

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

Date: October 26, 2006

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

Place: Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Earle Smith,
President, Radio Amateurs of Canada

Participants:

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Earle Smith VE6NM, President
Ed Frazer VE7EF, Director, BC and Yukon
Brian Nilsson VE6RNR – Director, Alberta, NWT and Nunavut
Richard Ferch VE3IAY, Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs
Joe Parkinson VE3JG, Vice-President, Industrial Liaison
Daniel Lamoureux VE2KA, Vice-President, International Affairs
Jim Dean VE3IQ, Special Advisor for WRC-2007

Industry Canada (IC):

Peter Hill, Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Rene Guerrette, Manager, Amateur Radio Service Centre
Hugh Nappert, Manager, Radio Equipment Standards
Paul Lajoie, Spectrum Management Operations – Acting Manager
Gary Steckly, Technical Policy Analyst, Spectrum Management Operations

ITEMS

1. Welcome and Introductions

Earle Smith 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.

3. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes of CARAB 26

The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

4 Action Item review

Deleted: ¶

There were two action items from CARAB 26. IC was to provide an update on the status of the Ontario working group working on protocols and IC was to contact CEPT in order to resolve the outstanding issues with respect to the status of the Canadian Licenses and how they would be interpreted by CEPT in light of the code changes.

The working group has a draft protocol, however, as this file is currently in a holding status, little can be done until we receive the orders to publish (item 5 below).

While IC provided CEPT with information on how the Canadian amateur certificate structure was amended to deal with a relaxed Morse code requirement, however, the Canadian certificate status has not yet been updated in Appendix IV of TR-61/01. IC will continue to explore this with CEPT.

5. Status of the Draft Tower Policy (Peter Hill)

Peter Hill provided a brief update on the internal status of the tower consultation. IC is ready to go now, with the publishing of a final document, which is considerably leaner and easier to understand. IC staff is awaiting approval to publish from senior management.

IC is planning for a six month implementation time frame, to allow sufficient time for everyone to come up to speed on the policy. There may be some consultation after the release of the document.

There are several fundamental principles which make up the backbone of the policy:

- 1- Public consultation on significant installations - aesthetics, safety code 6 concerns etc. and the land use authority will have a role to play.
- 2- Universality - there will be no attempts to define different categories of antennas – an antenna is an antenna, – whether it is installed by amateurs or commercial interests
- 3- Sharing -the department firmly believes in the concept of tower sharing should be mandated to the extent possible. This will affect commercial carriers and broadcasting primarily
- 4- Exclusions - while there are some exemptions from consideration there are no exceptions.

Questions:

Jim Dean had a further question about the default protocols stemming from the stakeholders meeting. He has heard that these protocols were not well received in Ontario, but he has heard

that in those instances where a municipality did not want to follow the IC default protocol, they could create their own which would be accepted providing they were written.

Peter clarified that for towers that have not been excluded from the procedures, public consultation is required. This consultation will either occur under the protocol of the local land use authority or it will have to follow our default consultation guidelines, however, any overriding municipal protocol would need to be formalized in writing.

Richard Ferch sought further elaboration on exemptions. Peter responded that this would be based on relative sizes of the particular antenna, and issues such as the structure it is attached to (i.e. a small antenna attached to a large building), and not broad class of service (eg. "amateur").

6. Suggestions for Revisions to IC documents (RAC)

Richard Ferch raised the matter of the need for updating of certain amateur publications. RIC-2 has certain discrepancies with respect to the frequency bands in the schedule not being in agreement with the current Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations following the changes introduced at WARC-2003 (specifically at 220 MHz as well as those bands above 50 GHz).

Paul Lajoie informed the committee of a project that has been undertaken this year to perform a comprehensive review of all publications distributed by the sector, and update those documents needing revision by the end of next year.

RIC 7 and 8 are also in need of revision/correction as there are several questions that are not in agreement with questions as they appear in the Examgenerator software. RAC has supplied a list of these discrepancies to IC.

RIC-9 also requires a few typographic revisions, and perhaps small adjustments to the policy. Rene Guerrette mentioned that there has been considerable pressure on the call sign blocks for special events. We just don't have sufficient blocks to accommodate all the demands that have been submitted for certain events, so this policy may need to be reviewed.

RIC-1 Instructions to examiners should be updated by early next fiscal year (March/April).

