



MUSCLE SHOALS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Monthly Repeater

October 2026

Welcome to the Muscle Shoals Amateur Radio Club's (MSARC) newsletter, "The Monthly Repeater."

What you can expect this month in The Monthly Repeater:

- Gary's random thoughts;
- Happenings in Hueytown;
 - SET 2026; and
 - Additional Thoughts

So, sit back and enjoy

Random Thoughts

Gary/AI4QC

As usual, I am waiting until the last minute to get the newsletter out. Doing an eviction of not one, but two families is stressful and time consuming. Before you panic, it is an eviction of squirrels in my attic. (Or is it "bats in the belfry?" Oh, that is for another time.)

Hopefully, once my attic is cleaned and household wiring is repaired, I will start testing a G5RV in the attic. I am still working on the plan, so it is all set in Jello.

Anyway, we have a couple of big events coming up. The Simulated Emergency Test-2026 is October 31, 2026 and Winter Field Day is January 23/24, 2027. Details are provided by Huey and Tim in their articles for this month.

We have been trying to find ways to get people more involved. Not only in the club itself, but also in the meetings. The SET-2026 and Winter Field Day are two things that will give everyone a chance to be involved in Ham Radio and the club in general. As for the meetings, I hope that Roddie will forgive me for using him as the Guinea Pig. Let me explain...

I hate going to club or other association meetings where we open the meeting, read the minutes, Treasurer's report, ask for any input or questions, then closing. I asked Roddie/W4PRS to give a presentation on POTA at the last meeting. I asked him for just a 10–15-minute presentation. Those who were there know that people got excited and I think I had to cut the Q&A short since we were running out of time in the meeting room. I am still hearing great feedback. Thank you Roddie/W4PRS.

The officers met and the agenda of the meetings will have a few changes. Come to the meeting and see for yourself! We do want feedback on the changes.

HAPPENINGS IN HUEYTOWN

HUEY/KN4DDG

Good morning my fellow MSARC members, starting this month I will be focusing on Winter Field Day Rules (please go to the website read and print the rules).

Objective: WFD is a multi-objective event. The primary objective is to set up an amateur radio field station and make multiple contacts according to the rules as posted at WinterFieldDay.org

Eligibility: All licensed Amateur Radio Operators world wide are encouraged to participate.

Setting up Period: No earlier than 1600 UTC (10:00 AM) Friday Jan 22, 2027, setting up may not exceed a period of 12 hours.

Operational Period: A 30 hour operational period begins at 1600 UTC (10:00 AM CST) Saturday Jan 23, 2027 and continues until 2159 UTC (6:00 PM) Sunday Jan 24, 2027.

Exchange: Shall include your club call sign, followed by your category letter, your class and location identifier (example is Class=1, Category=I, Location=AL

Class: The number of transceivers (stations) at your location capable to transmitting simultaneously (1,2,3,etc) this means that you have the people required to operate each station, unmanned stations DO NOT COUNT!

Category Options:

H=Home I=Indoors (not your home or home property), O=Outdoors(a fully or partly exposed building or tent. M=Mobile is Car, Rv,Sailboat, Mobile EOC.

Bands: All amateur bands **EXCEPT 12,17,30 and 60 meters!**

Modes: All modes, **EXCEPT WSJT,** modes are combined into three groups: CW, Phone, and Digital

- CW includes: CW and MCW.
- Phone includes: SSB,AM,FM,DMR,C4FM and all other voice modes.
- Digital includes PSK,RTTY,Olivia, Packet,SSTV,ATV,JS8Call.

NOT INCLUDED modes FT2,FST4,FT4,JT4,JT9,JT65, Q65,MSK144,WSPR,FST4W and Echo

Currently we are making arrangement to utilize the Underwood Petersvill Community Center (UPC) for ours Winter Field Day Opertions Location.

If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact Roy, Gary or myself. 73.

