

# Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Brian Gorgeatt VY2BG

## Minutes of March 3rd, 2026 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Arden Gallant VY2ALG

George Meggison VY2GM

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Dave Cosh VY2DAC

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Bruce Maclean VY2BM

Chris VanHorn VY2HC

Richard Burke VY2RB

Michael Morrison VY2CO

Derek Campbell VY2DCR

Rick Hews VY2WTF (virtual)

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Brian Gorgeatt VY2BG

Mike McNeill VY2MG

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Devin Garlick VY2DFG

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Nathan Strongman VY2OE

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Andrew Jorgensen VY2HZ

Reg Sharkey VY2REG

Joe Nicholson VY2JTN

James Cross VY2JGC (virtual)

Rodney Mann VY2CGA (virtual)

Bill Glydon VY2LI and Gorgon Bernard VY2GB sent their regrets.

Sick and Silent Keys:

None noted, but the club were wondering how William Caw VY2CAW was doing as we hadn't heard from him in a while. It was decided to reach out to him.

#### Announcements:

None noted

#### Minutes of February 3rd, 2026 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 Mike VY2MG, seconded by Dave VY2DAC to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

#### Business arising from the minutes:

None noted; however, Bill VY2WM informed the club that the registration for S.M.A.R.T. was now open. With only 150 spaces, anyone who would like to attend should register soon. The website is <https://www.smartevent.ca/> (Note: At the time of writing this, the current number of registrations is 111.) Bill will set up a Discord channel for S.M.A.R.T 2026.

#### President Report:

Bill VY2WM informed the members that he had finished printing and assembling all name tags. He brought them all to the meeting. Cash donations are welcome but not required.

Bill reported that both himself and Brent had attended the EMO meeting in February. They had a great follow-up conversation with Alan Murphy, the manager, about using the radio community and our infrastructure as a backup system within the official EMO system. We will provide this service free of charge, and in exchange, Alan will help us find a location for a repeater in Souris. Another follow-up meeting is to be scheduled soon.

#### Treasurer Report:

Brian VY2BG reported that at the end of February he had received \$250 in total deposits. Banking fees were \$3.75. The total bank balance at the end of February was \$6,929.59.

44 members have renewed their membership for 2026 to date, 16 of those during February. Two more members paid their dues during the March meeting.

Moved by Brian VY2BG, seconded by Tyler VY2TM that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Mike VY2MG reported that he had no inquiries during February. He forwarded details of the Summerside Spring 2026 course to all those on our list.

Brent VY2HF reported that ISED was currently experiencing delays in issuing physical certificates and licences. This affects all new licences and licence updates. The online system is not affected. RAC is going to issue a bulletin about the backlog within ISED.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that all the PEI repeaters were working perfectly, although he has unlinked the Belfast repeater for the time being. The Belfast repeater recorded some low temperatures for a short while, but no damage was done.

Ron informed the club that Nova Scotia was experiencing problems with a number of their repeaters which affects the morning net. The repeaters at Westcomb and Springhill have stopped working, and Sugarloaf is having problems with their antenna. It'll be difficult to correct it as the antenna is government owned. NS says they're working on it.

Ron also mentioned that the annual flea market at Waverley, NS was scheduled for June 6, 2026.

Correspondence:

Nothing this month.

New/Ongoing Business:

Field Day 2026:

Mike VY2MG reported that he had spoken to his government contact about the possibility of us camping overnight in one of the provincial parks. The contact explained that since 2024 the

rules had changed, and we would now require a licence and pay a fee. He quoted a rough estimate of \$200.

Bill VY2WM pointed out that we could have a free camping experience only on private property or possibly at a lighthouse as these are not provincially owned/run. Bill could reach out to Cape Bear and Panmure lighthouses.

Brent VY2HF felt that it would be worth paying for a place like Wood Island where we would have bathrooms and other facilities. Micah VY2MIC suggested having a Field Day budget.

Mike VY2MG is to reach out again to his contact to get exact details on licensing requirements and cost for Wood Island. Our RAC insurance should cover this event.

#### Application Process for Special Call Sign Licence Plate:

Dave VY2DAC said that Access PEI would prefer all applications to go through one person.

Dave is that person. So if anyone would like to apply for a special call sign licence plate, please reach out to him. Dave has the application forms. The cost is \$20 payable at Access PEI. Bring your ID. Please note that the car must be registered to the ham operator.

#### Summerside Club:

Derek VY2DCR reported that due to lack of sufficient interest the Spring 2026 in-person course was not happening anymore. Instead, the Summerside club is planning to provide support for self-study, possibly using a dedicated Discord server for this purpose.

Bill VY2WM informed the club that he had purchased two RAC study guides. At some point, the slides will have to be brought in line with the new study guides.

Joe VY2JTN reported that he had a follow-up conversation with the Terry Fox Foundation about the radio community being involved in the 50th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run in 2030. Terry started his run April 12 in St. John, NL. He stopped running September 1 in Thunder Bay, ON. The idea for a special ham radio event is to allow people to be able to call in at each location. Brent VY2HF suggested that there could be an award for each operator who contacts someone from each province that Terry got to. Bill VY2WM suggested publishing a list of grid squares and base the award on that. Joe said that the Terry Fox Foundation is planning on setting up a website with all the info.

Joe also said that another opportunity for radio hams would be on the bridge in 2030. The Foundation would like some eyes and ears on the bridge during the run.

Information Exchange: Gordon VY2GB was going to give a presentation on an antenna building workshop he's planning for the club (theme: "Antenna Farming"). Gordon couldn't make it this evening and so Bill VY2WM briefly explained the idea. The workshop would likely take place at the end of April, possibly at the York Point Community Centre in Cornwall. Gordon will give us more info at the April meeting.

Bill VY2WM adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Julia Ashworth  
Secretary

Bill McMaster  
President