



THE ISLAND BEACON

CHARLOTTETOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the **August 2026** edition of the [Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club](#) Newsletter! We'll try to keep you up-to-date with what's happening this month and any future events we're planning or are aware of. This newsletter is automatically distributed to club members, prospective future students who have reached out to us in the last year, and other interested amateur operators in the region. If you do not wish to receive these monthly newsletters, let us know and we can remove you from our distribution list. Alternatively, if you are not included on the mailing list, but would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, please reach out to our secretary.

August 2026 Club Meeting - Tuesday night August 4th, Stratford Town Centre

We hope you've been enjoying the beautiful summer we've been having. This month's club meeting will be held Tuesday, August 4th, at the Stratford Town Centre. Start time: 7:00 P.M. As always, everyone is welcome to attend, not just club members. If you're a licensed radio operator and would like to become a member, or you're perhaps interested in becoming licensed and would like to find out more about us and the hobby, then please come and join us. We would love to meet you. For anyone who would like to become a member, membership dues are \$30 for those who are not currently members of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). For RAC members, it's \$20 for the year. Our students and graduates from the Fall 2025 class are automatically members of the club for 2026. Our meetings run from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (1900–2100) in the Southport room at the Stratford Town Centre on Shakespeare Drive. Alongside monthly club reports we usually enjoy an information exchange where we learn about a broad range of subjects, anything from antenna design to Meshtastic networks and devices.

CARC 2026 Flea Market - Recap

This year's flea market turned out to be a great success again with a whooping 64 attendees! The new location at the Cornwall Civic Centre was perfect; it was spacious and comfortable, and made the trip for anyone from away a little shorter. Doors to buyers opened at 9:30 A.M., and wrap up was at around 1:20 P.M. A LOT of tables were sold including five tables for Brent, VY2HF's gear which Bill, VY2WM, was selling on behalf of Brent's family. Thanks to everyone who bought some of Brent's things. And thanks to everyone who volunteered, bought a table, and attended. We're looking forward to the next CARC flea market in 2027!

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) - August 15th-16th, 2026

This year's [ILLW](#) will run from 9:01 PM ADT (21:00 ADT / 00:01 UTC) on Saturday, August 15th, 2026 to 9:00 PM ADT (21:00 ADT / 24:00 UTC) on Sunday, August 16th, 2026 (48 hours). It's a great day to activate PEI's eleven officially listed lighthouses: Brighton Beach Front Range,

Cape Bear, Cape Egmont, Cape Tryon (New), Covehead Harbour, East Point, Northport Rear Range, Seacow Head, St. Peters Harbour, West Point, and Wood Islands.

<https://www.lighthouse-weekend.international/>

Cape Bear Lighthouse and Marconi Station 120 Year Anniversary Open House - Murray Harbour, August 15th, 2026

To celebrate the 120 year anniversary of the opening of the Cape Bear Marconi Wireless Station, Cape Bear Lighthouse and Marconi station will be holding an open house on Saturday, August 15th, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The address is: 42 Black Brook Rd, Murray Harbour

There will be free tours, music by Killick Junction, a Dessert Auction with auctioneer Angela Gallant, as well as Ruthie's Donuts.

And best of all, some of the members of the Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club will also be in attendance!

For more info, check out their Facebook events page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1JNPw6uto7/>

Looking Back: The Final Sign-Off of CHU Canada *(By Ricardo Angel, VY2AN)*

For nearly a century, Canadian amateur radio operators, mariners, and scientists shared a familiar rhythm: the steady, mechanical tick-tock, the bilingual voice announcements, and the digital bursts of CHU Canada. Since its first broadcast in 1938, the National Research Council (NRC) shortwave station served as the nation's official voice of time. Operating out of Ottawa on 3330 kHz, 7850 kHz, and 14670 kHz, CHU was more than just a utility. For hams across Atlantic Canada, it was a reliable propagation beacon, a tool for calibrating test equipment, and a comforting background track in the shack. The NRC's decision to shut down CHU marks the end of an era. The closure reflects a shifting technological landscape, as the federal government transitions official time dissemination entirely to modern network protocols (NTP) and telephone systems. While digital clocks sync seamlessly over the internet, the shortwave spectrum feels a little emptier without Canada's legacy timekeeper. CHU's final sign-off closes a historic chapter in Canadian radiocommunication history.

PEI Leads the Maritimes in the Meshtastic Boom *(By Ricardo Angel, VY2AN)*

If you have spent any time looking at the global node maps recently, you might have noticed something remarkable happening right here at home: Prince Edward Island has quietly become the undisputed capital of Meshtastic networking in the Maritimes. For the uninitiated, Meshtastic is an open-source, off-grid mesh networking protocol that uses low-power LoRa (Long Range) radio waves to transmit data. Instead of routing through cell towers or the internet, devices communicate directly from peer to peer. Each node in the network automatically acts as a repeater, relaying encrypted text messages and GPS data across the island. While the technology operates on license-free ISM bands and is open to anyone, local ham radio operators have been instrumental in driving this explosion of growth. Leveraging their knowledge of high antennas, solar power setups, and optimal terrain placement, various local hams have been deploying nodes on roofs, towers, and high points across the province. The

strategy is paying off beautifully. When checking the decentralized node maps, PEI boasts a higher density of active nodes than any other Maritime province. What started as an experimental hobby has rapidly evolved into a resilient, island-wide network capable of sending text messages completely over RF. For local hams, it represents a perfect modern extension of the hobby—blending digital experimentation with the timeless pursuit of infrastructure-free communications.

Contest Calendar - August

[10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB](#) – 0001Z, Aug 1 to 2359Z, Aug 2, 2026

[North American QSO Party, CW](#) – 1800Z, Aug 1 to 0559Z, Aug 2, 2026

[North American QSO Party, SSB](#) – 1800Z, Aug 15 to 0559Z, Aug 16, 2026

[World Wide Digi DX Contest](#) – 1200Z, Aug 29 to 1200Z, Aug 30, 2026

Also check out <https://contestcalendar.com> for other contests.

Meetings and Events Calendar - August

1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Virtual Breakfast 2M nets, 8:00 A.M. (800) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)

1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Actual real life breakfast at Sam's Restaurant in Charlottetown (121 St. Peters Rd), ~8:00 A.M. (800)

3: 2M Simplex net, at 8:00 P.M. (2000) on 146.550 MHz, hosted by Joel, VY2KW

4: CARC Monthly club meeting (in Stratford)

5, 12, 19, 26: Wednesday night 2M net at 8:00 P.M. (2000) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)

6, 13, 20, 27: Thursday night HF nets, on 3727 LSB (+/- QRM) at 8:00 P.M. (2000)

Future Events:

September 12, 2026: [Ottawa \(Carp\) 2026 Hamfest](#)

October 2-3, 2026: [NEAR-Fest XL \(Fall Edition\)](#)

Help Us Out! Do you have something you would like to contribute to this newsletter? Find us over on the club's Discord server under #newsletter, or drop us an email at secretary@charlottetownarc.com.