Huey M Stanfield
KN4DDG@gmail.com

We are requesting each your input as to the makeup of our Field Day equipment tool boxes, We are planning to equip a total of 4 tool boxes, include basic test equipment. Send your input to KN4DDG@gmail.com

2026 SET Exercise

Tim/KE4QID

**Simulated Emergency Test 2026
Muscle Shoals Amateur Radio Club
ARES - Alabama Emergency Net "J"
(SET 2026)**

October 31, 2026 - 0900 -1100 (Local Time)

The ARRL 2026 Simulated Emergency Test exercise will take place on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 0900 until approximately 1100 local time.

The situation as provided by the Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator states that a category 5 hurricane will strike the Gulf Coast area with winds approaching 160 mph. District A and C (roughly from the AL/MS line to Tuscaloosa south to Mobile Bay) will have near complete power outages, flooding, road blockages from downed trees and power lines, and many destroyed homes and structures.

Bridges over bays and canals will likely have heavy surf and surge damage making them unusable. Many residents will not be able to travel to shelters if they did not arrive before Hurricane landfall.

Our area will experience wide ranging hurricane effects such as high winds, possible tornadoes, downed trees, and loss of power as the remnants of this hurricane move through the state exiting over northeast Alabama.

Our area should expect, and be prepared for, winds up to 80 mph, the risk of spin-up tornadoes, and localized flooding due to sustained rains from this large hurricane. Downed trees and power lines resulting in widespread power outages and road blockages are possible.

Residents seeking storm shelters should be in place before near-hurricane force winds arrive that may result in roads blocked by fallen trees, power lines, and bridges closed by authorities.

The ICS-205 Communications Plan is included below. Please have as many of the local repeater and simplex frequencies as possible configured in your radio.

If you have HF, DMR, and/or DSTAR capabilities, please review the configurations given at the bottom of the plan and be ready to communicate on as many as possible. Other counties in the state will be conducting their SET on this same date as well as AL ARES/Auxcomm stations. This should give us an opportunity to make contacts and pass EXERCISE messages to stations outside our normal coverage area.

More information will be available as our plan is developed. Portable stations at various locations (shelters, fire departments, EMA/public safety offices, health care facilities) as well as "rovers" across the area will be needed. Rovers can log entries by passing traffic from any community shown on generally available maps (e.g. Google, Apple maps, AL road maps). Sign up sheets for these opportunities and frequencies that can be used will be available along with the exercise plan.

Please remember that any exercise-related damage reports and requests for assistance should begin and end with "EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE."

Should an actual emergency arise during the exercise, precede the traffic with "Actual Emergency."

Please mark your calendars and be prepared to participate.

Let's make this a fun - and productive - event as we work to improve our communications capabilities and skills.

ICS- 205 (Incident Communications Plan) is included at the back of the newsletter.

Additional Thoughts

James/KQ4TJG

This past hamfest in Huntsville, I picked up the newest edition of the CFT1 Version 2 CW Transceiver. It consisted of three individual PCB boards, a speaker, some large silver banded inductors, nearly 20 capacitors, transistors including at least one MOSFET, various adjustable trimpots, toroids, an unwound bifilar transformer, four matched crystals, headers, a host of other components including an LCD screen, LEDs, an SMA connector, jacks and knobs just to name a few necessities.

This "kit" came with limited instructions and even fewer tools but I wanted to be as precise as possible when I began assembly. One of the tools I decided to obtain in order to help ensure this was an LCR Meter. I used this to measure the Inductance of every toroid to verify I had the correct measurement of Henries, as one should not just rely on counted turns.

After tedious detail, redesign and assembly; I was able to get the SWR down to 1.2. Even after "finishing" this project, I have already made 2 more upgrades to it. HEE. . . I guess there's always improvement we can find in nearly anything. Anyway, hope all is well. KQ4TJG 73 . .

Upcoming Events:

MSARC Monthly Business Meeting

9am, October 3, 2026
Underwood/Petersville Community Center
840 County Rd 7
Florence, AL 35633

Simulated Emergency Test 2026 (SET 2026)

0900-1100 (Local Time), October 31, 2026

MSARC 1st Thursday On-Air Tech Talk

About 6:15pm, October 1, 2026
Immediately Following our nightly Training Net
Same frequencies as our Nightly AENJ Training Net

Winter Field Day

January 23/24, 2027. Check Huey's article for detailed information.