

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

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2004

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

Place: HMCS Bytown Wardroom
78 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Earle Smith, VE6NM
President, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)

Participants:

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Earle Smith, VE6NM, President
James G. Dean, VE3IQ, Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs
Bjarne (B.J.) Madsen, VE5FX, Regional Director, Midwest
Ben Price, VE3CDA – Director-Elect, replacing Doug Leach as of January 2005
Doug Leach, VE3XK – Director Ontario North and East

Industry Canada (IC):

Patrick Carrey, Acting Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Jean-Claude Brien, Director, EMC and Consultation
René Guerrette, Acting Director, Eastern Ontario District, (Amateur Radio Service Centre)
Rob Cepella, Chief, Authorization, Spectrum Management Operations
Gary Steckly, Technical Policy Analyst, Spectrum Management Operations

Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

Earle Smith thanked Jim Dean for once again arranging for the use of the Naval Officers' facilities for the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was followed by introductions by all participants.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

After a minor restructuring of the agenda to accommodate an early departure for Jean-Claude Brien who presented the BPL item, the agenda was approved.

3. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes of CARAB 22, 06 May, 2004

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

4. Action Item Review

Amendment of RIC-3 according to WRC-03, respecting any details needed vis-à-vis citizenship and other considerations, as time permits.

RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the RAC brochure for inclusion on the IC web page as soon as new RAC membership rate changes are finalized.

The re-accreditation process for Accredited Examiners will be revisited under Agenda Item 13.

A teleconference was held to address resolution of the Vancouver area interference problems.

RAC provided copies of its Morse code proposal, which was subsequently gazetted. The public's comments are being considered by Industry Canada.

5. RAC News Items

Earle Smith provided an update on former RAC President Daniel Lamoureux's medical condition as well as that of Bob Nash.

John Iliffe, VA3JI will replace Bob Nash, VE3KZ, as First Vice-President of RAC.

The RAC web site has been updated to provide resumé's of the RAC Executive.

6. Broadband over Power Lines (reordered from agenda item 12)

Jean-Claude Brien covered new developments in BPL. The FCC will be providing details on the US situation shortly. IC will be reviewing them closely.

Canadian trials are still ongoing, in the context of full commercial deployment.

A test at the RAMADA Inn in Cornwall, Ontario, will be completed soon. Jim Dean's understanding, as discussed at the last RABC EMC Committee meeting, was that the Cornwall test was successful, although rather expensive, and it was not deemed competitive with WIFI. The system will remain in place nevertheless, since the equipment was installed at considerable expense. IC will be focusing less on "in-house" deployment as opposed to outside applications.

A new field strength measurement method is being developed by IC, as that used in the Sault Ste. Marie trials was rather tedious (using spectrum explorer). The new methodology being developed in Ontario and Quebec will be based on methods used for wideband (noise-like signals) measurements.

From what IC hears, the debate about BPL in Canada revolves more along the business case as opposed to the technology. There is much talk about using BPL for automatic meter reading.

Jim Dean mentioned an email from an amateur in Toronto who advised that an additional installation will be done in a hotel in Toronto, again for in-house use. Jim Dean questioned whether or not in-house BPL offered a different status from the perspective of a diminished interference potential. J-C concurred that this was an accurate assessment.

J-C Brien stated for the record that IC does not have a pilot project of its own, but is closely following any tests being done by the private sector.

Doug Leach suggested that it may be advantageous for IC to develop a Web page to provide more info on the subject. J-C advised that his staff's efforts are for the moment focused on producing a paper, following internal discussion in November-December, under the eye of the Communications and Marketing Branch, for public consultation.

J-C Brien also noted that there is a misconception that Canada will be following the US. While IC is closely monitoring the situation in the US, the Canadian policy will be made in Canada.

Jim Dean again reiterated his standing invitation for IC to produce an article for publication in TCA in order to set the official record straight and perhaps offset some of the speculation about BPL within the amateur community.

Jim Dean further noted that Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, is in Geneva closely monitoring the BPL developments in ITU-R Working Parties 8A and 6E. Broadcasters are concerned and closely monitoring the BPL deliberations as well.

J-C Brien noted that the concept of frequency band exclusion as an interference mitigation approach is a valuable means of addressing potential interference problems. He also observed that the injection techniques used can affect the interference greatly.

J-C Brien discussed possible issues surrounding BPL equipment certification and the creation of a notification database, in addition to the aforementioned issue of measurement techniques.

As the next step at Industry Canada, Spectrum Engineering will be producing a discussion paper (before the end of the fiscal year) on BPL for public consultation in order to assess public interest and potential concerns.

Earle Smith thanked Jean-Claude for his review.

Questions/Comments:

Jim Dean proposed that an informal meeting be called in order to discuss means by which information could be put forth to present the Canadian context on the BPL issue.

Action Item – meet on the 19th of November for informal discussion with IC (specifically J-C Brien).

7. Status of the Tower Consultation Process (Industry Canada and RAC)

Rob Cepella gave a brief review on the events that prompted the consultation as well as an update on where the consultation is with respect to delivery of the final report. Noted that the consolidation of the public comments received via the e-townhall are available on our Web site at www.antennareview.ca

The final report has been a larger task than originally conceived, due in part to the almost overwhelming response at the e-town hall. We anticipate the final report by early 2005, after which an internal review will be done with regional participation.

The current process as established in CPC-2-0-03 will be adhered to in the interim.

