

Minutes

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

Date: October 24, 2007

Time: 0900 - 1300

Place:

Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Earle Smith, VE6NM
President, RAC

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Earle Smith, VE6NM – President

Ed Frazer, VE7EF – Director, BC and Yukon

Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ – Director, Ontario North and East

Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA – Vice President International Affairs

R.D. (Bob) Cooke, VE3BDB/VE3BD – Vice President Field Services

Dave Parks, VE3AV – Treasurer

Richard Ferch VE3KI/VE3IAY – Vice President Regulatory Affairs

Industry Canada (IC):

Peter Hill, Director, Spectrum Management Operations

Nadia Lombardi, Manager, Spectrum Management Operational Policy

Gary Steckly VE3ZGS, Technical Policy Analyst, Operational Policy

Rob Cepella VE3HCC, Technical Policy Analyst Operational Policy

René Guerrette, Director, Amateur Radio Service Centre

1. Welcome and Introductions

Earle Smith welcomed everyone to the 29th meeting of CARAB

| 2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

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Dave Goodwin suggested that two subjects be added under item 9 – integrity of the callsign data base and 2 x 1 callsigns for contesters.

| 3. Acceptance of the 26 October, 2006 Meeting Minutes

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The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

| 4. Review of Action Items from the CARAB 28, May 2, 2007 Meeting

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1) – 902 MHz Automated Meter Reader effects on amateur operations in shared spectrum in Western Ontario

Peter Hill addressed the situation. Utilities are being encouraged to seek technologies in licensed spectrum for their own benefit as well as the existing users of this licence-exempt spectrum. Just as their operations can have an impact on amateur operations, it is equally possible that their operations might be affected at some point in time. This spectrum might not be the best choice for systems that are integral to their operations.

2) – Administration of the Amateur service centre – enhanced communications with accredited examiners.

A communique has been sent to the accredited examiners and we will continue to look for opportunities for more contact.

3) Arrange a meeting for preliminary discussions on restructuring of the Amateur service.

RAC met with Industry Canada in September to discuss those issues and how best to proceed with a proposal for a novice certificate.

| 5. Emergency Communications – RAC

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Bob Cooke expressed his hope that Industry Canada might continue efforts in facilitating amateur interoperability with other emergency agencies. He presented a paper entitled Amateur Radio and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service – an overview of a community radio resource. He reinforced his readiness to meet with the director of the emergency services whenever this could be arranged.

Daniel Lamoureux gave a brief summary of the event at Signal Hill on September 29/30,

demonstrating the cooperation that could be achieved between Canadian and US amateurs, and emphasizing the potential for effective emergency communications with simulated emergency situations. Earle Smith noted that DFAIT have serious concerns for the safety of the large number of Canadians who reside south of the Mason Dixon line at any given time, and are encouraging amateurs to participate in these activities.

Action Item – coordinate a meeting to meet with IC emergency directorate

6. Interference Enforcement Issues (IC and RAC)

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Ed Frazer presented a brief summary of the issues that occurred in the Pacific region, but noted that the situation has improved with the increased communication between the Surrey IC office and the Greater Vancouver Amateur Radio Council, representing various amateur groups.

RAC has also met with the Olympic committee in an effort to determine how the amateur community can best assist in that event. It was noted that there is a need for communications specialists to coordinate the large influx of foreign radio devices.

7. Administration of the Amateur Service (IC/ARSC)

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René Guerrette gave a short summary of the staffing issues at the office and the measures that are being taken to resolve those challenges. He also gave an update on the amateur statistics with respect to new amateurs, clubs, call signs issued as well as the number of silent keys. He noted that there have been 20 new accredited examiners added to the ranks in the past year. A lively discussion ensued on issues related to accreditation of examiners and other enhancements of various services provided at the centre, as well as those services delivered via the online (callsign.ca) facility.

