K5GFE, W8DM, and K5YG.

From the September 2012 Edition of the MCARA 'Splatter' KB9ZR reports that the Harrison County

EOC was activated on August 28. In response Harrison County EC N9OKV activated ARES to man W5SGL at the EOC. The ARES team was divided up into three shifts to ensure 24 hour coverage. The EOC team consisted of EC N9OKV, AEC K5KMU, AEC W5EG, AE5RI, W4WLF, and KB9ZR. W5SGL monitored the HF Nets as well as the local Emergency Net on the Biloxi 146.73 repeater. Many area hams checked into this net and monitored. These hams provided the EOC team with information as to conditions in their respective areas. W5SGL was secured on August 30, 2012. There were over 106 check-ins on 2 Meters, one emergency message was sent, 136 routine RMS messages sent, and numerous bulletins passed during the activation period. The EOC team used RMS Express for the first time passing information to MEMA in Jackson, the SHARE Coordinator at DHS in Washington DC, and Mississippi Section Manager W5XX via internet, VHF, and HF means. Much was learned about EOC operations/procedures by everyone. EC N9OKV was very pleased with the ARES activation and thanks his team for their support.

In Hancock County, the EOC was manned by Thom, KF7SEB, and Jeff, KF5JTK, the entire time of the event lasting approximately 50 hours. The traffic passed was minimal, mostly local traffic notices such as roads flooded. The Hancock County EOC was not located in a permanent location using a building that could be penetrated by RF. The team was unable to find an available opening to run coax for an outside antenna and was forced to use echolink during the first 36 hours of the operation. After the Internet went down, Thom resumed operations from his vehicle until the MEMA link to Jackson was lost. To sum it all up, Thom notes that the activation went as well as could be expected considering the activation was on a very short notice and trying to operate from a non-radio friendly structure. Thom looks forward to working on a solution for future events including plans to have a cross band repeater or a full mobile repeater.

From Forrest County EC N5SP reports that he, KD5XG, DEC AG5Z, and KF5BLR went to the EOC prior to the arrival of Isaac to inspect and determine the operational status of the Amateur Radio equipment. It was determined that additional equipment was needed to interface the HF radio to the amplifier. A phone call was made to MFJ and with their assistance an order was placed. Upon arrival, the equipment was installed which solved the problems. The EOC activated at 1700 hours on August 28 with KC5WFM being activated at the same time. KD5AXK was first on scene followed shortly by EC N5SP. Chris and Sam stayed on scene for about 2 hours at which time Chris had to leave and Sam stayed on. The emergency nets were monitored and checked into numerous times. At 2200 hours the nets secured for the night as did KC5WFM. On August 29 KC5WFM was back on the air at 0600 hours with N5SP at the controls. At 1000 hours KD5XG arrived to relieve Sam. Lex operated until 1700 hours at which time the Forrest EOC was secured. No official traffic was handled during this event by KC5WFM.

Jasper County EC WV1Q reports that the South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES Emergency Net was activated due to Isaac affecting the region. Jasper County had power outages countywide and low land flooding in several areas. In addition, there was flooding on Hwy 528 in Heidelberg with many roadway blockages from falling trees and heavy rains. And from Central Mississippi Skywarn, KE5PYM reports that WX5JAN was on the air 60 hours from the Jackson National Weather Service. Linda passes along a pat on the back for a job well done to KE5PTL, AD5XR, W5PRL, KF5EZW, KF5EXT, K5GCV, AE5SK, and N5XXX, who served as NCS.

..... and with Isaac in our rear view mirror its time for some fun! Thanks to the continuing hospitality of Martin, K5FLU, and the crew at MFJ, we will have our annual ARRL Day in the Park in Starkville on October 5-6 as part of the MFJ 40 th Anniversary Celebration. A link to complete details on the event is on the Section Web Site at www.arrlmiss.org. Any further questions to W5XX.

From Alcorn County DEC/EC WB5CON reports that grant money came through for the ham gear at the new Alcorn County EOC. The equipment is on order and will arrive in a few days. K0RIS and K5WHB will assist in the installation next weekend. Further, the old Alcorn County ARES tower that fell during a recent storm has been removed with just a few guy wires left to clean up. About 6 sections are undamaged. The club is donating them to the Pisgah Volunteer Fire Department to mount on a trailer to use with their mobile communications center. The VFD brought their mobile communication center to the recent ACARES meeting for a show and tell. The center is built inside an 18 wheeler trailer. It has been insulated, with lighting, and heating and cooling. There are multiple work stations with computers, HF/VHF/UHF ham gear, and public service gear. The computers are networked to a local server with detailed topo maps of Mississippi and parts of surrounding states. They also have two 10KW diesel generators, running on biofuel. Very impressive. They have deployed it recently for an airplane crash in Prentiss County and for a missing person search.

