

## **TWENTY SECOND MEETING ON THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2004

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Place:** HMCS Bytown Wardroom  
78 Lisgar Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Chair:** Mike Connolly,  
Senior Director,  
Spectrum Management Operations

### **Participants:**

#### **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):**

Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, President James G. Dean, VE3IQ, Vice-President,  
Regulatory Affairs Bjarne (B.J.) Madsen, VE5FX, Regional Director, Midwest Doug  
Leach, VE3XK, Director, Ontario North

#### **Industry Canada (IC):**

Mike Connolly, Senior Director, Spectrum Management Operations  
Jean-Claude Brien, Director, EMC and Consultation  
Guy Roy, Acting Director, Eastern Ontario District, (Amateur Service Centre)  
Harold Carmichael, Program Manager, Exams and Certificates, Quebec Regional Office  
Rob Cepella, Chief, Authorization, Spectrum Management Operations  
Gary Steckly, Technical Policy Analyst, Spectrum Management Operations

## **Items**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Connolly thanked Jim Dean for arranging for the use of the Naval Officer's facilities for the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly, the new President Daniel Lamoureux. This was followed by introductions by all participants.

### **2. Review and Approval of the Agenda**

After a minor restructuring of the agenda to accommodate the early departure of Jean Claude Brien and the BPL item, the agenda was approved.

### **3. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes of CARAB 21**

Minutes were accepted as submitted.

### **4. Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) (reordered from agenda item 14)**

Jim Dean gave a brief overview of the history of the BPL matter, dating back to the original concerns expressed by Dr. Rawat concerning the potential interference it could cause to existing radio services. He made note of the RABC's Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) committee's long-standing interest in the matter, and their move to establish a working group to monitor the development of the technology. There has been apprehension about potential egress as well as ingress, with particular attention paid to the potential legal onus that could be put on amateurs should they be deemed to be causing interference to the BPL service.

The ARRL is studying the development on an ongoing basis. Canada is also following the situation, but is considering the regulatory status and framework - vis-à-vis BPL being a CRTC issue as well as a telecom matter. Concerns have been expressed as to whether or not the Canadian regulatory framework has been fully fleshed out.

Jim mentioned that the amateur community is carefully monitoring the BPL issue. They are aware of the Sault Ste. Marie and Hydro-Québec tests, but the lack of information being publicly released from these initiatives has caused some suspicions.

The July/August issue of The Canadian Amateur (TCA) will have some articles on the issues which will disseminate more factual information and increase awareness of the facts. Bob Hawkins (VE3AGC) has been attempting to obtain some experimental information to post on an internet site, however a more open approach from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in Sault Ste. Marie would help to eliminate any bias in these reports. It was noted that Doug Slomke from Industry Canada has been quite forthright, which has helped. The report, authored by Bob Hawkins, was distributed for information.

Jim invited Industry Canada to make a submission for inclusion in TCA as well, although it was recognized that the timelines were short.

Jean-Claude Brien followed Jim's introduction with an update of the focus of Industry Canada's efforts with respect to BPL.

The Canadian Electrical Association has been made aware that BPL may be considered as Interference Causing Equipment. Industry Canada has been focusing on the interference aspects and the tests underway in Sault Ste. Marie as well as by Telecom Hydro-Québec.

Jean-Claude Brien briefly discussed interference mitigation techniques and the complexities introduced by virtue of the five different technologies currently being developed.

BPL coordination groups are to include regional staff and make them aware of the developments and changes as they arise.

Industry Canada is currently taking advantage of the Sault Ste. Marie test in the context of making interference measurements, which will be made public after they are analyzed internally by Industry Canada.

NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) and NTS (National Traffic System) are currently performing studies in an attempt to determine which measurement techniques are most appropriate.

Next Step at Industry Canada – Spectrum Engineering will be discussing the issues with the Telecom Policy group.

Mike Connolly thanked Jim Dean and Jean-Claude Brien for their input and offered some ad-hoc comments, observing that:

- BPL is not radio apparatus and therefore is not subject to licensing.
- BPL would possibly be subject to limits via an Interference-Causing Equipment Standard (ICES).
- CRTC's input was that of the telecommunications regulator, and as such, they are technology neutral, and not concerned if the medium is light, radio or whatever. They are inclined to be increasingly light-handed, and more concerned with service rather than the technology which delivers the service.

He summarized that the BPL matter is obviously complex, and that there are many stakeholders, and appreciated efforts by all to keep the discussion on an even keel, and closed the discussion by entertaining any questions or comments.

