

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

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2005

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

Place: The Crowsnest
HMCS Bytown Wardroom Mess
78 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Earl Hoeg,
Director Spectrum Management Operations
Industry Canada

Participants:

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Earle Smith, VE6NM, President
Jim Dean, VE3IQ, Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs
Ben Price, VE3CDA - Director, Ontario North and East
Ed Frazer, VE7EF – Director, BC and Yukon
Joe Parkinson, VE3JG, RAC Project Officer for BPL

Industry Canada (IC):

Earl Hoeg, Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Nadia Lombardi, Manager Operational Policies, Spectrum Management Operations
Rene 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

Earl Hoeg thanked Jim Dean for once again arranging for the use of the Naval Officer's 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

The agenda was approved with minor amendments

3. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes of CARAB 23

The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

4 Action Item review

1 - RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the brochure for inclusion on the IC Web page

The link to the brochure has not yet been done due to changes that related to membership rates.

2 - Industry Canada will amend RIC-3 to reflect the provisions of 25.9B § 5B

This has been done along with other administrative amendments relevant to the Morse code changes and will be published later this summer when the Morse amendments are implemented.

3 - Meet on the 19th of November for informal discussion with IC (specifically J-C Brien).

This meeting was held as planned.

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.

Completed

5. RAC news items

Noel Marcel, VE2BR, the new RAC Secretary is giving RAC good representation in Quebec, as is Murray Epstein, VE2AUU, the new Quebec Regional Director

Daniel Lamoreaux is doing well and will be coming to Cornwall and working behind the scene.

Bob Nash too is doing well following his heart attack but will be assuming a less intensive role following his heart attack.

6. Status of the Tower Consultation Process

Earl Hoeg provided a historical review of the tower consultation initiative, from its genesis in 1985 through the review initiated by Allen Rock. He highlighted the valuable contribution made through the input of the various advisory committees (RAC, CWTA etc.), and commended the innovative approach taken by Professor Townsend with his E-Town hall methodology, and ambitious follow-ups in monthly teleconferences. These efforts have culminated in the final report that was made public in February.

Earl solicited RAC's response to what they have seen so far, and briefly touched on the various comments received to the report, as well as Professor Townsend's suggestions. He further indicated that Industry Canada plans to modify our policy as given in IPC 2-0-03

Jim Dean responded that he, as the contributing RABC member, has submitted comments in that forum, which were the result of approximately 200 hours of personal effort. He has received comments from across the country, and is concerned by the apparent lack of understanding in many of these comments; many of which are influenced by an emotional response.

Jim summarized some of the significant amateur issues:

- a tug of war seems to exist with municipalities due to perception of municipal control versus the amateurs' view of federal control
- a perception that some municipalities throw up obstacles through overly onerous requirements such as requirement for engineering briefs, drawings etc.
- a desire to see more municipal /amateur co-operation such as in Calgary
- while certification of amateurs has been centralized and is now seen to be much more consistently applied across the country, the community would like to see something similar with respect to tower issues
- an apparent safety code 6 (SC-6) contradiction that exists in the area of height and safety
- Calgary's position is that towers under 40 feet do not require consultation (referred to as the Calgary Protocol), and now amateurs perceive that in controversial cases about tower height, some Industry Canada officers see 40 feet as a sufficient defacto limit. RAC has argued that greater heights should be allowed where justified. Amateurs need an interpretation that can be applied consistently by district offices across the country

- The appearance of some double standards with respect to type 2 installations (amateurs versus private commercial versus receiver installations (i.e. TV). RAC wants type 2 installations treated equally.

In all, they have submitted 39 recommendations in the Townsend report.

Earl Hoeg responded that our public response indicates that after analysis of the Townsend report, there appears to be room for improvement, but we have not yet decided how we will proceed vis-à-vis further consultation. However, if there are further concerns or views, we are always open to additional input that will be considered and shared with the public.

Ben Price re-iterated Jim's comment on double standards with respect to type 2 installations, and added that his constituents are particularly concerned over the distinction of commercial as opposed to amateur installations within the type 2 context.

Earle Smith added that Jim's desire to obtain a clear national approach has much merit, giving the example of a good standard process used in Grand Prairie (based on the Calgary Protocol) which includes advice on how to approach neighbors and municipalities.

