

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

Date: May 2, 2007

Time: 0900 - 1400

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

Chair: Jim Thiessen,
Policy Analyst Operational Policy
Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch
Industry Canada

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):
Earle Smith, VE6NM - President
Ed Frazer, VE7EF – Director, BC and Yukon
Joseph Parkinson, VE3JG – Vice President Industrial Liaison
Sue Cooke VE3SUH – Secretary
R.D. (Bob) Cooke, VE3BDB/VE3BD – Vice President Field Services
Dave Parks VE3AV – Treasurer
Bjarne (Bj) Madsen VE5FX Director – Midwest Region
Jim Dean, VE3IQ – former Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs

Industry Canada (IC):

Jim Thiessen, Policy Analyst Operational Policy
Gary Steckly, Technical Policy Analyst, Spectrum Management Operations
Guy Roy, Eastern Ontario District, (Amateur Radio Service Centre)
Rob Cepella, Technical Policy Analyst Operational Policy
John Kluver - Emergency Telecommunications Planning Officer (Arrived at 11AM)
Luc Lemieux - Emergency Telecommunications Planning Officer (Arrived at 11AM)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman for today's meeting, Jim Thiessen, relayed the regrets of Peter Hill, Director Spectrum Management Operations, who could not attend as a result of other commitments. This was followed by introductions by all participants.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with minor corrections to schedule presentations

3. Acceptance of the 26 October, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

4. Review of Action Items from the 26 October, 2006 Meeting

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 had been set for the completion of this revision.

A new version of the exam generator software and RIC 7 and 8 has been posted to Strategis

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

RIC-1 is in the process of revision as part of the more extensive document review exercise currently underway.

3) - IC to contact CEPT regarding the Morse qualifications and determine how it impacts the certificates.

We have clarified Canada's intent to recognize the non-code CEPT certificates on par with the Advanced amateur qualification for visitors in Canada, while underlying the fact that Canada has retained a Morse qualification for those amateurs who want to maintain parity with countries who have not dropped the code

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.

Copy of the original delegation has been obtained from archives, and reviewed.
The existing delegation is adequate.

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.

This has been delivered.

5. Emergency Communications – The View from IC (IC)

John Kløver and Luc Lemieux gave a presentation on Industry Canada's role with respect to emergency preparedness. For additional information refer to <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/et-tdu.nsf/en/Home>

6. IC policy on antenna support structures (IC and RAC)

Jim Thiessen informed the Advisory Board members that the policy document on antenna structures continues to be under review by senior management at Industry Canada. The timetable for release of this document has not been set nor can final details of the document be released at this time.

Jim Dean provided a summary of some ongoing tower issues and in particular noted that in Calgary, the municipality does not seem to be following established protocols (Calgary Protocol), nor is support being given by Industry Canada. He indicated as well that each municipality deals with tower issues differently and that guidelines are needed for municipalities across the country.

Rob Cepella indicated that there is support for such a guideline, however a foundation is needed, and that is the updated policy paper on antenna structures when it is released. He further indicated that that with respect to local issues, the current policy continues in force and as such the local office should be able to play a role to assist with mediation where there is an impasse or disagreement.

7. Service levels and enforcement Issues (RAC)

There is a growing perception amongst the amateur community, that since the de-licensing of the amateur service, Industry Canada has been paying less attention to their needs, particularly in the

area of enforcement. RAC gave two presentations that they felt demonstrated this issue:

- 1) - Interference from 902MHz meter reading systems in the Chatham area,
- 2) – Updates on the enforcement concerns in British Columbia

With respect to the 902 issue, Gerry Briggs offered to conduct an analysis of the effects of aggregate interference, recognizing that operations for all parties in this spectrum are on a no protection no interference basis.

Action Item: RAC will send a comprehensive note to IC London office advising of the details of the issue.

With respect to the interference issues in British Columbia, Ed Fraser gave an update on the various issues concerning the amateur in the Vancouver area and the results that the Greater Vancouver amateur radio council has been having in their efforts to resolve these various problems.

8. Interference issues and BPL (RAC)

Gerry Briggs gave a brief update on issues relevant to BPL. The consultation has been out since 2005 however a policy has not yet been released, however they are optimistic that something should be delivered within the next six months or so. The devices being approved in other countries (US) have provisions to notch to 20 dB, any bands of concern. The Canadian companies consulted will likely have 40 dB notch capability, so they are optimistic that any problems encountered from these systems in Canada will be correctible.