#### **Questions/comments:**

Jim Dean added that Ken Pulfer, in his capacity as International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Technical Representative, in ITU-R Study Group 1-C, is closely monitoring the matter from the perspective of international regulatory developments.

Doug Leach informed the committee that a meeting was held in Sault Ste. Marie with the local amateurs in which many of these issues were discussed. He noted that the PUC is not merely an Amperion Inc. customer, but a partner.

## **5. Status of the Tower Consultation Process (Industry Canada and RAC)**

Jim Dean introduced this item with a note of appreciation for the two hours that he spent with Professor Townsend and Rob Cepella, and added that he is looking forward to the final report.

Rob Cepella gave a brief update on where the consultation is with respect to delivery of the final report.

Mike Connolly underlined how extraordinary it is to have someone of Professor Townsend's qualifications conduct such a process at the Minister's request. He noted that the prospect of an election and how it could affect the ultimate outcome, depending on possible government changes and a new Minister.

Jim Dean noted that he understood the issues of time frames and political implications, but ultimately was concerned about any changes to the process (Client Procedures Circular (CPC) revisions and Canada Gazette notices). Industry Canada could not comment at this time on the subsequent process as the political uncertainties had such a large bearing on the ultimate changes.

## **6. Status Report by Industry Canada on Reciprocal Operating Agreements**

Industry Canada reported that there has been little progress on the agreements, with the most recent update informing us that the proposed agreement had been sent to the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for review, after a substantial delay in the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The most recent word on the potential success is not optimistic as they prefer to use the same text as was used with other countries (whereas the approach that IC prefers is to follow the wording of the Canada/US bilateral which does not necessitate a third authorization in addition to that of each administration).

Following a suggestion that originated from Ken Pulfer after WRC-03, Industry Canada believes that a more productive path to follow with this and future agreements may be to simply adopt a more relaxed position with respect to accepting foreign amateurs in Canada, in the hopes that other administrations will follow this example when approached by Canadian amateurs seeking authority in their country.

According to WRC-03 **25.9B** § 5B...

**An administration may determine whether or not to permit a person who has been granted a licence to operate an amateur station by another administration to operate an amateur station while that person is temporarily in its territory, subject to such conditions or restrictions it may impose. (WRC-03)**

What this amendment has done is remove the previous requirement - that administrations have bilateral agreements in place prior to granting visiting foreign amateurs the authority to operate in their country.

Industry Canada proposes that its document Radiocommunication Information Circular-3 (RIC-3) be modified to recognize this new provision, and in recognition of this relaxed spirit of cooperation within the amateur service, insert a statement to the effect that Canada will issue temporary authority to any authorized foreign amateur visiting Canada, regardless of nationality.

If negotiations with Thailand remain stalled, we may inform Thailand of our new policy and request that they ignore Industry Canada's request for this bilateral agreement.

Jim Dean indicated that New Zealand has had similar difficulties in negotiations with Thailand. While the RAC believes that the approach suggested by IC and Ken Pulfer makes good sense, they would like to let the Thailand initiative run its course.

**Action Item:** Industry Canada will amend RIC-3 accordingly to reflect the provisions of 25.9B § 5B.

## **7. RAC Brochure Mail-out (Update by RAC)**

RAC gave an update on the brochure that might be included in any future Industry Canada mass mail-out to the amateur radio operator community. They are currently working on a new fee structure to include in this publication, but advised that the brochure would be available very soon.

The RAC reiterated their hopes that IC might be able to include the brochure with mailings for new certificates or upgrades to existing certificates.

The Amateur Radio Service Centre agreed that they would be able to include the brochure where there would be no incidental increase in costs.

**Action Item:** RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the brochure for inclusion on Industry Canada's Web site.

## **8. Notice to Accredited Examiners on Examinations to be Used (RAC)**

RAC informed the committee that they have sent a reminder to examiners that they must now use the new exams. However they would appreciate it if Industry Canada could send a similar notice to examiners via the IC e-mail list. Mike Connolly felt that the Department might first quantify the effectiveness of this method prior to investing in a mass e-mailing strictly for this purpose.

Guy Roy mentioned that an opportunity to remind the examiners of this type of thing presents itself every two years when the examiners accreditation is renewed.

**Action Item:** The Amateur Radio Service Centre will remind the examiners of the requirement to use the new exam format via the bi-annual examiner revalidation process.