ACTION ITEM: Industry Canada will undertake the correction of RIC 7 and 8 this year, as well, they will post a new version of the Examgenerator software on Strategis. A target date of January 2007 has been set for the completion of this revision.

Rene Guerrette will endeavor to have RIC-1 updated by early next fiscal year.

7. Call Sign Considerations (discussion)

This item was discussed above in the context of document updates

8. Administration of the Amateur Service (IC & RAC)

Jim Dean enquired as to how the work for the contract for the administration of the call sign data base has progressed.

Rene Guerrette gave a short presentation outlining the deliverables in the contract and the status of the various components. Within 45 days of the signing of the contract, RAQI had the domains of Callsign.ca and Indicatif.ca reserved and by the time the first 90 day deliverable had arrived, this service was on line and running well. The web service does not attempt to duplicate the IC common look and feel, but starts with a disclaimer that advises the client that they have left the Govt. of Canada domain.

The on-line services available will be change of address, first call sign request and delegated examiner request. RAQI has also provided us with an on-line software package that allows IC to register the special event call signs on the web site, saving considerable time and effort. This file is shared with RAC for distribution on their web site.

9. Service Levels and enforcement issues (RAC)

Richard Ferch summarized this issue with a brief statement to the effect that the amateur community in general feels that the level of service that they received in the past (prior to the amateur license exemption) with respect to resolving interference problems, has diminished noticeably. Earle Smith reinforced this, and emphasized that it is a fairly wide held belief amongst the community that this is directly attributable to the fact that Amateurs are no longer a licensed service. Ed Frazer added that there seems to be a direct connection between the licensing issue and the trend towards less than reliable data on the number of active amateurs. The numbers seem to be inflated, with many more amateurs in the data base than are actually in existence (silent keys etc.)

Rene Guerrette suggested that these inflated numbers could be culled from the data base by removing any amateurs over a certain age. Ed felt that it would be valuable to have a report created (on a one time basis) for demographic purposes, of the number of amateurs broken down by each year. Rene felt that this would be possible.

Rene Guerrette presented statistics from the Amateur Service Centre, giving a summary showing the number of active amateurs as well as the number of active clubs, highlighting the growth that occurred between the first and second quarters of the year. As well, data on call signs issued as well as call signs placed in NOK (next of kin) status were discussed. This number in particular perhaps best indicates overall growth in the service.

Ed Frazer delivered a presentation on the status of efforts taken by the Greater Vancouver Repeater Council to remedy the interference that has been so prevalent recently in the area. Issues like high power wireless telephones operating on the input of one of the local repeaters were discussed, as well as the response taken by the Vancouver office of IC to resolve the matter. Special note was made of the effectiveness of the repeater coordination council, and the good working relationship that exists by virtue of the memorandum of understanding between IC

and the council, which essentially set up the terms under which these kinds of issues are dealt with.

A general discussion on enforcement issues ensued.

*** Action Item - Rene Guerrette will endeavor to provide RAC with Statistics relating to age distribution of Radio Amateurs in order to better determine the actual numbers certificate holders.**

10. Impact of Morse decisions on reciprocal operating arrangements (RAC and IC)

Richard Ferch reiterated the need to clarify the details of the CEPT and IARP agreements in light of the changes to the Canadian Certificate structure with respect to Canada's appearance in the list of Countries in TR 61/01.

***Action Item**

IC to contact CEPT regarding the Morse qualifications and determine how it impacts the certificates. Find out precisely how the Morse changes will be resolved with respect to TR 61.01. Also, determine how non-CEPT countries signatory to CEPT, deal amongst themselves.

11. Future restructuring of the Amateur Service in Canada - Update (RAC and IC)

Jim Dean presented a brief summary of the levels of success experienced in those countries that have introduced a foundation license. Following their presentation made at CARAB 26, where RAC indicated its intent to conduct a survey to gauge the level of interest in pursuing something similar in Canada, this survey is now in progress, and to date, more than 2000 responses have been submitted. The survey is scheduled to be complete by October 31, after which the results will be published and a report made to the RAC Board. Should there be sufficient interest in pursuing regulatory changes to introduce something similar in Canada, RAC plans to make a presentation to IC in that respect, recognizing that further changes to the certificate structure in Canada would require a regulatory review of the present certificate structure.

Paul Lajoie noted that if such a review were considered, it would likely need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive review of the entire certificate process, including professional certificates which may benefit by amendments to take into consideration changes that have occurred in the professional area with the implementation of such technologies as GMDSS and DSC.

