

31st MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)

Date: October 29, 2008

Time: 0900 - 1300

Place: Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Mr. Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ
President
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU - President
Richard Ferch VE3KI/VE3IAY - Vice President Regulatory Affairs
Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC - Vice President Industrial Liaison
Special Advisors Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN and Jim Dean, VE3IQ

Industry Canada (IC):

Peter Hill, Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Gilles Rathier, Manager, Operational Policy
René Guerrette, Director, Amateur Radio Service Centre
Gary Steckly VE3ZGS, Technical Policy Analyst, Operational Policy
Joanne Poulin, Technical Policy Analyst, Operational Policy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dave Goodwin welcomed everyone to the 31st meeting of CARAB, followed by introductions of participants.

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted with minor changes in the order of the items to accommodate the schedules of some participants.

2. Acceptance of the 1 May, 2008 Meeting Minutes

A minor change to the minutes was proposed and accepted by all. The minutes are

accepted with the minor modification.

3. Review of Action Items from the 1 May, 2008 Meeting

The group decided that the action items would be reviewed as the particular issues arise during the course of the meeting since all items are included in the agenda.

4. Emergency Communications – RAC

Communications between RAC and Nadia Lombardi (DRP-E) with regards to Emergency Communications are ongoing. RAC has not had the opportunity to meet with DRP-E therefore there is nothing new to report.

5. Administration of the Amateur Service (IC)

IC announced that the Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) has moved its daily operations (certificate printing, answering phone calls etc.) to the Sault Ste. Marie office. This is purely an internal change, completely transparent to the clients being served. Services offered should improve significantly due to low employee turnaround in this office.

RAC would like to present a proposal to IC at the next CARAB to take over the administrative functions of the ARSC. IC has indicated that a proposal would be needed much sooner than that due to the fact that the operation of the centre is currently under review for Common Look and Feel 2.0 (CLF 2.0) and the expiration of the callsign.ca website contract with RAQI in October 2009. There were discussions of the preferred method to do this (Contract vs. Delegation); delegation seemed to be the most appropriate route to explore.

Action Items: - IC to provide RAC with advice regarding constraints, benefits, cost recovery, etc. within the next couple of weeks.

- RAC to present a proposal to IC by March 2009.

6. Call Sign Considerations (RAC)

RAC was looking for an update on this proposal. IC indicated to RAC that this proposal is not a priority at the moment therefore they will not entertain this option at this time. RAC may resubmit the proposal in a couple of years or they could include this as part of their proposal to take over the ARSC.

7. Revisions to IC Documents (IC)

- RIC-1 has been completed and should be posted on Strategis shortly.
- RIC-3: It was identified that there are many issues relating to how new technologies such as IRLP and Echolink could be used by certificate holders with different qualifications. Many current restrictions in policy stem from policies dating back decades. It was proposed that a working group be established to address those issues and create a broad policy statement that could more easily adapt to new technologies.
- RBR-4: RAC and IC have met (as proposed as an action item at the last CARAB) to review the elements that need to be addressed in the next amendment. IC is working towards having the document completed and Gazetted by the end of the year.

8. Reciprocal operating arrangements

RAC expressed a desire to simplify the process for issuing CEPT/IARP certificates (similar to the US method where it would be automatic and attached to the domestic Amateur certificate).

The possibility of a reference in RBR-4 that might achieve that goal was discussed. This would obviate the existing Ministerial delegation and require formal rescinding of that instrument.

There was a discussion of the status of existing bilateral agreements, and it was noted that there was uncertainty regarding the current arrangements with various states.

Action Item: - DOSP will investigate the possibility of a document that consolidates the various agreements.

9. Spectrum Issues (RAC)

The issues discussed are as follows:

135.7 – 137.8kHz: This file is currently with DGTP. IC's Publications group is currently working on the Allocation Table.

Action Items: - IC to inform RAC when the next revision of the Canadian Frequency Allocation Table will be issued for consultation (Guy Mitchell).

500kHz radio station licence in the developmental service: RAC has received the letter indicating that IC has approved the request with some modifications.

Action Item: RAC and IC to jointly develop working procedures and an application protocol to enable this to proceed.

5 MHz – 60m band: RAC has not yet sent a proposal to IC.

Action Item: RAC to send a proposal to IC for consideration of a domestic allocation like those in the US and the UK.

10. Interference Issues (IC)

RAC asked IC if there was anything that could be done with regards to ongoing problems with certain amateurs in BC. RAC continues to receive complaints regarding behaviour on the airwaves. IC advised RAC that the local IC office in Vancouver has been dealing with complaints.

Action Item: IC will consult with the Pacific Region and provide an update to RAC.

11. Industry Canada Antenna Support Structure Policy and Application (RAC, IC)

The group engaged in a discussion about the Antenna Support Structure Policy and Application and RAC discussed some specific situations that are occurring across the country. IC strongly encouraged RAC to contact IC when a specific antenna problem is arising between an individual and a proponent to help avoid escalation and potential court battles.

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

RAC asked IC what type of information is required and what direction they should take when preparing their proposal for the future restructuring of the Amateur Service in Canada since it will most likely bring on legislative changes. Some of the issues that need to be addressed in the proposal are topics such as having to substantiate the need for this change, the motivation for this change and which issues will this address. IC will review the proposal and advise whether they are willing to move forward.

Action Item: RAC to prepare proposal and present to IC.

13. Youth Education Program – Update (RAC)

RAC presented an update on the status of the Youth Education Program. There will be a new leader for this program as Bj Madsen is stepping down.

14. RAC News

RAC advised of changes in personnel, including some of the regional Directors, executive members and office staffing issues.

15. Industry Canada News

Industry Canada welcomes their new Assistant Deputy Minister, Helen McDonald who replaces Kevin Lindsey. As well, Jim Thiessen has retired and Joanne Poulin has joined the group and will be shadowing Gary Steckly as part of the succession planning.

16. CARAB Terms of Reference (IC, RAC)

At the request of some members, this item will be discussed at the next CARAB meeting. However, posting of the CARAB meeting minutes was discussed. IC is under very stringent publishing constraints regarding CLF 2.0 requirements and will no longer be able to post minutes of the CARAB meetings on its website. IC will continue preparing and translating the minutes and RAC has agreed to post the bilingual minutes on their website.

17. Preparation for the 32nd CARAB Meeting – Date Time Place

The 32nd CARAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 25, 2009. Pre-CARAB would take place on Monday May 25, 2009 and CARAB on Wednesday May 27, 2009. There is a possibility that RAC will be in Sorel, QC for a meeting that week and they are considering requesting that IC join them in Sorel for the 32nd CARAB meeting.

Action Item: RAC is to determine the exact dates of their meeting in Sorel, QC and determine whether they would like to propose that the next CARAB meeting take place there rather than in Ottawa. If a meeting in Sorel, QC is not chosen, alternate dates for a meeting in Ottawa will need to be proposed.

18. Preparation of Post-CARAB Communiqué

A post-CARAB communiqué will be prepared by Richard Ferch for publication in the January/February issue of TCA. As is the usual practice, Industry Canada will review this communiqué before it is published.

19. Adjournment