November, 2026 Edition

THE ISLAND BEACON

CHARLOTTETOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editors: Julia Ashworth, VY2JA – email: julia@silicondroid.com
James Cross, VY2JGC – email: vy2jgc@gmail.com

Welcome to the **November 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.

> *"The Island Beacon" is automatically distributed to CARC 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 at secretary@charlottetownarc.com.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2026 Club Meeting

This month's club meeting will be held Tuesday, November 3rd, in the Southport Room at the Stratford Town Centre (234 Shakespeare Dr, Stratford, PE). Start time is 1900H and the meeting will adjourn around 2100H. As always, everyone is welcome to attend – the meeting is not limited only to club members.

If you are:

- a licensed radio operator
- interested in becoming a licensed amateur radio operator
- would like to find out more about our club and/or would like to become a member of CARC

then please come and join us. We would love to meet you.

For anyone who would like to become a member, annual membership dues are $30 for those who are not currently members of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). For RAC members, CARC membership is discounted to $20 for the year.

Students and graduates from the Fall 2025 Amateur Radio licensing class are automatically members of the club for the 2026 calendar year.

In addition to the usual officer reports, we usually enjoy a presentation or information exchange where we learn about a broad range of subjects – anything from antenna design to Meshtastic networks and devices.

Fall 2026 Basic Amateur Radio Licensing Study Group – starting this November

The Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club is currently finalizing a basic amateur radio licensing study group course starting later this month. The course will run for 6 weeks with weekly 1.5 hour group sessions. Students will be expected to study in their own time prior to the weekly group sessions where experienced hams will answer questions and explain any difficult concepts. The course is expected to cost around $20 which includes course material, the final exam, and one year free club membership for those who gain their licence. If you or anyone you know is interested in enrolling, please contact us via the form at the bottom of the following page: https://charlottetownarc.com/?page_id=249. Stay tuned for exact dates and final course location.

Mapleham Amateur Study Guide for the Canadian Basic Amateur Radio Licence Exam

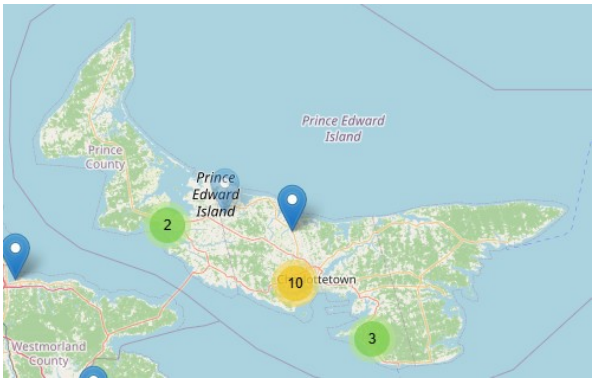
This amazing study guide was created by Aaron Boeker VY2EK as a free educational tool. Mapleham is an interactive self-study companion for the Canadian Amateur Radio Basic Certification, with chapters matching the official 2025-revised exam structure alongside RAC's Hamstudy Basic 2026. For more information, check out the website: https://mapleham.ca/.

Christmas Pot Luck – Late November / Early December

We will be having a Christmas pot luck this year as our Christmas social. That way, we can cater for various dietary requirements such as gluten-free, vegetarian, and Halal. We're currently looking at the Cornwall Community Centre as a possible venue. Stay tuned for the exact date and location.

Meshtastic Network PEI

The Meshtastic node network on the Island continues to grow. At the end of October 2026, there are currently 17 nodes in PEI: 10 of them are in the Cornwall/Charlottetown/Bonshaw area, one towards North Rustico, and near Kensington, two are in the Summerside area, and three are near Belfast.
Source: https://meshmap.net/



Contest Corner

Contest Calendar – November (Also check out https://contestcalendar.com for other contests)

ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW – 2100Z, Nov 7 to 0259Z, Nov 9, 2026
ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB – 2100Z, Nov 21 to 0259Z, Nov 23, 2026
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW – 0000Z, Nov 28 to 2359Z, Nov 29, 2026

