

2012 ARRL Director's Annual Report, Southeastern Division

To: ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN and ARRL Board of Directors

From: ARRL Southeastern Division Director, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

Date: January 1, 2013

I am proud to submit this report which covers my fifth year as ARRL Southeastern Division Director. This report includes Hartlage's second year as Vice Director and James Millsap WB4NWS first year as Vice Director. I am happy to report that the ARRL Southeastern Division is active, growing and doing well.

The ARRL Southeastern Division is comprised of seven ARRL Sections covering five states and territories: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The ARRL Southeastern Division's amateur radio operators continue to enjoy a wide range of activities, special events, contests, public service and new technology experimentation. Public Service and emergency communications are the most active part of amateur radio in the Division, due in part to the high number of natural disasters, which are a considerable and serious concern for members.

Highlights of 2012:

- 2011 Bill Orr Technical Writing Award, Kai Siwiak, KE4PT awarded at 2012 Orlando Hamcation
- Vic Poor, W5SMM, Receives ARRL President's Award
- John T. Luebbers, K1AYZ, of Tavares, Florida, was named the recipient of the 2012 Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award.
- Young Ham of the Year an annual award presented at Huntsville Hamfest
- Special Technical Service Award Presentation to David H. Freese, Jr. W1HKJ
- Successful Orland HamCation, over 10,000 attendees
- Successful ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Huntsville Hamfest, 6000 attendees.
- Vice Director change on August 1st.
- National Hurricane Conference, Orlando, FL
- ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Atlanta, GA
- AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

Associated activities include comprehensive exercises, conferences and training events. Clubs, hamfest and contesting activities continue to thrive and are second to none. Numerous awards continue to be earned by very deserving Southeastern Division members.

Section Managers:

There were two new Section Managers in the Southeastern Division this year.

USVI Section Manager John Ellis, NP2B moved out of the Section and stepped down as SM. Fred Kleber, K9VV was appointed as USVI Section Manger to replace John of on May 1st. Fred Kleber, K9VV then ran unopposed and started a new term on October 1st.

Puerto Rico Roberto Jimenez, KP4AC decided not to run for another term. Rene Fonseca, NP3O ran unopposed and started his first term as Puerto Rico Section SM beginning October 1st.

All Section Managers are active and doing a good job. The Vice Director and I maintain a good relationship with the SMs, provide support and are open to their input. We make a clear effort to let the SMs lead, coordinate and take care of all activities in their respective sections.

Member Contact:

During this past year, both the Vice Directors and I have traveled extensively around the Division, interfacing with members at many hamfests, club meetings, special meetings, Field Day, award presentations, dinners and exercises and have responded to numerous calls and e-mails. We met many fine hams and ARRL members, many of whom are not shy about their particular passion for amateur radio. We have found that many hams are excited about the diverse qualities of amateur radio and support of the ARRL. Some hams are very vocal about amateur radio and the ARRL, and we appreciate this.

New Technology:

Our Division continues to be a leader in new technology experimentation. D-STAR, narrowband, VHF/UHF/SHF, software technology continue to be just some of the activities that our members are involved in. The Southeast continues to have the largest concentration of internet-connected, narrowband, D-STAR repeater systems in the U.S. and continues to produce many productive D-STAR events, training, activities and hamfest forums.

Hamfests:

Hamfest continue to remain strong and well-attended throughout the Southeastern Division, and several small hamfests appear to be increasing in size and popularity. The Huntsville Hamfest hosted the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention in August and experienced increased attendance this year of over 6500. Other hamfests that the Vice Director or I attended included FreezeFest in Alabama; Techfest in Lawrenceville, GA; Dalton, GA Hamfest; Orlando HamCation in Orlando FL, Birminghamfest in Birmingham, AL; Atlanta, GA Hamfest; Fort Walton Beach, FL Hamfest; Cullman, AL Hamfest; Huntsville, AL Hamfest; Gadsden, AL Hamfest; Melbourne, FL Hamfest; Lawrenceville, GA Hamfest; Montgomery, AL Hamfest; and Tampa, FL Hamfest.

The Vice Director and I received a very warm welcome and acceptance. We noticed overall positive amateur interest, and both positive and strong ARRL support. We conducted a Division and Section forum at every hamfest. The forums were well attended, and we gained valuable feedback. All Section and State conventions were well attended.



2012 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Huntsville Hamfest



Kay N3KN, ARRL President being interviewed at the 2012 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Huntsville Hamfest

Many State and Section Conventions have already secured convention status for next year and Puerto Rico will host a State Convention for the first time in many years. Orlando HamCation is a very popular Hamfest and the attendance is growing, just over 10,000 this year and will host the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention in February 2013.

We maintain a list of all the Division hamfests and events on the Division web site, http://www.southeastern.arrl.org/SE_hamfest.htm

Outstanding Activities throughout the Division:

There were many outstanding events, achievements and Awards in the Southeastern Division that raise the bar for amateur radio. For the third year in a row, the ARRL Phillip McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award went to a very deserving Southeastern Division amateur. We are proud that the ARRL Presidents Award was received by Victor (Vic) Poor, W5SMM in July but sadly he became a SK in August.



