

**NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO  
ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

**Date:** November 21, 2002

**Place:** Radio Amateurs of Canada Offices,  
720 Belfast Road,  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Chair:** Wm. J. Gillis, VE1WG

**Participants: RAC:**

Wm. J. Gillis: RAC President  
James G. Dean: Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs  
R.D. (Bob) Cooke: Regional Director, Ontario South  
Earle W. Smith: Regional Director, Alberta/NT/NU

**Industry Canada:**

Melanie Robert: Manager, Operational Policies, Radiocommunication and Broadcasting  
Regulatory Branch  
Robert Cepella: Chief, Authorization, Spectrum Management Operations  
Tom Jones: Senior Analyst, Special Projects  
Gary Steckly: Technical Policy Analyst, Spectrum Management Operations  
Dave Egilo: Safety and Special Services, Regional Operations

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

**2) Review and Approval of Agenda.**

The agenda was approved as written.

**3) Acceptance of the April 25, 2002 CARAB meeting minutes.**

The summary record of the last meeting was approved as written.

**4) Status Report by Industry Canada on Examination Generator and Updating  
exam corrections to the web site.**

Industry Canada summarized the problems that currently exist with the exam generator software. They can be grouped into three main areas:

a) printing and formatting problems

- printer specific problems with truncation of last question
- unexpected page breaks
- inefficient use of paper

b) software design deficiencies/enhancements requested

- on-screen visibility issues
- colour changes to improve contrast/legibility

c) question bank errors and revisions

- correction of identified errors and republication of RIC 7 & 8 and exam generator software.

Industry Canada advises that the printing feature included with the exam generator software was a very basic feature and did not include sophisticated printing options. Apparently, while it seems to work with certain laser printers, many problems continue to be identified by examiners trying to print exams in a paper efficient manner.

Given limited resources, contracting with the software author who holds the intellectual property rights, so as to address the printing concern, is not considered an option. However, Industry Canada indicated that it has devised a new printing procedure to be used by delegated examiners in order to remedy the situation. The procedure outlines the process on how to print to an electronic file which in turn can be formatted and printed from the delegated examiner's own wordprocessor. This new procedure should remedy the identified concern regarding printing exams. IC reported that it has just recently identified this as a means to rectify the printer concern, however it has had the opportunity to walk one delegated examiner through the process with good success but will beta test with an RAC representative. It is anticipated that the new procedure will be made available to delegated examiners by the end of January, 2003.

Concern has also been raised by delegated examiners regarding the on-screen contrast of the exam generator software. This stems from the software's unfortunate inherent selection of a light green font on a dark green background which, regretfully, cannot be addressed without additional programming resources. As a remedy, delegated examiners are advised to optimize (800 x 600 at least 256 colours) their own computer resolution settings in order to reduce on-screen contrast difficulties. This remedy will be highlighted on Industry Canada's *Strategis* website.

Industry Canada reported that all needed question bank improvements that have been identified to date have been addressed noting the updated software will need to be recompiled. It will then be posted as an update on *Strategis*. It is anticipated that this will be done in the same time frame that the new printing procedures will be made available to delegated examiners.

## **5) Status Report by Industry Canada on the Administration of the Amateur Service Centre.**

The continuing administration of the Amateur Service in Canada and some possible options were reviewed.

## **6) Status Report by Industry Canada - Reciprocal Operating Agreements - Thailand and Hong Kong**

Industry Canada provided an update on the current status of these initiatives to establish reciprocal operating agreements with the countries of Thailand and Hong Kong.

Industry Canada officials explained the current impasse within its organization's legal services involving the proposal to have the existing RAC Ministerial Delegation for IARP and CEPT authorizations modified to include any authorizations made under reciprocal agreements with foreign countries.