8. Call sign considerations (RAC)

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Dave Goodwin raised the issue of the considerable uncertainty in the number of amateurs who remain in the data base after they are deceased, due to the extensive period of time (125 years) that is built into the system for automatically purging old records and making old calls available for reassignment. Richard Ferch noted that this also costs RAC as their contributions to the IARU are based on those numbers. Dave Goodwin asked whether or not Canada could implement a policy whereby we introduce a callsign renewal period whereby the holder would need to advise the department of his continued interest in maintaining his call. René Guerrette observed that there would be considerable cost to the department in introducing such a change. A discussion ensued. Peter Hill suggested that IC will give the issue more consideration and try

to come up with a solution that doesn't involve new fees or regulations, as those options would not be received well.

RIC-9 and Unique 2x1 Call Signs

Dave Goodwin noted that the reaction from the contest community was mixed. While amateurs were pleased that they were now on par with other administrations in this respect, some of the rules for obtaining these calls were perceived to be rather arcane. Also, there is a historical attachment to the VO prefix and they would like to see other VO blocks opened up, as is the case in the Yukon and PEI where VY and CY are the norm, they would like to see 2x1 call signs authorized utilizing more of those options. Also, there are some troublesome issues involving renewing these contest calls when a full year hasn't transpired.

René Guerrette observed that this isn't really a spectrum management issue, and it could set up conflicts amongst testers and groups seeking special event calls. However as long as this proposal is endorsed by RAC, it would be considered in the revisions to RIC-9.

| 9. Impact of Morse Decisions on Reciprocal Operating Arrangements (IC and RAC)

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There was a brief discussion on the impact of the changes to the regulations on Morse code in the amateur service, and how best to address changes that have been introduced in the US and other countries.

| 10. Revisions to IC documents (IC)

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René Guerrette indicated that staff shortages had impacted on IC's plans to amend RIC 1 and RIC 9, but they hoped to have this resolved shortly.

Copies of draft changes to RIC 3 and RBR 4 were distributed for discussion. There was some debate on how best to resolve the issue of amateur sharing the spectrum in emergency situations with the primary users.

Dave Goodwin suggested that it might be beneficial to insert a reference in the RBR referring to the Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations as the primary source of information regarding band changes as this document normally precedes the amateur standard.

RB4 items 11 and 12 should be corrected to indicate VO rather than V0

| 11. Antenna Support Systems CPC Update (IC)

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Peter Hill presented a brief update on the status of the Tower Policy and the launch of the new procedures. Also, IC has posted a Q&A on its web site that was jointly produced with Health Canada, which treats the Safety Code 6 issues.

Additionally, IC has worked on a protocol guide to aid municipalities and land use authorities in establishing their local rules and bylaws which should be available shortly. Discussion ensued.

Ed Frazer delivered a short presentation on a case in the Pacific region between an amateur and the municipality that demonstrates the kinds of issues that can arise when structural issues are raised in the context of amateur radio towers.

| 12. Future Restructuring of the Amateur Service in Canada - Update (RAC)

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RAC will be continuing their efforts to complete a proposal for consideration by IC.

| 13. Youth Education Update

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Earle Smith gave an update on the status of the youth education program. It continues to grow and is receiving good acceptance.

| 14. RAC News

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Earle Smith informed the committee that his term as President would be ending on December 31, at which time Dave Goodwin will taking his place. Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, will be taking on the position of Vice President of Industrial Liaison. Guy Richard, VE2XTD, who is also current VP of RAQI, will be taking on the position of First Vice President of RAC. Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW, will be the new manager of the RAC office.

| 15. Industry Canada News

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Peter Hill informed the committee of various staff related changes that have occurred. Jan Skora has retired and will be replaced by Michael Connolly. Bob McCaughern will be retiring in the summer.

René Guerrette gave an update on the changes that have occurred within the Ontario region.

| 16. Preparation for the 30th Carab Meeting – Date Time Place

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The 30th CARAB meeting was tentatively scheduled for the week of April 28, 2008 at a place to be determined later.

| 17. Preparation of Post Carab Communique

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| 18. Adjournment

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