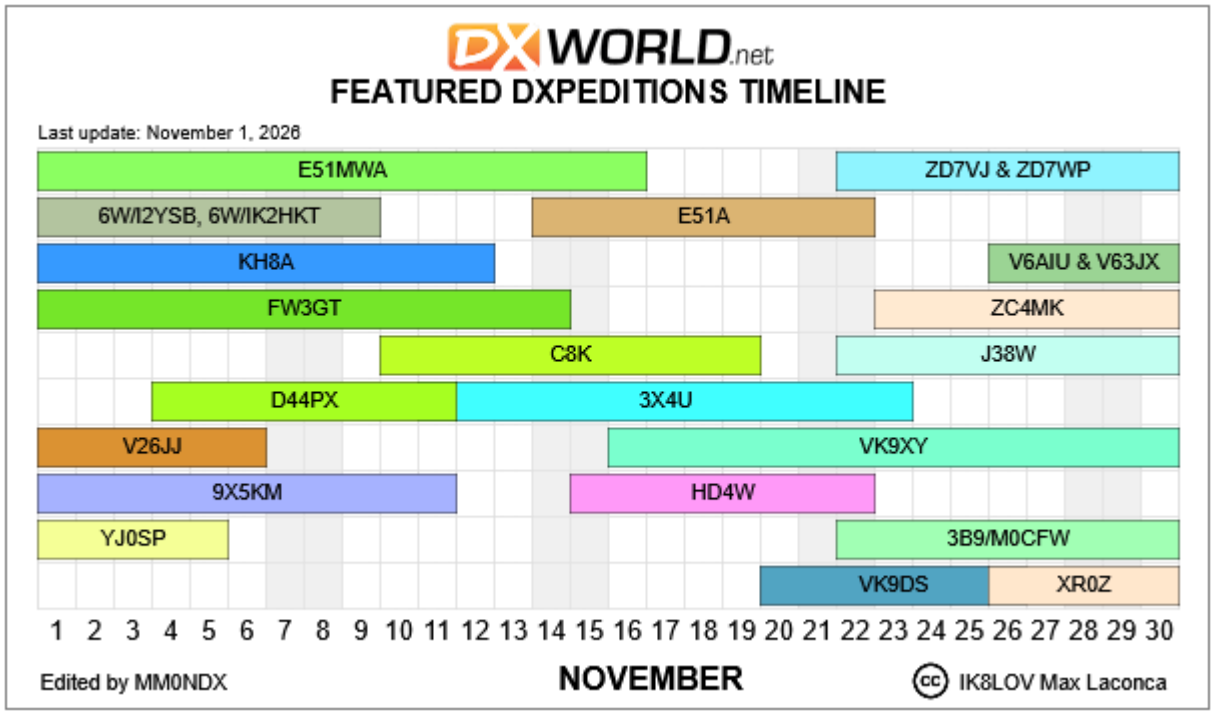
DX Activity

Are you working towards your DXCC or just building your country count? The following DXpeditions are currently underway:

