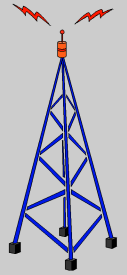


# Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club

## April 2006



### April Meeting

Russ, K5NRK, and Malcolm, W5XX, have arranged for a video of the preparations for the dxpedition to Peter 1 Island. Peter 1 is little more than a chunk of icy rock in Antarctica. This video documents the preparations for the dxpedition.

### VE Test Results

We had ham radio testing on March 11. Jerry, KD5DHR, upgraded to general; Cleo, N5IEM, upgraded to general, and we have a New Ham. Wade Williamson, WHO received the callsign KE5HTG as a technician.

Thanks to KJ5RC, N5EZ, N5JGK, K5VXV, & W5WAF who conducted the tests. A special thanks goes to Rev. Gary Osburn, KD5WCO for making the classroom of his church available for the testing.

### David Osburn, KD5WCO

David Osburn, KD5WCO, has enlisted in the Air Force, and will leave for Basic Training in late April. At the last meeting, David was presented with a resolution by the Club recognizing his contributions. The Club also voted to forgive dues for any member who is called to active duty in the military. The motion also extends to any civilian who is dispatched to a combat zone in support of the US military.

### Section Manager's Report by Malcolm Keown, W5XX

#### HB736 is now a Law!

By September of 2000 some 12 states had passed PRB-1 Legislation providing that "local land use regulation ordinances involving the placement, screening, or height of amateur radio structures must reasonably accommodate amateur communications to ensure effective communications in preparation for and in

support of government and served agency communications during emergencies."

During the September 2000 Lake Charles Hamfest, W5XX spoke with K5IQZ (SK), who had just ramrodded PRB-1 Legislation through the Louisiana Legislature. Dan said he simply sent a letter with the desired legislative wording to his parish representative. Two months later it was law.

Based on the Louisiana experience, W5XX thought PRB-1 legislation was going to be a piece of cake in Mississippi, so he sent a letter with proposed PRB-1 wording to a local legislator before the 2001 Session started. Nothing happened. After talking with the legislator after the 2001 Session was over, he was encouraged to send another letter. Nothing happened. What W5XX didn't know was that such letters to legislators are rumored to be classified as "By Request" and often end up in the circular file.

A year passes and it is nearly time for the 2003 Session. W5XX got together with AB5WF, KB5KKI, and AK5J and prepared new proposed wording. This wording was introduced by an Adams County legislator, but the bill subsequently died in Senate committee. The 2004 Session rolls around. A slightly reworded bill was passed by the Senate, but died in a House Committee.

Hoping for better luck in the 2005 Session, another reworded bill was introduced by Dr. Chester Masterson, representative from Vicksburg. In spite of an unprecedented email and phone call campaign by Mississippi Hams, the bill passed the House but died in Senate Committee due to stringent opposition by the Mississippi Municipal League and Mississippi Association of Supervisors. Their comment was that the wording of the bill removed

control of land use regulation from local zoning boards.

Time to give up? Never. AB5WF and W5XX met with the executive directors of the MML and the MAS in December 2005. As a result, wording was developed that permitted local zoning boards to maintain control of land use regulation as written in two sentences, but also added a third sentence emphasizing that the purpose of tower erection was ultimately support of emergency communications.

This wording was submitted by Dr. Masterson as HB736. However, for reasons not totally clear, the now infamous "third sentence" was dropped somewhere in a backroom. After some negotiation and agony, the third sentence was added back to HB736. With the impact of ham radio operations during Katrina fresh on the legislator's minds and the massive 2005 email and phone campaign in the background, HB786 ultimately wound its way to the Governor's desk and was signed on March 13 with Mississippi becoming the 22nd state to have PRB-1 Legislation on the books.

Now all of that only took six years to get three sentences into law. This is not the kind of stuff you learn in 9th grade civics, but as Lord Baden-Powell said "never give up" and "be prepared." Special thanks to Dr. Masterson for his efforts on behalf of Ham Radio emergency response in Mississippi.

**Club Contact Information**

Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 821612  
Vicksburg, MS 39182  
Website : <http://www.k5zro.com>  
Repeater 147.270 + 100 Hz tone

**Elected Officers**

President: Bill Ford, W5WAF  
Vice President: Russ Tillman, K5NRK  
Sec. Treasurer: Melinda Lamb, N5EZK

**Committee Chairpersons**

Emergency Coordinator: Russ Tillman, K5NRK  
Repeater/Club Station Coordinator:  
Malcolm Keown, W5XX  
Technical Coord: Eddie Pettis, N5JGK  
VE Coordinator: Carolyn Irons, KJ5RC  
Officer's Email:  
"their callsign"@vicksburgarc.us

**Section Emergency Nets**

**Miss-Lou Emergency Net (MLEN)**

Sundays 9:00 PM

K5ZRO 147.27 Repeater

**Mississippi Section Phone Net (MSPN)**

Daily 6:00 PM

3862 KHz

**Magnolia Section Net (MSN)**

Mon- Fri 6:00 AM

Weekends and Holidays 7:00 AM

3862.5 KHz

**147.270 Repeater**

At the last meeting, the club received a donation of \$350.00 for a new antenna and feedline for the repeater. As this is being written, W5XX and N5JGK discovered a damaged coax jumper at the base of the tower, this was replaced and operation of the repeater has improved.

**DON'T FORGET TO PAY  
YOUR DUES!!**



**Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, April 10, 2006**

**6:30 PM (Supper at 6:00 PM)**

**Ryan's Steakhouse**