Questions:

Jim Dean wondered if the review would be limited to the regions and HQ, or whether or not the municipalities would be consulted further, prior to making any revisions to the procedure.

Pat offered that there are already some rather obvious issues (low-hanging fruit) that could be plucked and processed immediately, however, there are other issues that are substantially more complicated and which will need more extensive deliberation. Currently, IC is dealing with exceptions on a case-by-case basis, with the majority of antenna installations being handled by the existing policy. Tower sharing is an alternative approach which may be looked at in the future in order to resolve some of these more contentious issues.

Doug Leach offered that there is an obvious difference between commercial users and amateurs with respect to the resources that they have at their disposal to perform or obtain engineering studies on the antenna installations (structural integrity and soil assessment).

Jim Dean observed that the biggest problem is dealing with municipalities, in that there is no consistency (using the analogy of the licensing centre removing the problem of inconsistent treatment within the regulation of the amateur community by IC) in the treatment of Type 2 installations on the part of the municipality.

8. Status Report by Industry Canada on Reciprocal Operating Agreements

Industry Canada reported that there has been little progress on establishing bilateral agreements with Thailand and Hong Kong. The most recent update informs us that the proposed agreement had been sent to the Ministry of 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 words of the Canada/US bilateral which does not necessitate a third authorization in addition to the licences 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 hope that other administrations will follow this example when approached by Canadian amateurs seeking authority in their country.

According to WRC-03 **25.9B** section 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 authority to operate in their country.

IC proposes that RIC-3 be modified to recognize this new provision, and in recognition of this relaxed spirit of co-operation 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 our request for this bilateral agreement.

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

Action Item:

Industry Canada will amend RIC-3 accordingly to reflect the provisions of **25.9B** section 5B.

9. RAC Brochure Mail-out (Update by RAC)

RAC distributed copies of the current brochure, presently being distributed by IC with any mailings to amateurs of new or amended certificates. While the electronic link has not yet been established between IC and RAC, this will be done shortly.

Action Item:

RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the RAC brochure for inclusion on our Web page.

10. Update on RAC Youth Education Program (YEP)

Three more schools have joined the YEP.

Feedback received from schools has been positive in that the clubs have been very helpful by providing equipment donations, etc. The clubs have found that the program has had a positive effect by giving the clubs an external focus on which to direct attention.

Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) nodes have been popular additions to the program.

The Ecopals program has facilitated communications of an environmental nature.

Education Today is including a reference to the incorporation of amateur radio into the education system.

A CD has been produced by the RAC YEP.

A newsletter has been produced for distribution via email to serve as a vehicle to share what is going on in each school.

To date 27 clubs have responded to the Almonte challenge for funding. The YEP program currently is in a positive financial position as a result. However, this still represents only 5% of amateur clubs in Canada, so there is much room for expanding this effort.

ICOM Canada has come forward as the first corporate sponsor to volunteer to support the program. They see the obvious benefit of introducing young people to amateur radio.

Youth education continues as a successful vehicle to generate enthusiasm for amateur radio in Canada, but continuing promotion and support are required.

11. IC Consultation on the RAC Proposal on Morse Code and Related Matters (IC)

IC has received approximately 150 submissions to date. An assessment of the input will be completed in the next few weeks, resulting in the posting of the comments received, as well as a brief executive summary.

IC will endeavour to map out the general direction that the Department will take with respect to the changes, and the details will be worked out in the coming months.

12. Response to RAC Proposal on Call Sign Formulation (IC)

IC can manage call signs with four-letter suffixes for special events, since it does not entail any modification to the call sign and certificate registry. Consequently, RIC-9 can be amended as an internal matter, with information provided to the regions.

The Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) will assess the workload and effort required to update RIC-9 in order to accommodate the changes proposed by RAC.

Action Items:

RAC will share the working copy of RIC-9 that they used in preparation of the submission (IC to send a copy of RIC-9 to Jim Dean).

René Guerrette, the Director of the ARSC, will endeavour to bring a draft copy of the modified RIC-9 to the next informal meeting on November 19.

13. Accredited Examiners and Examinations (RAC)

RAC sought greater detail on the process that the Amateur Radio Service Centre follows with respect to renewal of examiner accreditation, as well as address changes.

René Guerrette advised that address changes are normally entered within 24 hours, providing the notification is submitted through the proper channels (email, fax, mail).

One of the problems with accredited examiners is the need for a consistent provision of email addresses so as to establish an inexpensive and effective means of communications with the examiners.

The ARSC is currently considering establishing in the criteria for the accreditation of examiners that all examiners must maintain a current email address.

14. Industry Canada News

Pat Carrey is temporarily replacing Earl Hoeg as Director, Spectrum Management Operations.

Nadia Lombardi will be replacing Mélanie Robert.

15. Preparations for the next CARAB Meeting

TBA. The meeting will be planned for early in May 2005, in conjunction with the dates for RAC's annual Board of Directors Meeting.

16. Other Business

Nil

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Summary of Action Items:

1. RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the brochure for inclusion on the IC Web page.
2. Industry Canada will amend RIC-3 to reflect the provisions of **25.9B** section 5B.
3. Meet on the 19th of November for informal discussion with IC (specifically J-C Brien).
4. RAC will share the working copy of RIC-9 that they used in preparation of the submission (IC to send a copy of RIC-9 to Jim Dean) and René Guerrette will endeavour to bring a copy of the draft modified RIC to the next informal meeting on November 19.