7. Reciprocal Operating Agreements - and the Way Ahead (IC Update)

Industry Canada gave a brief summary of the efforts taken to date to achieve these bilateral agreements and the fact that little progress seems to have been made. In light of the recommendation made by Ken Pulfer, and the action item to this effect from the previous CARAB meeting, Industry Canada has taken measures to emphasize the use of multilateral agreements such as CEPT and IARP instead of bilateral agreements with individual countries. Changes to this effect have been made to RIC 3, which will be published shortly along with the amendments to the Morse code requirements, and future requests to pursue bilateral agreements will only be considered under exceptional circumstances.

8. Update on RAC Youth Education Program (RAC)

RAC gave an update on the continuing growth of the RAC Youth Education Program, and emphasized the importance of helping the schools obtain surplus equipment that would be relevant to the program. Industry Canada will revisit this need and see if there is any more that can be done in directing our surplus equipment to this program.

Four more schools have been added to the Youth Education Program for a total of nine:

1. Drinkwater Elementary School in Duncan BC
- supported by the Cowican Valley Amateur Radio Society
2. Monsignor Doyle Catholic Secondary School in Cambridge, ON
- supported by the Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club

3. Holy Family School in Grimshaw AB - a Junior High School in the Peace River Country of northern Alberta.

- sponsored by the McKenzie Regional Radio Club

4. Grand Manan Community School - a K-12 school on Grand Manan Island, NB.

- Roger LaChaine (VE9BO), the sponsoring teacher, is in charge of Technical Studies in the school. There is no club involved but all of the Amateurs on the island (three) along with individuals involved with communications and technology on the island, are behind the program

9. IC Response to the RAC proposal on Morse Code and related matters (IC)

Earl Hoeg gave a brief overview of the direction that IC has mapped out in response to the RAC proposal and subsequent public comment, and sought the RAC's opinion to our plan.

RAC indicated that while the IC plan is not perfect in that it does not address all the RAC proposed changes, they are confident that it is a positive response. In the context of the 1990 Amateur restructuring initiative which emphasized operation over experimentation and saw an increase in the service from 14,000 to over 50,000 certified amateurs, RAC is hopeful that these changes will yield similar positive results. Recent surveys support the direction IC is moving, in that 66% of respondents were in favour of removing the Morse code as a mandatory requirement for operation on the HF bands.

10. IC response to RAC proposal on call sign formulation (IC)

Industry Canada has modified RIC-9 based on comments received from RAC following changes introduced at the ITU dealing with amateur call signs. A release of a provisional version of the amended IPC is anticipated this summer.

11. Broadband over Powerline (BPL) (RAC)

There was a brief discussion on BPL developments in Canada and progress toward a Canadian policy and framework on BPL. Industry Canada anticipates presenting a Consultation Paper on BPL before the summer for public comment on it through the Gazette process.

RAC noted that there was an interesting discussion paper from Australia, and gave a brief overview, noting the major differences in approach with respect to interference.

Also noted was the US statement to the effect that there is significant support for BPL in the state of Texas.

Japan on the other hand has indicated that they will only permit BPL if testing is done first to assess the potential for interference.

The European Union appears to be advocating BPL due to the economic advantages it can present, and the fact that the utilities can make use of BPL to manage their systems (smart meters etc.)

12. Accredited Examiners and Examinations (RAC and IC)

René Guerrette informed the meeting that in response to RAC concerns on the accreditation renewals for Accredited Examiners expressed at the CARAB meeting in October of 2004, his staff have reviewed and updated the List of Accredited Examiners. The updated list has been provided to RAC and posted on the RAC web.

He is confident that the removal of examiners who are no longer a part of the program will improve the service greatly, however, Industry Canada is exploring further options for enhancing the administration of Accredited Examiners.

13. Interference Situation – Vancouver (RAC)

Ed Frazer presented an overview on the progress that has been made in resolving the malicious interference that has plagued the amateur community in Vancouver for some time.

The IC office in Vancouver has developed a good rapport with the Greater Vancouver Amateur Radio Council, and their joint efforts have yielded positive results, with a considerable reduction in the number of these incidents.

There continues to be some isolated problems with known individuals involving threats and intimidations, however, with the new agreement to pursue a coordinated response with IC and all clubs, there is much optimism that the situation will further improve.

14. Preparation for the next CARAB meeting – (Date time place)

Tentative Date of November 3, 2005

15. Other Business

None

17. Adjournment

The 24th meeting of the CARAB was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.