

October, 2026 Edition



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Welcome to the **October 2026** edition of the [Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club](#) (CARC) Newsletter! We'll try to keep you up-to-date with what's happening this month and future events we're planning or know about.

"The Island Beacon" is published montly and automatically distributed to CARC club members, prospective future students who have reached out to us within 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

October 2026 CARC Meeting

Happy Fall! ☺ This month's club meeting will be held Tuesday, October 6th, in the Southport Room at the Stratford Town Centre (234 Shakespeare Dr, Stratford, PE). Start time is 1900H and the meeting will adjourn around 2100 H. As always, everyone is welcome to attend – the meeting is not limited only to club members.

If you are:

- already a licensed radio operator
- interested in becoming a licensed amateur radio operator
- would like to know more about our club and/or would like to become a member if 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. This month we'll be enjoying an engaging presentation by Ricardo VY2AN on his journey to the DXCC Phone award, dispelling myths, and offering tips and encouragement for you to achieve this goal. Come and join us to find out more!

AR-Fest XL (Fall Edition) - October 2-3, 2026 - New Boston, NH

“NEAR-Fest”, the Northeast Amateur Radio Festival, is scheduled for its fall edition this weekend. It is one of the larger gatherings in the region and a great opportunity to find gear, attend forums, and meet fellow hams. Check the NEAR-Fest website for the latest details on location, admission, and schedule at <https://near-fest.com/>.

ARRL School Club Roundup - October 19-23, 2026

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from 1300 UTC October 19 to 2359 UTC October 23. This event encourages school and youth clubs to get on the air. If you know any young operators or teachers involved in amateur radio, please pass the word along.

Contest Corner

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY - 2026

This contest was held the weekend of Sept. 25 and 26. If you’ve ever fancied to work this “old-time” digital mode, this was the time to jump in! The bands up and down were ablaze with the warbling tones of RTTY modems.

Bill, VVY2LI, participated for about 8 hours of the contest, and in spite of a stuck antenna rotor for his tribander he pivoted to 40 m and was able to rack up some impressive stats on 40 meters:

Call: VY2LI

Operator(s): VY2LI

Station: VY2LI

FT-950@60W, Rigblaster Pro,

Class: SOSB40 LP

40M Wire Vee @30', N1MM

Class Overlay: Classic

QTH: PE

Operating Time (hrs): 8

Summary:

Band	QSOs	State/Prov	DX	Zones
80:				
40:	182	29	39	11
20:				
15:				
10:				

Total:	182	29	39	11	Total Score = 34,128
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Comments: “Conditions were pretty decent from this QTH. Great to see many familiar calls on my screen.”

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY – 2026 (continued)

Meanwhile Jamie, VY2JGC, struggled to get his SDR rig to talk to the MMTTY software (Virtual Audio Cables?), and then to figure out how to use the software in contest mode in a S&P scenario. In the end, he had 92 QSO's (half of Bill's!) but the majority were DX stations. He was surprised to not hear many VE stations during the brief time he was operating.

Fire Up the Rig: The CQ WW DX Contest is Just Around the Corner!

Ricardo Angel, VY2AN

The biggest weekend in amateur radio is almost here, and it is time for Prince Edward Island hams to heat up the air waves! The **CQ World Wide DX Contest (SSB)** kicks off on Friday, October 23, at 9:00 PM ADT and runs straight through to Sunday, October 25, at 8:59 PM ADT. Whether you are a seasoned contester or have never made a DX contact in your life, this is the the weekend to get on the air.

Your Ticket to the DXCC

If you are looking to work new countries or finally finish off that DXCC award, there is no better opportunity all year. Because the entire amateur radio world focuses on this event, even rare DX stations and massive multi-operator dxpeditions will be active, pointing their beams right at North America. Bands like 20, 15, and 10 meters will be wide open with signals from Europe, Africa, South America, and beyond.

The Easiest Exchange on the Bands

Don't let the word "contest" intimidate you. You don't need a massive tower or a complex exchange to participate. The exchange for local operators is incredibly simple. All you need to say after they've acknowledged your callsign is: "5 9 0 5 thanks".

Why Your Log Matters

There are only four VY2 callsigns listed as recipients of the coveted ARRL DXCC Phone award, so make sure to submit your log not only to the CQ WW contest site but also to Log of the World (LoTW). If you don't have logging software installed and configured, try out the Ham2K Portable Logger app on your phone. I has the CQ WW template and auto populates the exchange, plus lets you export to both Cabrillo format for the contest and ADIF format or QRZ and LoTW uploading.

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

[Oceania DX Contest, Phone](#) – 0600Z, Oct 3 to 0600Z, Oct 4, 2026

[California QSO Party](#) – 1600Z, Oct 3 to 2200Z, Oct 4, 2026

[Oceania DX Contest, CW](#) – 0600Z, Oct 10 to 0600Z, Oct 11, 2026

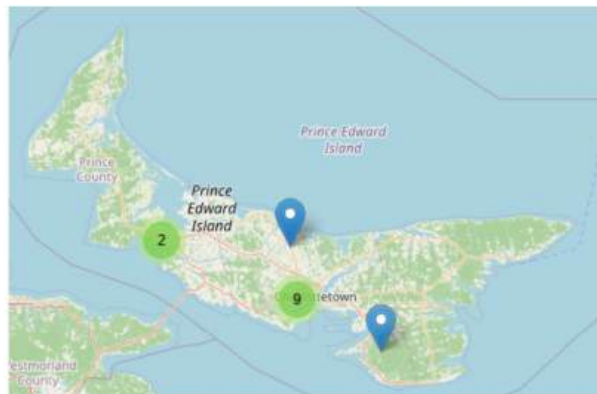
[Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB](#) – 1200Z, Oct 17 to 1200Z, Oct 18, 2026