2012 ARRL President's Award



Vic Poor, W5SMM, Receives ARRL President's Award

On July 9, 2012 Victor (Vic) Poor, W5SMM, of Melbourne, Florida, was awarded the ARRL President's Award at the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society's (PCARS) monthly meeting that was attended by nearly 100 hams and non-hams, many from out of town. There have been only a handful of recipients of this prestigious award. Poor, an ARRL member developed an active interest in ham radio while still in high school and became W6JSO in 1951. He has also held the calls AH6AXV and K3NIO. He quickly developed an affinity for RTTY and later other digital modes of interest in Amateur Radio. Poor has been instrumental in the development of many hardware and software innovations that are at the heart of modern day computing and communications technology, used both in Amateur Radio and in industry.

Victor (Vic) Poor, W5SMM, of Melbourne, Florida, passed away Friday, August 17, 2012 due to complications from pancreatic cancer. He turned 79 years old in July.

Other awards and achievements are as follows.



2011 Bill Orr Technical Writing Award to Kai Siwiak, KE4PT at 2012 Orlando HamCation



Ted Luebbers K1AYZ, winner of the ARRL 2012 Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award.



David H. Freese, Jr. W1HKJ of Tony Alabama, presented the Special Technical Service Award presented at the Huntsville Hamfest.



Richard Moseson, W2VU, Editor of CQ Magazine making the Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTA) to Erin King, AK4JG. An annual award presented at the Huntsville Hamfest.



Ned Buck, W4KS special presentation of his 60-yr ARRL membership plaque presented at the Melbourne FL Hamfest.



“Your Antenna is on Fire!” for the September 2012 issue of QST and winning the QST Cover Plaque Award. Presentation made to Tom Schaefer, NY4I by Southeastern Division Assistant Director Larry J. Gispert, KR4X presented at the Tampa Hamfest.

The [National Hurricane Conference](#) was held in Orlando FL and was well attended by over one-thousand public service, emergency management and amateur radio operators and provides excellent visibility and contact opportunities for ARRL and ARES. The amateur radio sessions were well attended and very productive. One evening of the conference, the local ARES group held a meeting inviting local amateurs that could not attend the conference and conference presenters.



2012 National Hurricane Conference Presenters

L-R: Mike Corey, KI1U, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, ARRL Southeastern Division Director, John McHugh, K4AG, Coordinator for National Hurricane Center, Julio Ripoll, WD4R, National Hurricane Center Assistant Coordinator, Rob Macedo, KD1CY, SEC Eastern Mass, Jim Palmer, KB1KQW, Assistant EC



ARRL recognizes Dr. Rick Knabb, Tropical Weather Expert at The Weather Channel with ARES challenge coin and ARES pin at the National Hurricane Conference Orange Count EOC meeting. On June 4th, 2012, Dr. Rick Knabb was appointed as director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami FL.

Emergency Communications:

The Southeastern Division continues to be a serious and active leader in Emergency Communications. This Division has many diverse natural and manmade disasters, which prompt ARES groups across the Division to practice, train, exercise and support numerous served agencies. ARES groups have good relationships supporting local, state and regional emergency management leadership and served agency partners.

This year, I attended and conducted a presentation to FEMA Region Four annual meeting. I attended other FEMA Region Four meetings, the National Hurricane Conference, the Simulated Emergency Test, National Weather Service meeting and many local ARES meetings. I sit on the FEMA Regional Emergency Communications Working Group for Region Four and the National Hurricane Conference topic committee.

General:

Activity in clubs, youth, hamfests, on the air, new technology, special events and meetings remained high. I expect Amateur Radio activity to remain strong in the Southeastern Division. Every section conducts multiple Section/traffic/emcomm nets.

The Division website content has grown and visits remain high. <http://www.southeastern.arrl.org>

The Southeastern Division currently has six Assistant Directors, and they are assigned by activity or specialty area.

I enjoyed serving on the ARRL A&F committee, and Vice Director Hartlage enjoys serving on the ad-hoc Committee for Youth in the Second Century.

ARRL HQ support has been excellent. We would like to thank ARRL Staff for their tireless support of our activities throughout the year. As always, it has been a pleasure to work with them at various conventions, hamfests, and division activities.

Conclusion:

Overall, amateur radio activity is thriving in the Southeastern Division, membership levels are strong and ARRL support remains positive. The ARRL was represented at many hamfests, club meetings, award ceremonies, National conferences, served agency meetings and public events. We enjoyed meeting many fine hams and groups, and we look forward to meeting many more in the coming years and to learning more about the diverse interests, issues, activities, opportunities and challenges that they face. All the clubs, groups and amateurs are very receptive of our visits.

Respectively submitted,
Greg Sarratt, W4OZK
Director, ARRL Southeastern Division

James Millsap WB4NWS
Southeastern Division Vice Director