## **9. Frequency Assignments for the Grand Prix – Montreal (Update ARSC)**

There continues to be some concern expressed by radio amateurs in Montreal about the Grand Prix. Harold Carmichael emphasized that a process has been put in place to ensure that every effort is taken to minimize the impact on the amateur spectrum, with special attention being paid to repeater input frequencies.

It was noted by RAC that the interference was in fact improved considerably last year, and perhaps this was more a matter of amateurs simply recalling the more severe incidents of several years ago. RAC accepted that IC has put a process in place to avoid these incidents, and no additional efforts should be required.

## **10. Considerations in the Administration of the Amateur Service (IC)**

Mike noted that while there have been periodic talks between IC and RAC with respect to changes in the administration of the Amateur Service with the goal of giving RAC a greater role, ultimately, there remain considerable difficulties in achieving this. As the present system, with the consolidation of all amateur licensing functions in the Amateur Radio Service Centre, is working well, one would reasonably conclude that there is no need for radical change at this time. Mike indicated that IC is satisfied with the status quo. Mike reiterated the Department's appreciation to the RAC for the time and effort that they have made in assessing the situation to date.

## **11. Update on the RAC Youth Education Program (RAC)**

RAC Director Bj Madsen provided an update on the Youth Education Program. A full colour brochure entitled "RAC Youth Education Program – Connecting Schools to the World Through Technology" has been produced, describing the goals and benefits of the program. A sew-on shoulder patch has also been produced as a promotional handout for students participating in the program.

RAC has received a donation of \$100.00 from the Almonte Repeater Club in support of the program and is hopeful that other clubs will follow suit.

They have also written to Kenwood and Icom seeking support for the program, but they have not yet received any response.

Mr. Madsen thanked Guy Roy for the support that he gave following the last meeting with the supply of demographic data.

### **Observations/Suggestions:**

Mike suggested that there are, no doubt, many successful individuals who have made their entry into their careers by virtue of their interest in amateur radio, and it may be valuable to seek out those people for possible support.

With respect to possible support from IC, while monetary assistance may be hard to find, there may be other opportunities to explore with respect to agencies like the Communications Research Centre (CRC).

## **12. WRC-2003 Decisions and their Impact on Morse Code Examinations (RAC)**

Jim Dean noted that RAC and IC have had considerable ad-hoc discussion around the content of the RAC draft proposal, but no firm decisions have yet been taken on the future direction for Canada on this issue.

Mike noted that IC plans to take the proposal to the general public via a Canada Gazette notice request for comment, once we have received the formal proposal in both official languages. He observed that this process would provide an excellent opportunity to raise RAC's profile in the amateur community.

**Action Item:** RAC to provide IC with copies of the RAC Morse Code Proposal in both official languages.

## **13. WRC-2003 Decisions and their Impact on Call Sign Formulation (RAC)**

RAC informed the committee that the issue has been discussed within RAC, and they are working on a discussion paper. However the paper requires some further development prior to submission to IC for consideration. RAC requested that this item be deferred to the next CARAB meeting.

## **14. Malicious Repeater Interference – Vancouver, BC Area (RAC)**

Jim Dean informed the committee that this matter appears to be getting out of hand and requested that IC do whatever possible to ensure that the Pacific region is fully aware of the situation and potential impact on the amateur community in Vancouver.

Mike Connolly suggested that a teleconference between the Pacific region and RAC may be helpful in order that a direct case might be made.

Action Item: Industry Canada will organize a teleconference between RAC and Pacific region to address the malicious interference on Vancouver repeaters.

## **15. RAC News (RAC)**

RAC introduced their new president Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA.

## **16. Industry Canada News**

Industry Canada noted the retirement of Carl Olsen in the Ontario region, and his replacement by John Bagio.

René Guerrette has accepted the position on a temporary basis as the new manager of the Eastern Ontario District Office and the Amateur Radio Service Centre.

## **17. Other Business**

None.

## **18. Preparation for the 23 CARAB meeting - Place, Time, Date.**

A tentative date of October 21, 2004 was selected for the next CARAB meeting.

## **19. Adjournment**

Adjournment of 22nd meeting of the CARAB.

### **Summary of Action Items:**

1. Industry Canada will amend RIC-3 accordingly to reflect the provisions of 25.9B § 5B.
2. RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the RAC brochure for inclusion on Industry Canada's Web site.
3. The Amateur Radio Service Centre will remind examiners of the requirement to use the new exam format via the examiner revalidation process.
4. IC will organize a teleconference between RAC and Pacific region to address the repeater interference.
5. RAC to provide IC with copies of the RAC Morse Code proposal in both official languages.