

32nd MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)

Date: May 20, 2009

Time: 0830 - 1200

Place: Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Mr. Peter Hill
Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Industry Canada

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Bob Cooke VE3BDB, President
Richard Ferch VE3KI - Vice President Regulatory Affairs
Geoff Smith VA3GS, Director – Southern Ontario
Bill Unger VE3XT, Director – Ontario North and East
Special Advisors: 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
Paul Lajoie, Associate Manager, Satellite Authorization Policy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Peter Hill welcomed everyone to the 32nd meeting of CARAB, followed by introductions of participants.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Acceptance of the 29 October, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented.

4. Review of Action Items from the 29 October, 2008 Meeting

Action items from the last meeting:

5. Administration of the Amateur Service

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.

Update: RAC met with IC for a fact finding mission in February 2009. RAC has not yet presented a proposal to IC as they are not sure that taking on the entire function of the Service Centre is a viable one. There may be an opportunity to take on partial functions; RAC will look into the recommendations from the working group and submit a proposal if desired.

8. Reciprocal operating arrangements

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

Update: Gary found DFAIT's online documents which included treaties. He will see about integrating the link to the website in RIC-3. On a side note, it was mentioned that Canada does not have any arrangements with Australia however Australia specifically accepts Canadian licences. Australian visitors to Canada have been able to get permission to operate here by applying to the ARSC.

9. Spectrum Issues (RAC)

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

Update: The update to the Canadian Frequency Allocation Table has been issued for public consultation. The addition of the 135.7 – 137.8 allocation has been added to the RBR-4 draft. It still needs to be finalized.

Action Item: RAC and IC to jointly develop working procedures and an application protocol to enable the 500kHz applications for a licence in the Developmental Service to proceed.

Update: RAC to provide a sample application to IC so that a common application package can be used by potential applicants.

Action Item: RAC to send a proposal to IC for consideration of a domestic allocation in the 5MHz (60m band) like those in the US and the UK.

Update: RAC to complete proposal and submit to IC.

10. Interference Issues (IC)

Action Item: IC will consult with the Pacific Region about a particular amateur radio operator in BC and provide an update to RAC.

Update: The Pacific Region continues to monitor the situation. We continue to receive complaints from both sides of the border; however we do not currently have grounds to prosecute.

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

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

Update: RAC still working on putting a proposal together to submit to IC.

5. Administration of the Amateur Service (IC, RAC)

The idea of the RAC taking over the Amateur Centre was once again discussed. It was stated that IC is open to ideas, however, they have not received a proposal as of yet. There are many different options, but essentially it's going to come down to money. If RAC chose to submit a proposal to take over the Amateur Centre, a public consultation would be done, especially in light of a few letters we've received of concerned amateurs after the publishing of "A message from the President" in the March/April 2009 edition of "The Canadian Amateur".

RAC indicated that they are still looking at an in-house solution. Jim Dean met with the Task Force for the Amateur Radio Service Centre to discuss delegation options. Jim received stats from René and Jacques and proceeded to give a copy to all present.

Furthermore, IC reminded RAC that they are currently working on a new database for all certificates (Amateur and Professional) in Sault Ste. Marie because IC must have everything brought back in-house prior to the expiration of the contract with RAQI in Nov 2011.

In other business, RAC indicated that there seems to be an accredited examiner that is teaching students from an exam and then giving that same exam to the students when it is time to be

evaluated. RAC wondered if changes should be made to RIC-1. RAC was re-assured by IC that IC visited this examiner and it doesn't appear that this is what's happening so there is no need to change RIC-1.

Other fraud cases and Department actions were discussed. It was suggested that Department actions should be publicized to have an effect across the country. IC agreed that we should pursue this when possible however, if the case goes to court, we may not be able to publicize it. The ARSC is to advise DOS when there is something to be published.

6. Revisions to IC Documents (IC)

RBR-4: DGTP published Gazette Notice DGTP-003-009 for proposed revisions to CFAT – comment period ending May 9. RBR-4 has been amended to include new amateur spectrum subject to comments above. IC will investigate the possibility of including the CEPT & IARP authority on certificate to remove requirement for RAC to issue these certificates.

