

## ***Successful Special Event Operation for K5A***

On Dec. 7-9, 2012, several members of ARKAN experienced the fun and enjoyment of operating a Special Event Station, as they took to the airwaves with special event callsign **K5A**. K5A commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Prairie Grove.

Recognized nationally as one of America's most intact Civil War battlefields, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park protects the battle site and interprets the Battle of Prairie Grove. On December 7, 1862, the Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi, General Thomas C. Hindman commanding 11,059 troops, clashed with the Union Army of the Frontier, General James G. Blunt commanding 9,216 troops, in a day of fierce fighting. The Battle of Prairie Grove was one of the bloodiest Civil War battles ever fought west of the Mississippi, resulting in about 2,700 casualties. This marked the last major Civil War engagement in northwest Arkansas.

A great time was experienced by all who operated, along with good fellowship and ham radio talk. Many stations that we worked voiced their appreciation of us putting a S/E station on the air commemorating a Civil War event. There are a lot of Civil War buffs out there, for sure.

On all the main modes – PSK, Phone, and CW – K5A tallied a total of 408 QSOs. 44 out of the 50 states were worked, along with 6 Canadian provinces. QSOs with Australia, Spain, Canary Islands, Italy, South Africa, Venezuela, European Russia, Puerto Rico, and Cuba also made it into K5A's log.

Whenever a station worked K5A, they could request via e-mail, with the QSO information included, a handsome certificate which we sent back to them as a .pdf attachment that they could print off themselves for the wall or ham scrapbook. This saved them and us a lot of time, postage, and printing costs. As of this printing, we have received 153 requests for the certificate, and the K5A info page on QRZ.com has had 1157 hits.