12. Youth education Program – Update (RAC)

Jim Dean delivered an update on the status of the RAC Youth Education Program (YEP). He noted that it continues to be popular with members and participants

13. Recent Developments Affecting the Amateur Service in Canada (RAC/IC)

Jim Dean delivered a brief summary of the work that has been going on with respect to the upcoming WARC 2007 item proposing a new amateur allocation at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz with emissions limited to 1 watt. There are some concerns by Canadian users of these bands (Hydro Quebec) that a Canadian allocation on these frequencies could cause interference to their operations.

A report produced by Hydro Quebec concludes that there would be little potential for harmful interference from Canadian amateurs providing they are no closer than 1 kilometer to a power line that makes use of the 137 kHz system, and that there should be some consideration to establishing a graduated curve to ensure that no transmitter directly under a line would exceed 60 mw.

14. RAC News

Richard Ferch mentioned the need to re-examine the current delegation from the Minister to RAC in the matter of issuing CEPT and IARP authorization. The current delegation is believed to be too specific, perhaps limiting the exercise of that authority to only one individual. If possible, RAC believes this should be extended to the corporation, to ensure continuity in the event of personnel changes.

Action Item: IC will examine the manner in which the present delegation is worded and if changes are necessary, undertake any such amendments.

Earle Smith reiterated the importance of exploring the potential for developing synergy between the various public safety groups, and indicated that RAC was fully prepared to do what it can to facilitate this work.

15. Industry Canada News

TPRP – Telecom Policy Review Panel

There are a number of individuals in Industry Canada currently focused on addressing the recommendations of the TPRP. While the Minister has publicly stated that Spectrum Management will not be merged with the CRTC, there are other options still on the table.

Overview of Emergency Services

Peter Hill gave a short overview of the emergency structure within IC and indicated that the present Director of Regulatory Policy and Planning, Chaouki Dakdouki (DRP), would like to explore opportunities with the Amateur Radio community. Peter suggested that the opportunity to set up a follow up meeting with Chaouki would be welcomed.

Jim Dean added that RAC has been looking for an opportunity to enter into discussions with government to explore how the amateur community might be better situated to assist in emergency situations. He noted that he and Ken Pulfer have been attending various meetings in

preparation for WRC-2003 and did a lot of preparatory work within the Radio Advisory Board, specifically the public safety subcommittee of the fixed wireless group who are quite active in the discussion involving the 700 MHz band. Canadian amateurs are quite involved in pre-emergency (preparedness) work, and added that the amateur community feels that they could contribute more in this area, in return for the spectrum allocations that they receive internationally. He welcomed the opportunity to pursue these discussions with DRP.

New faces in DOS:

There are a number of retirements on the horizon, so that fact coupled with recent staffing constraints left IC with quite a challenge. Marc Dupuis has taken over Veena Rawatt's old job of as Deputy Director-General Spectrum Engineering. Len St. Aubin is now the Director General of Telecom Policy, and Guy Mitchell is the new Director of Spectrum and Radio Services Policy. Bob McCauchern has indicated that he will be retiring after the next WARC.

16. Preparation for the next CARAB meeting

Tentative Date: May 2, 2007

17. CARAB Communiqué

RAC proposed to prepare a communiqué summarizing the meeting highlights to be distributed by RAC as a bulletin and in The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine.

18. Adjournment

The 27th meeting of the CARAB was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Action Item Summary CARAB27

- 1) - Industry Canada will undertake the correction of RIC 7 and 8 this year, as well, they will post a new version of the Examgenerator software on Strategis. A target date of January 2007 has been set for the completion of this revision.**
- 2) - Rene Guerrette will endeavor to have RIC-1 updated by early next fiscal year.**
- 3) - IC to contact CEPT regarding the Morse qualifications and determine how it impacts the certificates. Find out precisely how the Morse changes will be resolved with respect to TR 61.01. Also, determine how non-CEPT countries signatory to CEPT, deal amongst themselves.**
- 4) - IC will examine the manner in which the present Ministerial delegation regarding CEPT and IARP is worded and if changes are necessary, undertake any such amendments.**

5) – Rene Guerrette will endeavor to provide RAC with Statistics relating to age distribution of Radio Amateurs in order to better determine the actual numbers certificate holders.