Delta Division Report to the ARRL Board of Directors

January 2013 Meeting

2012 was a great year and a year of change in the Delta Division. The most obvious was the change of leadership for our division not only at the board level but we had new leadership in two of our sections. Both Tennessee and Louisiana had new Section Managers. Keith Miller, N9DGK won election in Tennessee as Glen Clayton, W4BDB moved to Vice Director at the end of his term and Gary Coleman, AI5B succeeded Gary Stratton, N5GLS as Louisiana Section Manager. In addition, after many years in Batesville, AR, I received a promotion, which required me to relocate to Little Rock, AR. Things are beginning to settle down somewhat allowing me to better focus on even more improvement s to our great Delta Division.

Vice Director Clayton and I attended many Hamfests across our great division during 2012 from Rayne, LA to Gray (Bristol), TN. We have enjoyed meeting many of our great members, seeing old friends and making new ones. Traveling in the Delta Division is great as we have so many wonderful cities and the amateurs and the clubs are always most hospitable.

My favorite event for 2012 was September 28 at both the Ten Tec Hamfest at the Ten Tec plant in Sevierville and SEDCO/W4DXCC in neighboring Pigeon Forge, TN. Ten Tec is always welcoming and very accommodating to ARRL giving us a very good table location “under the big top” in their reception tent just outside the plant front door. It is always fun to tour the plant and see what is under production and what is under development from a fine manufacturer of USA made amateur radio transceivers and other gear.

SEDCO/W4DXCC is growing in to one of the best DX and Contesting events in the US this side of Visalia. The lineup continues to improve with the organizers bringing in great programs from all over the globe. This year Lynn W4NL, Dave K4SV and Ted W4NZ have done a fantastic job bringing this event from its humble start to a first class event. SEDCO may not be as large as Visalia or Dayton, but the quality of program is very much on par. This year numerous DXpeditions were featured as well as many practical station operating and performance improving workshops were on the agenda. I was pleased to see the ARRL being so well represented with not only myself and TN Section Manager and Vice Director Clayton in attendance, but Mary Hobart, K1MMH and Dan Henderson, N1ND attending from HQ. Along with Bob Allphine, K4UEE giving a couple of great presentations to go with the event, we managed to make some critical inroads for our Second Century Campaign. However, I must state that the best part of SEDCO/W4DXCC is the great fellowship in a friendly atmosphere.

I must also mention another notable event that happened in Delta Division this year in October. The Annual Mississippi Day in the Park was held in Starkville, MS celebrating the 40th anniversary of MFJ. Martin Jue, K5FLU is perhaps the greatest entrepreneur in amateur radio today and the MFJ Family has such names as Hy-Gain, Ameritron, and Mirage to name some. This was a great event honoring Martin and his success not only in business but also as an icon in amateur radio equipment manufacturing. The event featured tours of the facilities and some fun demonstrations. Congratulations to Martin for his success.

One of the highlights of 2012 was the Gray Hamfest held Oct. 20, 2012 held at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, TN. Vice director Clayton describes the event in detail.

 The 1/2 mile concrete oval located in **Bristol, Tennessee**, hosts the NASCAR Winston Cup, Busch, All Pro and Dash series stock care races, now also host the GRAY Hamfest, Oct. 20, 2012. Thanks to Danny Herman K4DHT and Charles Stuchell K4CWA who were instrumental in obtaining the speedway for the GRAY Hamfest. Gray opened at Bristol on Oct. 20, 2012, giving Amateur Radio and NASCAR an opportunity to promote the hamfest and Amateur Radio. We are very much appreciative to NASCAR and the Speedway for this opportunity.

 This year Gray was quite cold and breezy, hand warmer, hot coffee and heaters were the pick of the day. Dealers set up under the bleachers while the tailgater had access to the whole Bristol parking area. They had a good turnout for tailgate but look forward to filling up the parking lot next year. There are parking for approximately 30,000 spaces, they have access to the whole speedway parking area.

 The ARRL support team consisting of Glen Clayton W4BDB, Vice Director Delta Division his wife Jean KE4OEQ asst. to Vice Director, Section Manager Keith Miller N9DGK, SM Tennessee and Charles Talley (Chuck) KJ4KVC, District EC for District 10, were there ready to serve.

 They are looking forward to next year and a little warmer weather. But with this facility and the NASCAR connection there is no reason why this cannot turn out to be another Dayton.

 Our thanks again to Charlie K4CWA and Danny K4DHT for their work and dedication to Amateur Radio.

Membership grew in our Division this past year with most sections experiencing good growth rates. Total Delta Division membership was up at 7,226 for December 2012 versus 7,089 in December 2011 for an overall increase of 2.1 percent for the year ending 2012. Below is the breakdown of Division membership in 2012.

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| **December 2012 Membership Data for Delta Division (ARRL ODV)** |
| ***Section*** | ***FullMembers*** | ***AssociateMembers*** | ***Full+Associate*** | ***ForeignMembers*** | ***Subs*** | ***Total*** | ***Nov 2012*** | ***PercentChange*** |  | ***Dec 2011*** | ***PercentChange*** |
| Arkansas | 1,388 | 34 | 1,422 | 0 | 1 | 1,423 | 1,427 | -0.3 |  | 1,391 | +2.3 |
| Louisiana | 1,284 | 47 | 1,331 | 0 | 6 | 1,337 | 1,343 | -0.4 |  | 1,352 | -1.1 |
| Mississippi | 1,116 | 19 | 1,135 | 0 | 1 | 1,136 | 1,131 | +0.4 |  | 1,098 | +3.5 |
| Tennessee | 3,273 | 65 | 3,338 | 0 | 4 | 3,342 | 3,311 | +0.9 |  | 3,248 | +2.9 |
| **Total Delta Division** | 7,061 | 165 | 7,226 | 0 | 12 | 7,238 | 7,212 | +0.4 |  | 7,089 |  +2.1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

We are expecting continued growth for 2013 given the current Section and Division leaderships’ commitment to recruitment of new members,

For 2013, Vice Director Clayton, our Division Leadership, and I are planning several new initiatives to help boost activity and provide more opportunities for the membership to visit with us. Assistant Director Frank Howell, K4FMH and I are starting the Delta Club Leadership Training Program with our inaugural workshop-taking place Saturday January 26, 2013 at the Mississippi State convention in Jackson. This is shaping up to be a powerful new tool to help insure longevity in local clubs. We will be video recording this session and sending it to ARRL HQ for review as a possible new ARRL program and service to local club officers. In addition, we are going to launch our Delta Division Newsletter via PDF, which may be either monthly or quarterly. Finally, we are going to launch our Delta Division HF Voice Net in March on a monthly basis.

We look for good activity in 2013 in the Delta Division as we approach the centennial year of the ARRL. It is truly humbling and it is an honor to serve and represent such a tremendous group of amateurs in AR, LA, MS and TN.

 73 ES DX

Respectfully Submitted,

David A, Norris, K5UZ Glen Clayton, W4BDB

Director, Delta Division Vice-Director, Delta Division