

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

Date: Thursday, November 3, 2005

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

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

Chair: Earle Smith,
President, Radio Amateurs of 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

Industry Canada (IC):

Earl Hoeg, Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Hughes Nappert, Manager of EMC Analysis
Tom Jones, Chief, Authorization, Spectrum Management Operations
Harold Carmichael, Program Manager Examinations and Certificates, Spectrum
Information Technologies and Telecommunications, Québec, QC.
Guy Roy, Eastern Ontario District, (Amateur Radio Service Centre)
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

The agenda was approved with minor corrections (CPC rather than IPC).

3. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes of CARAB 24

The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

4. Action Item review (carried over from CARAB 23)

1 - RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the brochure for inclusion on the Spectrum Management and Telecommunications amateur Web page.

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

Ben Price will send the link to Industry Canada for inclusion on the Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Web site.

5. BPL (Hughes Nappert)

DGSE has begun to receive comments on the process at the beginning of the summer. The comment period will end on November 28.

Jim Dean noted that he has become the chairman of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) group that will be providing comments on BPL as well. This has been a challenging task due to the strong influence of the US.

They have had good input from Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) and some presence from the Department of National Defence (DND). However, Coast Guard (CG) and Transport Canada limited their input to restricted channels.

Joe Parkinson and Ed Frazer are preparing a separate amateur submission. Ed Frazer spoke briefly to the interference effects and presented an audio/visual example of the impact that these signals can have on the amateur operations. It was mentioned that the allowable signal from BPL is substantially greater than allowed for cable TV.

6. Status of the Tower Consultation Process

Earl Hoeg provided a brief update spanning the period from Allan Rock to Professor Townsend to the town hall initiative. Consultation wrapped up in October 2003. The final report by Townsend was received in December of 2004, and published in February 2005.

There has been considerable pressure on Industry Canada to complete its policy document (CPC 2 0 03). The IC response must address the 34 Townsend recommendations as well as concerns of the IC working environment (regions and districts).

Industry Canada does not plan on conducting any more formal consultations, but will concentrate on the final policy. IC has started the policy amendment and has met with key stakeholders. IC is currently working on another version, aimed at mid-November 2005.

IC plans to go through the document to address the concerns of the CWTA and municipalities in a working group that will be held 16th to the 18th of November 2005 in Ottawa. This working group is a result of suggestions by broadcasters and wireless groups.

The ultimate goal is to release the document before end of the fiscal year.

Jim Dean agreed to represent the amateurs at the working group.

7. Update on RAC Youth Education Program (RAC)

Jim Dean gave a brief presentation on the status of this program on behalf of BJ Madsen.

8. IC Response to the RAC Proposal on Morse code and Related Matters (RAC) (final)

This has been finalized, gazetted July 28, 2005. Industry Canada addressed briefly the call sign data base and the means that it has chosen as an interim measure to indicate the Basic with Honours sub-classification.

* **Action Item:** IC will advise RAC of the actions that it will be taking on the long-term plans for the meaning of the distinction between Basic and Basic with Honours amateur qualifications.

9. IC Response to the RAC Proposal on Call Sign Formulation (RAC) (final)

Industry Canada has modified RIC-9 based on comments received from RAC following changes introduced at WRC-2003 dealing with amateur call signs. A provisional version of the amended RIC has been released.

10. Administration of the Amateur Service Centre (IC and RAC)

This was a general discussion relating to administrative issues involving the call sign data base, and presentation of this information on the Internet.

11. Accredited Examiners and Examinations (RAC and IC)

Jim Dean provided a summary of the confusion that has existed on the part of the examiners with respect to renewing their accreditation. RIC-1 requires Accredited Examiners to be sponsored by a club. RAC agrees with this principle but it presents a problem of accreditation to potential new examiners who do not have a local sponsoring club. RAC will examine the possibility of acting as sponsor for such examiners.

* **Action Item:** RAC to examine and report on the implications of its acting as a sponsor for potential new Accredited Examiners who do not have a local club to sponsor them. RAC expressed concern over Industry Canada's stated intention to use and publish Accredited Examiners' birth-dates to indicate when they need to renew their accreditation. Guy Roy advised that this will be changed to use only the month. This would be satisfactory to RAC.

* **Action Item: Industry Canada to implement use of birth month only to indicate to an Accredited Examiner the date for re-accreditation.** RAC asked Industry Canada to give Accredited Examiners guidance on replacing examination questions now in error because of the changes in Morse Code requirements. Industry Canada agreed to do so.

* **Action Item:** Industry Canada to draft a communiqué for e-mail distribution to Accredited Examiners giving them a clear statement that in those instances substitution from the same examination question module is acceptable.

12. Impact of Morse Decisions on Reciprocal Operating Arrangements (RAC and IC)

***Action Item:** Industry Canada to build an amendment to the FAQ, and send to RAC, that clarifies the situation with the Basic with Honours holders with respect to their privileges while in the US under treaty 7.

13. Future Restructuring of the Amateur Service in Canada

RAC asked whether creating entry level and intermediate level certificates would require amendment of the Radiocommunication Regulations to accept such new certificates. Industry Canada advised that they would require an amendment.

RAC asked for the Department's view on a restructuring proposal should the RAC propose one. Industry Canada advised that the Department would consider any proposal by the RAC but that it should be as a comprehensive single proposal rather than a series of proposals for incremental changes.

14. Interference Situation – Vancouver (RAC)

Ed Frazer presented an overview on the progress that has been made since the last update at CARAB 24 on the interference problems that have 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 continue 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.

Ed Frazer tabled a summary of the incidents and has asked that IC consider some enforcement measures in the case of the isolated individuals who continue to flout the rules.

15. RAC News

Earle Smith introduced changes that will be coming at the RAC. The new RAC Quebec director will be Noel Marcil, VE2BR.

First Vice President will remain the same, John Iliffe, VE3CES. Joe Parkinson, VE3JG, will be the Vice President Industrial Liason. The Vice President International Affairs will be Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, who is also active with the IARU. Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, will be the new Vice President of Field Services. Sue Cooke, VE3SUH, will be the new Secretary.

Earle Smith gave a brief review of his trip to Mexico where he attended the amateur radio convention hosted by the Mexican national amateur radio society.

16. Industry Canada News

Earl Hoeg gave a summary of upcoming consultations that may be of interest. He mentioned that the consultation on the 220 MHz band will be coming out soon, as part of the larger consultation on bands below 1 GHz.

Also, there will be a consultation on public safety spectrum at 4.9 GHz, as well as consultation on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), operating on 5.9 GHz. Hughes Nappert mentioned RSS-102 as just having been released, something about which amateurs should be aware. RSS-102 is Radio Frequency Exposure Compliance of Radiocommunication Apparatus (All Frequency Bands).

Guy Roy gave an update on changes in the staff situation at the Amateur Radio Service Centre.

Jonathan Lafrenière will be replacing Marc Cardinal, and the Centre has obtained a temporary staff position.

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

Tentative Date in the first week of May 2006.

18. CARAB Communiqué

A communiqué summarizing the meeting highlights was prepared and will be

distributed by the RAC as a bulletin and in The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine.

19. Adjournment

The 25th meeting of the CARAB was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.