9. Administration of the Amateur Service (IC and RAC)

Guy Roy provided an update on what is happening at the ARSC in the area of staff turnover and status of the contract for the on-line service delivery project.

RAC suggested it would be advantageous if IC could initiate more email communiqués with the delegated examiners. IC agreed this would be beneficial and agreed that we would endeavour to increase the rate of our mass emailings. Guy Roy agreed to begin with an email to advise of the exam-generator revisions.

10. Call sign considerations (RAC)

There have been few development in this area since the last CARAB, however

RAC expressed their interest in meeting with Rene to resolve any remaining issues in the RIC-9 with respect to special event issues.

11. Revisions to IC documents (IC)

RIC-7 and 8 have gone through the document review process and the remaining errors have been addressed. Also, a new version of the exam-generator software has been compiled from the content of RIC 7 and 8.

RICs 1, 2 and 3 are under review and will be following the current document review process. The main issues revolve around integration of the new non-code qualifications in the US with our existing bilateral operations as established by the treaty and further expanded upon in the circulars.

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

See the discussion in item 11 above.

13. International developments (RAC)

Jim Dean spoke to this issue, in the context of preparations for WRC-2007. Jim thanked Industry Canada for the fine level of cooperation they have been receiving on amateur items.

There are two issues of interest:

- 1) - new band at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz
- 2) - agenda item 1.13 review of services in the 4 – 10 MHz range

14. Future restructuring of the Amateur Service in Canada – Update (RAC)

Bj Madsen gave a presentation of the results of the survey they conducted to explore the potential of the creation of a new foundation class amateur qualification, comparable to the foundation certificates recently introduced in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Jim Thanked RAC for the hard work they did in gathering this information and bringing it to our attention for consideration. He suggested that a meeting be set up at a later date with Peter Hill and our regulatory group to discuss the implications of such a move, as well as

to examine the regulatory requirements that such a plan would entail. Jim emphasized the need to streamline the details of any such initiative as it would be a difficult plan to promote if it entailed significant increases in the administration of the amateur service.

15. Youth Education Program - Update (RAC)

BJ Madsen gave a brief update on the status of this initiative. It continues to receive a high level of support and appreciation by amateur clubs and schools participating in the program.

16. Presentation on new digital voice technologies in amateur radio (RAC)

Doug Leech gave a presentation on the developments surrounding the innovation of the D-Star radio innovation - a digital voice and data protocol specification developed for use in amateur radio VHF and UHF amateur radio bands. In addition to the over-the-air protocol, D-Star also provides specifications for network connectivity, enabling D-Star radios to be connected to the Internet or other networks

17. Recent developments affecting the Amateur Radio Service in Canada (IC and RAC)

RAC gave a brief review of the effects observed since the recent removal of the 80 metre sub-allocations. There have been some issues with net operations, when net moderators have encountered occupied spectrum at the appointed time of the net operations, however, the reality of spectrum congestion within non-assigned spectrum such as the amateur bands requires that everyone must increase efforts to co-exist peacefully with as little interference as possible.

18. RAC / IC news (RAC)

Richard Ferch addressed the staff changes that have occurred at RAC. The recent passing of RAC's General Manager Deborah Norman had an impact that is still being felt, as she will be greatly missed and very difficult to replace. There will be various changes in executive positions within RAC this year as Earle Smith has announced his intentions to retire. Jim Dean announced that the RAC annual general meeting will be held in Ottawa (Carp Fair Ground) on the labour day weekend in conjunction with the annual amateur flea market.

Industry Canada news (IC)

Jim gave a brief update on changes within IC. Jan Skora, our current Director General has announced his plans to retire in July. Mike Connolly will be acting as Director General immediately in anticipation of Jans departure.

Nadia Lombardi, manager of operations has returned from language training and Tom Jones will be joining the regulatory group that develops and implements new regulation sometime in June.

Jim mentioned the upcoming auction for spectrum for advanced wireless services.

19. Preparation for the 29th CARAB Meeting - Date, Time and Place.

Tentatively scheduled for October 24th, with a pre-meeting on October 22.

20. Preparation of Post-CARAB Communiqué

Richard Ferch will be preparing the Communiqué for publication in the Canadian Amateur magazine.

21. Adjournment