

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of November 4th, 2025 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Charles Easter VY2CE

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Doug Silliker VY2DS (virtual)

Joe Nicholson VY2JTN

Rodney Mann VY2CGA (virtual)

Michael McNeill VY2MG

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Steve Hutchings VY2SH (virtual)

Benjamin Ashworth VY2BF

Reg Sharkey VY2REG

Chris VanHorn VY2HC

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Paul Maxan SWL

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Richard Burke VY2RB

Lowell Sweet VY2OX

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Andrew Jorgensen VY2HZ

Arden Gallant VY2ALG

Solomon Kappala VY2SK (virtual)

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Arthur Smith VY2BIT (virtual)

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Jamie Cross VY2JGC (virtual)

Jason Smits SWL (virtual)

Timothy Connor VY2MV

Charlie Mullen VY2KC

Nathan Strongman VY2OE

Derek Campbell VY2DCR

Bill Glydon VY2LI sent his regrets.

Guests: Michael Morrison VY2CO, Paul Ortenburger VY2PTO

Sick and Silent Keys:

None noted.

Announcements:

Joe VY2JPN reported that he had reached out to the Terry Fox Run Foundation to ask if the amateur radio community could get involved in the 50th anniversary event that is to be held in 2030. We could do a special activation while the runners are on the Confederation Bridge. The Foundation liked the idea and added Joe to their email list for the event planning. In the meantime, they suggested organizing activation events during the annual Terry Fox Run.

Minutes of October 7th, 2025 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that since the minutes for the last members' meeting had been emailed to all members there was no need for the secretary to read them.

Moved by Bill VY2WM, seconded by Charles VY2CE to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

None noted.

President Report:

Bill VY2WM reported that he had been in discussion with the Senior College about setting up a two hour introductory presentation on amateur radio. Some of the seniors may want to become licensed and join our club. The Senior College liked the idea and Bill went through the application process. The tentative date for the presentation is January 14th, 2026 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Bill VY2WM will be involved. Anyone else who would like to help, please reach out to Bill.

Bill VY2WM also reported that he would be attending the next NGO quarterly meeting on November 19th, 2025 at the EMO PEI headquarters in downtown Charlottetown.

Treasurer Report:

Charles VY2CE reported that in October there had been three prepaid memberships for 2026. The number of prepaid members for 2026 is now four with an income of \$90. Income from tuition fees in October was \$250. Income from the sale of three COAX study guides in October was \$195.

The only expenses in October were \$3.75 in bank fees.

Bill VY2WM added that he would pass the invoice for the study guides to Charles VY2CE this month. We still have six COAX study guides in stock.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by Bill VY2WM that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Bill VY2WM and Brent VY2HF reported that the Fall 2025 basic licensing course had successfully started on October 16th. The course will run for eight weeks until December 8th. The exam will be before Christmas.

The location is the community space at the big Charlottetown Superstore at the corner of Belvedere Avenue. The group is small (just four or five students) but very eager. The Superstore is a great location, and access to the room is easy. The staff are very good, and the room is a great size. The only downside is that there is neither a projector screen nor a TV. The club owns a projector donated by William VY2CAW. Bill VY2WM suggested maybe buying a TV or screen to use for future courses. Micah VY2MIC reminded Bill that Bill VY2LI had said that he had a spare projector screen we could have. Bill VY2WM said he would check with Bill VY2LI.

Mike VY2MG reported that he had followed up with those who were interested in the course but in the end didn't go ahead. Two of them told him that stuff had come up and they didn't have the time to do the course at this time. They all remain on the list of prospective students.

Mike VY2MG also told the club that he had reached out to the organizers of the Gold Cup & Saucer Parade. With the parade taking place in August that may be a perfect opportunity for us to advertise amateur radio and our Fall course. It's \$50 to enter, and participants have to use a

truck bed as a float. Info must be on the truck and can't be in pamphlet form. We don't have to decide if this may be something for us until July 2026.

Michael VY2CO suggested having an info booth at Old Home Week.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that the Belfast repeater had struggled somewhat with overheating due to the steel box not having a lot of airflow. The Cape Bear repeater works very well. Thankfully, both the Belfast and Cape Bear repeaters have someone close by to check on them.

Correspondence:

Bill VY2WM reported that he had received an email from someone who was interested in the RAC online course. Bill has forwarded the email to Brent VY2HF who will check if the online course is still open for enrollment.

Julia VY2JA reported that Adam from the RAC had emailed to inform us that applications for the RAC Insurance Program for 2026 are now being accepted. Julia will be completing the application this month.

New/Ongoing Business:

Band Conditions:

Bill VY2WM passed on Darryl VY2OM's message that the current band conditions were like nothing he'd ever seen before. The other night, the 10m band was on fire.

Discord Server - Access:

Bill VY2WM asked the members present what they thought of opening the club's Discord server to non-members. They wouldn't need to have the same permissions as full members.

Nathan VY2OE suggested giving non-members read-only access.

Ron VE1AIC asked why anybody who would like to have access to our Discord server not simply pay the \$20 (or \$30) for membership. Derek VY2DCR suggested that some radio hams who don't live close by (maybe not even in PEI) might want to have a look into our Discord server to see if they'd like to join our club. By opening up the Discord server we could perhaps increase membership numbers. Rick VY2WTF suggested that instead of giving access to our Discord server to non-members for advertising purposes, the club could work on having a more active social media and YouTube presence. Joe VY2JTN mentioned that the Maritime Amateur

had a Discord server that was open to all; however, announcements are limited to admin. Ricardo VY2AN suggested setting up a completely separate server for non-members. Finally, Bill VY2WM asked all those who were completely against even exploring the possibility of opening the club's Discord server to non-members to raise their hands. Three members did so. As no agreement between members could be reached, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

It was agreed, however, that all amateur radio hams on our Discord server would have to display their call sign as part of their Discord ID, i.e. First_Name+Callsign. All SWL will have to display their first and last names.

Christmas Social Dinner:

It was decided to have a December members' meeting as usual on Tuesday, December 2nd. We will also have a Christmas social dinner, tentatively, on Friday, December 5th, at 6:00 PM. The Magic Wok at Maypoint was mentioned, but it seems to be permanently closed. The discussion has been moved to Discord. Bill VY2WM will let the members know what's happening.

Summerside Club:

Derek VY2DCR updated the club on a change in the SPARC executive. Aaron VY2EK has been voted in as the club president. Derek VY2DCR is the new vice president. Rodney VY2CGA is continuing as the club secretary. Joe VY2JTN has taken on the role of Chair for Public Outreach.

Derek said that they're currently discussing the possibility of a club antenna that would allow secluded members to get access via a remote station.

Information Exchange: Brent VY2HF gave a presentation on the history of the Cape Bear Marconi Station.

Bill VY2WM adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President