DXpedition & DX Operations

Event	Start	End	DXCC Entity
VK0TBC Antarctica	01 Feb 2026	31 Dec 2026	**CE9** Antarctica
HF0PAS South Shetland Islands	01 May 2026	31 Oct 2026	**VP8/h** South Shetland Islands
VK9WX Willis Island	22 Jul 2026	30 Nov 2027	**VK9W** Willis Island
VY0ZOO Canada	23 Aug 2026	06 Nov 2026	**VE** Canada
TU5KOP Cote d'Ivoire	01 Oct 2026	31 Oct 2026	**TU** Cote d'Ivoire
C5R The Gambia	01 Oct 2026	04 Nov 2026	**C5** The Gambia
JW5MUA Svalbard	03 Oct 2026	31 Oct 2026	**JW** Svalbard
H44MS Solomon Islands	03 Oct 2026	20 Nov 2026	**H4** Solomon Islands
3DA0GY Kingdom of Eswatini	15 Oct 2026	02 Nov 2026	**3DA** Kingdom of Eswatini
7P8EA Lesotho	16 Oct 2026	25 Nov 2026	**7P** Lesotho
JD1BQP Ogasawara	17 Oct 2026	02 Nov 2026	**JD/o** Ogasawara
S9R Sao Tome and Principe I	17 Oct 2026	31 Oct 2026	**S9** Sao Tome & Principe
5H3MB Tanzania	19 Oct 2026	19 Nov 2026	**5H** Tanzania
3B9/M0CFW Rodriguez Island	20 Oct 2026	02 Dec 2026	**3B9** Rodriguez Island
C5A The Gambia	21 Oct 2026	31 Oct 2026	**C5** The Gambia
E51MWA North Cook Islands	21 Oct 2026	16 Nov 2026	**E5/n** North Cook Islands
TZ4AM Mali	22 Oct 2026	02 Dec 2026	**TZ** Mali
9N7XT Nepal	23 Oct 2026	31 Oct 2026	**9N** Nepal
9N/S57MK Nepal	24 Oct 2026	12 Nov 2026	**9N** Nepal
7M1KJW/JD1 Ogasawara	25 Oct 2026	04 Nov 2026	**JD/o** Ogasawara
7P9EA Lesotho	26 Oct 2026	25 Nov 2026	**7P** Lesotho
VP2V/NY9K British Virgin Islands	27 Oct 2026	29 Nov 2026	**VP2V** British Virgin Islands
8P/PZ5TW Barbados	27 Oct 2026	29 Nov 2026	**8P** Barbados
5Z4GO/P Kenya	28 Oct 2026	03 Nov 2026	**5Z** Kenya
V47JA St. Kitts & Nevis	28 Oct 2026	06 Nov 2026	**V4** St. Kitts & Nevis

6W/I2YSB Senegal	28 Oct 2026	09 Nov 2026	**6W** Senegal
V26JJ Antigua	30 Oct 2026	06 Nov 2026	**V2** Antigua & Barbuda
KH8A American Samoa	30 Oct 2026	12 Nov 2026	**KH8** American Samoa
YJ0SP Vanuatu	30 Oct 2026	05 Nov 2026	**YJ** Vanuatu
YJ0SB Vanuatu	30 Oct 2026	06 Nov 2026	**YJ** Vanuatu
J3/N9GB Grenada	31 Oct 2026	06 Nov 2026	**J3** Grenada
9X5KM Rwanda	31 Oct 2026	11 Nov 2026	**9X** Rwanda
FW3GT Wallis & Futuna Islands	31 Oct 2026	14 Nov 2026	**FW** Wallis & Futuna Islands



Amateur Radio Website Shout-Out

J. Cross VY2JGC

We live in a blessed time for ham radio – in addition to fantastic hardware, new modes, and software apps for all manner of functionality we also have the internet to provide a never-ending stream of information helpful to the ham community.

One site that I have found and come to love is https://openhamclock.com/

The website is really misnamed as it provides a wealth of information beyond date and time. You customize the site by entering your station call-sign and grid square, which you then save. When the page re-loads you get:

- Your station local weather

- Space weather – geomagnetic and solar data
- Beam heading, distance, local time and weather at a chosen DX entity
- HF band propagation forecast to that DX entity based on the VOACAP engine
- PSK Reporter for your signal or that of others
- Active POTA, SOTA, and WWFF Activations
- Active Dxpeditions (including links to the Dxedition websites)
- All-band (160 through 70 cm) DX Cluster report (including links to N0LS KiwiSDR: software-defined receiver)
- User-settable alerts
- Active contests or contests about to start in the next week (including links to each on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar



This site definitely deserves a bookmark in your browser!

Antenna Resonance – Critical, or Who Cares, or…?

J. Cross VY2JGC

Another benefit we hams enjoy these days is the availability of handheld, accurate antenna analyzers and network analyzers. These wonderful toys allow us to study our antenna performance in great detail.

One thing I have observed on the part of my colleagues – mostly in portable operations – is an apparent slavish devotion to tuning an antenna to make it resonant for a given band or frequency of operation. Much time is spent in the pursuit of resonance – time that could otherwise be spent on the air making contacts!