[ARRL School Club Roundup](#) – 1300Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 23, 2026

[CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB](#) – 0000Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25, 2026

Meshtastic Network PEI

Although strictly speaking not an amateur radio communication mode, interest in “meshtastic nodes” continues to build, mostly due to the efforts of Ron, VE1AIC and Ricardo, VY2AN. As of the end of September 2026, there are currently 13 operating nodes in PEI: 9 of them are in the Cornwall/Charlottetown/Bonshaw area, one towards North Rustico, and two are in the Summerside area, and one is near Belfast. Source: <https://meshmap.net/>



Nets, Nets, Nets! (CARC Nets)

- Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Thursday night HF nets, on 3727 LSB (+/- QRM) at 2000H ADT
- Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Virtual Breakfast 2M nets, 0800H ADT on the VE1CRA repeater(s)
- Oct. 5: Monthly 2M Simplex net, at 2000 H ADT on 146.550 MHz, hosted by Joel, VY2KW (to be confirmed).
- Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28: Wednesday night 2M net at 2000H ADT on the VE1CRA repeater(s)

Meetings and Gatherings

- Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Real-life breakfast at Sam's Restaurant in Charlottetown (121 St. Peters Rd), around 0800H ADT
- Oct. 6: CARC monthly club meeting (see page 1)
- Summerside ARC Thursday brunch: Thursdays, 1100 H, 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 1900 H at the clubhouse at 99 Harvard Street, Summerside. We also stream our meetings on Discord!

The club also operates its own nets, as follows:

SPARC Simplex Net: 146.565 – Tuesdays 2000 H local time, net control Joe, VY2JTN

SPARC Repeater Net VE1CFR 146.850 – Sundays 2000 H local time, net control Joe, VY2JTN

Future Events:

- November 7-9, 2026: ARRL November Sweepstakes – CW
- November 21-23, 2026: ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone
- November 28-29, 2026: CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
- September 11, 2027: Ottawa (CARP) 2027 Hamfest



CANParks

Earlier this summer, hams may have noticed the launch of the “CANParks” program and associated website. Canparks was the brain child of Stuart Crawford, VE9CF, who clearly put an amazing amount of work into developing this program. Built as a simplified alternative to Parks On The Air (POTA), it was marketed as “a homegrown Canadian amateur radio parks program built by Canadian hams for Canadian hams. It is all about getting out into Canadian parks...Unlike global programs like Parks on the Air (POTA) that focus mostly on higher government-managed protected lands, CANParks includes national, provincial, municipal parks, local trails, conservation areas, and public beaches.”

The program generated considerable interest and many Canadian hams started participating in the program. A Facebook CANParks Users Group was started to spread the word and share information.

Suddenly, and without warning, on Sept. 8, 2026 an email was sent by Stuart announcing that the program was folding, with immediate effect. In this email, Stuart said *“Over the weekend, a comment in the CANParks Facebook Group caused me to step back and think seriously about where CANParks is heading.”*

CANParks was created around a very simple idea: get outside, enjoy amateur radio, discover Canadian parks and have fun. Unfortunately, what started simply has increasingly become wrapped in legal, compliance, privacy, accessibility, insurance and administrative responsibilities.

After giving it a great deal of thought, I've decided that I no longer want to carry that level of responsibility and risk for what was meant to be an enjoyable amateur-radio program.”

I reached out to Stuart at the support@CANParks.com email address for more details, but received no response.

Stuart has offered to hand the entire operation on to someone else, but nothing on this front has been heard so far.

A New Digital Mode

Thanks to Ken, VY2RU, for bringing to our attention the development of a new digital mode. Ham radio legend, Joe Taylor (call sign K1JT), an astrophysicist and 1993 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, along with his development team (in this case primarily led by Steve Franke (K9AN)) have created “JTty”.

JTTY is a new digital amateur radio mode designed for fast, RTTY-style contest exchanges and keyboard-to-keyboard communication.

Its operational feel is similar to standard RTTY, but it has much better weak-signal performance and far lower error rate. JTTY transmissions can start at any time and typically last a few seconds. JTTY delivers an error-free throughput of roughly 30 words per minute for general text and up to 60 words per minute for concise, fixed-format contest exchanges.

We see new contests in our future!

Details are available in the new Operator's Guide for WSJT-X version 3.2 release candidates at https://wsjtx.github.io/wsjtx/wsjtx-main-3.2_en.html

Active DXpeditions

Looking to up your DXCC totals? Here are current Dxpeditions putting rare prefixes on the air:

V55Y Namibia
D4SAL Cape Verde Is
8Q7JH Maldives
5W0AF Samoa
C21DA Naoero
OX3LX Greenland
JD1BON Ogasawara
JD1BOK Ogasawara
JE1NVD/JD1 Ogasawara
JI1CRM/JD1 Ogasawara
FW1P Wallis & Futuna
ZC4OL Cyprus SBA
9T0MD Dem Rep Congo
V61GSE Micronesia
7P8LZ Lesotho
XR0Z Juan Fernandez Is
C5R Gambia
H44MSSOON Solomon Is
6O2MSOON Somalia
JW5XSOON Svalbard

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