

Mississippi Section Report for August 2015

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ASEC K1REZ reports on August 8, 2015, 17 County ARES Teams with 436 members participated in the annual Mississippi ARRL/ARES Simulated Emergency Test. Additionally, 11 Local Nets and 6 statewide Section Nets participated, having a combined total of 1469 check ins. During the SET a total of 3478 pieces of traffic were passed on behalf of served agencies.

During the annual SET our County ARES Teams, Section Nets, and Local Nets test their emergency communications capabilities to determine their strong and weak areas. Afterwards they utilize the lessons they learned to improve the level of service they give to the state and local agencies whom they serve during emergencies and disasters. This event is held in early August of each year to insure that our teams and their equipment have been freshly tested and are well prepared prior to the start of Mississippi's peak hurricane season.

The following County ARES Teams participated this year: Carroll, Chickasaw, Copiah, Forest, Hinds, Itawamba, Lamar, Lee, Madison, Marion, Pearl River, Rankin, Scott, Sunflower, Warren, Washington, and Yalobusha. County ARES Teams and Local Nets which did not participate during the statewide SET are encouraged to hold their own local SET prior to the end of the year and afterwards send a SET Report to the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. For details contact K1REZ@ARRL.Net

The second major Mississippi Operation in August was the Katrina 10th Anniversary Memorial Event sponsored by the Hattiesburg ARC and the 599 DX Association and coordinated by AG5Z. This event was to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the landfall of Katrina and to remember the more than 230 Mississippians, who lost their lives during this storm event, as well as to honor the hundreds of volunteers who streamed in from all parts of the country to help in the aftermath. The event lasted from August 26 to September 2 with one-by-one special event stations operating from Harrison County, Gulfport, Biloxi, Jackson, Long Beach, Ocean Springs, Wiggins, Waveland, Hattiesburg, Pike County, Pascagoula, Vanleave, and Hancock County. In addition, 'Thank You' and 'Memorial' stations were operated from Crystal Springs and Vicksburg. Information on the certificates that could be earned during the event is available at www.katrina5h.com. Early reports indicate that over 20,000 QSOs were made.

A highlight of the operation was a visit to the Jackson County ARA (K5A) in Vanleave by Senator Roger Wicker, who recently introduced S.1685 'The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015.' KA5DON reports that the Senator arrived shortly before 9 on August 28 and after a very brief introduction and hand shaking, Don suggested that the Senator take a seat at the radio. Don had a script written out, and briefly explained the process. Senator Wicker took over and made a call. The first to come back was a South Florida station, and the Senator wished him well for Hurricane Danny which was headed for Florida at that time. The Senator then made another call, and a North Carolina station answered. Senator Wicker was thrilled. Next the Senator's wife Gail took the mic and made a call, nothing. Fortunately N5JUM was prepped from his home to jump in if they weren't able to make any other contacts. Mrs. Wicker was just as thrilled to make a contact as the Senator had been during his contacts. This reaffirmed for the Senator that a Ham Station could deploy, set up, and communicate under just about any situation within 24 hours.

WLOX was on the scene for Senator and Mrs. Wicker's visit and stayed on for an additional hour taping the communications trailer, equipment, and interviewing K5BQJ and N2PKW. After Senator Wicker's visit he highlighted Ham Radio in his weekly newspaper message to Mississippi constituents which was entitled 'Wicker Thanks Radio Operators.' The statewide newspaper column commended Ham efforts during Katrina and discussed the 'Amateur Radio Parity Act.'

Hams used to say Mississippi stations were is hard to find for awards. In the past 18 months we have had two W1AW/5 operations, two Mississippi QSO parties, and the Katrina Special Event plus all of the regular contests such as Sweepstakes, Field Day, etc. Literally thousands of contacts have been made. Anybody who needs a Mississippi QSO should have it by now. Mississippi has been truly radioactive. Thanks to all of the operators who have put Mississippi on the Ham Radio Map in a big way!

We have two events coming up in October that you can put on your calendar. Papa Jack's Trade Day will be held at the Tupelo ARC Club House at the Tupelo Airport on October 10 th from 8 AM to 11 AM. There will be a VE Test Session at Noon. POC is WA5CYR at wa5cyr@gmail.com. And then on October 24 from 8 AM to 1 PM the 2015 Meridian Swapfest will be held next to the Hamilton Inn. POC is KI6DES at ki6des@gmail.com.

The information needed for the monthly listing of new Hams in Mississippi, new ARRL Members, and license upgrades for August was not available. Hopefully, the information will be available for next month's Section Report for both August and September.

Welcome to WX5N as DEC for Northeast Mississippi, KB5VE as DEC for Southeast Mississippi, KD5NDU as AEC for Yalobusha County, N5DU and KG5AVT as AECs for Rankin County, AF5NG and AG5ZA as AECs for Marion County, and K5VBB as AEC for Lamar County.

And congratulations to KW5GP for having his article on 'Build a Rapid Deployment Radio Go Box' published in the September QST. See page 40.

Regret to report the passing of N5BOX of Tillatoba.

DEC/EC Monthly Reports for August 2015: WB5CON (Alcorn), WX5N (Prentiss and Tishomingo), WX5SE (Itawamba), WA5TEF (Lee), KE5WJN (Pearl River), and KB5VE (SE MS).

Club Newsletter/Reports (Editor): Delta ARES (K5JAW) and the Meridian ARC (W5MAV).

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

Magnolia Section Net 31/963/6 (K5DSG)
MS Baptist Hams Net 5/34/0 (WF5F)
MS Digital Traffic Net 6/716/1435 (K1REZ)
MSPN 31/2127/12 (K5NRK)
MS Slow Net 21/49/0 (W3TWD)

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

Booneville and Prentiss County Net 4/45/0 (WX5N)
Capital Area Em Net 5/82/0 (K5XU)
Delta ARES Net 5/23/0 (K5JAW)
Hattiesburg ARC 2M Emergency Training Net 4/92/0 (K5TLL)
Hattiesburg ARC 10M Net 4/52/0 (K5TLL)
Itawamba County ARES 4/62/2 (WX5SE)
Jackson County Em Net 25/477/14 (K5MOZ)
Lowndes County ARC Net 4/29/0 (KF5AZ)
MDXA Information Net 4/34/0 (W5DAW)
Metro Jackson ARES Net 5/61/0 (AE5SK)
MCARA Net 4/78/0 (N5AHM)
Miss/Lou Em Net 5/31/0 (K5NRK)
MS Preparedness Project EN 3/30/0 (KF5RFB)
Northeast MS Skywarn Net 5/52/0 (WA5TEF)
Pearl River ARES Net 6/63/0 (KE5WJN)
Pearl River ARC Net 4/67/0 (K5RDA)
Rankin County ARES 4/81/1 (KG5AVT)
Scott County ARES 5/65/0 (KC5IHW)
Stone County ARES Net 5/62/0 (N5UDK)
Tishomingo ARC Net 4/58/0 (WX5N)
UMARC UHF Net 5/25/0 (K5LMB)
UMARC VHF Net 4/48/0 (K5LMB)
Yazoo County ARES Net 5/28/0 (KF5DJS)

PSHR – KA5DON 161 and W5XX 157.

Traffic: KA5DON 95 and W5XX 89.

Compilation of Net statistics provided by KB5RCJ.