As an amendment to a Ministerial delegation is typically extremely resource intensive, Industry Canada has decided that there would be merit in not pursuing this initiative. Given the resources required for the anticipated volume of transactions compared to the resources associated with an amendment to a Ministerial delegation, Industry Canada will continue to issue any requisite authorizations from its licensing centre, where required, rather than seeking authority which would have enabled RAC to issue these authorizations.

The wording of the Thailand agreement is currently being addressed by staff in DFAIT

## **7) Repeater Interference Problems - (Update by RAC)**

RAC expressed its appreciation for the action taken by Industry Canada on repeater interference occurring in the Vancouver area. Measures taken by local Industry Canada officers appear to have been effective, recognizing that there is need for ongoing monitoring and information exchange by both IC and RAC.

## **8) RAC Brochure Mail-out (Update by RAC)**

RAC advised that the RAC brochure to be included in IC mail-outs is nearing implementation.

## **9) New and Other Business**

### **9.1) IC Consultation on Towers**

Industry Canada reported that on October 31, 2002 Industry Minister Allan Rock announced a national consultation review of Industry Canada's antenna tower policy and siting procedures to begin early next year. RAC advised IC that towers are of the highest

priority and of its intent to participate in the public consultation on towers as an independent organization and as a member of the RABC. Industry Canada indicated that the Minister will announce the Chair of the review in the coming months.

### **9.2) Implications if WRC-2003 Deletes Requirement for Morse Testing**

RAC indicated its belief that with WRC-2003 (June/July time frame) may come the removal of Morse requirements. Indications are that 60% of radio amateurs support the removal of the requirement and the RAC would consult Industry Canada concerning the view of Canadian radio amateurs on this matter, although changes would not likely be implemented without a national consultation via a Gazette notice. With the removal of this requirement consideration may be given to augmenting other portions of the exam.

### **9.3) DGTP-004-02 Spectrum Policy Review**

RAC indicated that its concern is with the preservation of frequencies assigned to its service as well as potential liability should amateurs cause interference to any licence exempt devices on a repeat basis. RAC has prepared an extensive response to the Policy Review. The chair noted that of particular concern is the potential for *radiofrequency (RF) pollution*, that is, interference from a proliferation of low power licence exempt devices most notably Ultra Wide Band (UWB) devices as they may utilize bandwidths in the order of 2 GHz. Industry Canada indicated its intention to monitor the FCC's reaction to this new technology. RAC suggested that the Department monitor the influx of lower power devices. Industry Canada recommended that RAC review the documentation on the FCC's Spectrum Policy Review.

### **9.4) Wording of Morse Code Qualification on Certificate of Proficiency**

IC will review their policy in regard to wording of the Morse qualification on Certificates upon receipt of a formal letter from RAC.

### **9.5) Integrity of the Call Sign Data Base**

RAC expressed its concern that integrity of the call sign data base appears to be deteriorating. It was agreed that both Industry Canada and the RAC should use every opportunity to raise awareness of individual responsibility for reporting address and status changes to Industry Canada. RAC agreed to include in *The Canadian Amateur* advisory notices reminding amateurs of the requirement to notify the ARSC of address changes. Industry Canada will investigate whether the ARSC can accept address changes forwarded from RAC by amateurs reporting address changes to RAC.

### **9.6) Possibility of an "Entry Level Qualification"**

The problems of attracting youth to Amateur Radio were briefly discussed. The success of the Foundation licence in the UK and the consideration of similar entry-level

initiatives in other countries were noted. After further study, RAC will present its proposals for a similar approach in Canada.

#### **9.7) Microwave Equipment Construction by Basic Qualification Holders**

IC advised that they would be willing to consider a proposal from RAC for an exemption relating to on-air use of self-constructed microwave transmitting equipment by Basic Qualified amateurs.

#### **10) Preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> CARAB Meeting - Date, Time and Place**

The 20th CARAB meeting will be held the last week of April 2003, with Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> being a possibility, and coinciding with the RAC Annual Board of Directors Meeting in Cornwall, ON.