So, a few bullet points to whet your appetite to pursue this topic in more detail, and perhaps to dispel a few myths that might confuse new (and maybe a few older?) hams. Space does not permit a full treatment here, but some point to consider:

- What do we mean when we say an antenna is resonant? At the frequency at which resonance occurs, the antenna presents a purely resistive load to the transmitter/feedline – there is no reactive component. i.e. Z = R + j0 [ohms[
- An antenna that is resonant does not necessary present a good match to the 50 ohm impedance our transmitters want to see. Many resonant antennas have radiation resistances very different than 50 ohms (example: a loop antenna at ~ 120 ohms)….therefore a resonant antenna does not necessarily have a low SWR.
- Resonance is less important than having a proper impedance match.
- A “resonant” antenna is not inherently better than a “non-resonant” one.
- Resonance is not at all related to antenna efficiency.
- A non-resonant antenna can be made to present a resistive match to a transmitter using a matching network (e.g. antenna tuner).
- Most multi-band antennas are non-resonant
- Whether or not an “antenna” is “resonant” depends on where you draw the boundary line between the antenna, the matching network (or “antenna tuner”), and the feedline.
- When SWR is high (whether the antenna is resonant or not), feedline losses can be high, particularly when using coax (ladder line not so much).
- Adding an antenna tuner in the shack to provide a match for the transmitter doesn’t reduce the feedline loss between it and the antenna. Putting the matching network at the antenna end of the feedline instead allows the coax to operate at a lower SWR, and eliminates the extra loss.
- Don’t tune an antenna for zero reactance...tune it for lowest SWR.
- If you are trying to adjust an antenna to resonance by looking for X = 0, then you must correct the measured impedance for the length of the coax cable, or take the measurement directly at the feedpoint...even a short jumper coax will skew the result!
- Antenna resonance matters more at VHF/UHF since at higher frequencies internal receiver noise dominates over external atmospheric noise. Matching and resonance help maximize signal-to-noise ratio so weak signals aren't lost in the radio's own floor.
- As a general rule, antenna gain is directly tied to its physical size and something called “effective aperture”. Larger physical apertures collect and focus more electromagnetic energy, which increases directivity and gain.
- So...when possible, put as much conductor in the air as possible and match the antenna impedance to the transmitter to achieve a low SWR!

Nets, Nets, Nets! (CARC Nets)

- Nov 2: 2M Simplex net, at 2000H AT on 146.550 MHz, hosted by Joel, VY2KW
- Nov 5, 12, 19, 26: Thursday night HF nets, on 3727 LSB (+/- QRM) at 1900H AT
- Nov 7, 14, 21, 28: Virtual Breakfast 2M nets, 0800H AT on the VE1CRA repeater(s)
- Nov 4, 11, 18, 25: Wednesday night 2M net at 0800H AT on the VE1CRA repeater(s)

Meetings and Gatherings

- Nov 7, 14, 21, 28: In-person breakfast at Sam's Restaurant in Charlottetown (121 St. Peters Rd), starting around 0800H
- Nov 3: CARC Monthly club meeting (see page 1)
- Summerside ARC Thursday brunch: Thursdays, 1100H, Waterfront Cafe, Summerside

Summerside Amateur Radio Club (SPARC)

Our sister club serving the western side of the island has its monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 1900H at the clubhouse at 99 Harvard Street, Summerside.

The SPARC Annual General Meeting and election of officers will held November 18 at the clubhouse, starting at 1900 H.

SPARC meetings are also streamed live on Discord!

The club also operates its own nets, as follows:
SPARC Simplex Net: 146.565 – Tuesdays 2000H local time, net control Joe, VY2JTN
SPARC Repeater Net VE1CFR 146.850 – Sundays 2000H local time, net control Joe, VY2JTN

Future Events:

December 4-6, 2026: ARRL 160-Meter Contest
December 12-13, 2026: ARRL 10-Meter Contest
September 11, 2027: Ottawa (Carp) 2027 Hamfest

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.