Ham Radio and the Olde Town Middle School got a nice PR Plug in the August 30 Edition of the National Science Teachers Association Web Digest. The article discusses N5VEI's Radio and Technology Club's two balloon launches and the role Ham Radio played in the construction, launch and recovery.

Welcome to the following new Hams in Mississippi in August: KF5RLB, Jeffrey – Olive Branch; KF5RQD, David – Hernando; KF5RQM, Bryan – Burnsville; KF5RQN, Jeff – Guntown; KF5RQO, Kevin – Saltillo; KF5RQP, Kenneth – Shannon; KF5RQQ, Elise – Steens; KF5RQR, Barrett – Laurel; KF5RQS, Douglas – Stringer; KF5RQT, Ryann – Steens; KF5RRL, Christopher – Ocean Springs; KF5RSR, Jonathan – Hernando; KF5RSS, Nathan – Hernando; KF5RVN, Susannah – Hernando; and KF5RVO, Paul – Southaven.

Also welcome to the following new ARRL Members in August: KF5AGC – Wiggins; KE5FFX – Senatobia; AF5GE – Petal; KC5IIW – Morton; KF5KDJ – Moss Point; KF5KVL – Southaven; KF5MPM – Moss Point; N5MVF – Columbus; K7OAL – Perkinston; KD7QYY – Saltillo; KF7SEB – Picayune; AE7WE – Saltillo; KF5RFA – Brandon; KB5UEJ – Moss Point; and AE5WV – Saucier. The Mississippi ARRL Membership has dropped to 1,102. Let's don't drop below 1,100. Our record was 1,119 in June. Time to go back to work!

Congratulations to the following on their upgrades: KF5EZT – Brandon; KF5RDR – Byhalia; and KF5RGQ – Fulton;

Club Newsletters/Reports: Hattiesburg ARC (AC5E), Meridian ARC (W5MAV), Mississippi Coast ARA (KB9ZR), and the Northeast Mississippi ARA (KE5SSB).

DEC/EC Reports: WB5CON (NE MS/Alcorn), KA4CSG (AEC)(Warren), KF5EZT (AEC)(Rankin), AE5FE (Lauderdale/Clarke), K5MOZ (Jackson), KB5NMB (Itawamba), WX5N (Prentiss/Tishomingo), N9OKV (Harrison), NE5P (Lamar), N5SP (Forrest), WV1Q (Jasper), N5UDK (Stone), and KE5WJN (Pearl River).

Technical Specialist Report: W5UE

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/1093/6 (K5DSG)

MS Baptist Hams Net 4/23/0 (WF5F)

MSPN 31/1689/15 (K5NRK)

MS Slow Net 23/45/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County ARES 4/49/2 (WX5N)

Capital Area Em Net 4/80/0 (K5XU)

Central Mississippi Skywarn 1/89/10 (KE5PYM) Operation during Isaac

Delta ARES Net 4/17/0 (K5JAW)

Grenada County Net 4/10/0 (AD5IT)

Hattiesburg AEN 4/102/0 (K5MIQ)

Itawamba County ARES 5/93/2 (KB5NMB) One Skywarn activation

Jackson ARC Em Net 3/31/0 (N5DU)

Jackson Co ARES Net 27/368/1 (K5MOZ)

Magnolia DX Assn 4/64/0 (K5OAZ)

Meridian Area EN 7/81/7 (AE5FE)

Metro Jackson ARES Net 4/70/1 (K5GCY)

Mississippi Coast ARA 4/67/0 (K5KMU)

Mississippi Coast ARA Tech Net 4/21/0 (K5KMU)

Miss/Lou Em Net 4/29/0 (K5NRK)

NE MS Skywarn X/XX/X (W5LMW)

Olive Branch ARC Tech and Info Net 6/45/0 (KD5CKP)

Panola County ARES 3/21/0 (KC5DPJ).

Pearl River County ARES 5/74/0 (KE5WJN) 1 EMCOMM Operation (Isaac)

Rankin County ARES 5/70/0 (KF5EZT) ARES Members also helped with SKYWARN NCS and served agency monitoring (Isaac).

South Central Skywarn and Jasper County ARES 4/30/0 (WV1Q)

Southern MS Friendship Net 7/29/0 (WB5OHN)

Southern MS YL Group 4/21/0 (K5IJ)

Tishomingo ARC Net 4/74/0 (WX5N)

UMARC Net 4/20/0 (K5LMB)

PSHR: W5XX 171

Compilation of Net and PSHR statistics provided by KB5RCJ.