RIC-3: This RIC will be amended and published concurrently with the RBR-4

7. Reciprocal operating arrangements

CEPT and visitors from non-CEPT countries

A CEPT permit from Canada is accepted directly in CEPT countries, but according to CEPT T/R 61-01, in non-CEPT countries that have agreed to the permit we still need a separate bilateral agreement. Actually, the Australian and New Zealand “class licences” both specifically accept Canadian CEPT permits (according to the official website), but visitors from those countries need to request permission from the ARSC. The situation vis-à-vis Israel and South Africa, which have both signed on to CEPT T/R 61-01, is not clear.

Action Item: Amend RIC-3 to indicate that visitors from countries that don't have reciprocal arrangements must apply to the ARSC for special authorization.

8. Use of the Amateur Satellite Service (IC)

About 6 weeks ago, IC received an application from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) for a licence in the Amateur Satellite Service. They are looking for 2 frequencies in the Amateur band which means that the operator, station and mission need to meet the criteria to be an amateur. At this time, they do not meet this requirement.

In Canada, we do not have an Amateur Satellite Service, but do consider the guidelines from the IARU. IC is looking for comments from RAC as to whether these guidelines are acceptable.

The CSA, with the University of Toronto, is resubmitting their application and wants IC to reconsider. Their new agreement specifies that they must coordinate with the RAC nationally and

the IARU internationally. The CSA noted that it would cost \$700,000 to convert over to non-amateur frequencies. They are seeking RAC approval for a joint co-operative that would see an amateur repeater on-board the satellite as this could be beneficial to the Amateur Radio community. RAC does not agree because the amateur frequencies would not be used by amateurs for amateur-type communications as this project appears to be commercial in nature.

As far as timeline goes, the satellite is built, CSA is waiting for a launch vehicle and for the mission to be designed (scientific or joint with the Amateur Radio Community).

Action Items: - RAC to review the IARU guidelines and advise IC if they support the adoption of these said guidelines.

- RAC will form a working group to discuss this issue. IC needs a response as soon as possible. Richard Ferch is to get back to Paul Lajoie directly for both action items.

9. Interference Issues, including BPL (RAC)

There wasn't much to discuss on BPL other than DGSE continues to work on this file.

IC noted that they are allowing more use of underlay spectrum and also gearing towards exclusive use of certain bands.

The Automated Meter Reading (AMR) (Narrowband MCS) consultation is out (fees for different bands, comments by mid-June). A single fee structure for all Narrowband MCS services (including AMR) is being proposed. A secondary benefit is that it has the potential to alleviate congestion in the licence-exempt bands that NMCS users are currently using on a no-protection, non-interference basis.

10. Industry Canada Antenna Support Structure Policy (RAC)

There isn't much new information to report however things are still active. There have been some tower issues with cities and with an amateur radio operator in Alberta. This particular amateur was not following the CPC and had his certificate revoked.

RAC also wanted to make it known that they are very impressed with the interpretation and presentation given by Joe Doria about the new CPC. It is very well put together and the message is consistent across the country. They wanted to ensure that this message was passed along to Joe.

11. CARAB Terms of Reference (IC, RAC)

The terms of reference of CARAB were reviewed. IC and RAC discussed the frequency of formal

meetings and it was suggested that we could potentially have only one formal meeting a year but have more “working level” meetings throughout the year when necessary. RAC suggested that the formal meeting can be held in the Springtime to coincide with their own formal meeting and avoid extra expenses. Regular contact between IC and RAC can be done via teleconference or informal meetings on a bi-monthly basis, potentially to coincide with the Regulatory Roundup.

Action Item: RAC to consider these options and discuss with their stakeholders. The Terms of Reference to be revised/updated and passed around for comment. A decision on the updated Terms of Reference is to be made at the next CARAB.

12. RAC News

RAC advised us that the new president is Bob Cooke. There was mention of changes in personnel, including some of the regional Directors and that the term of Executives is to come to an end at the end of the year.

The RAC office is at full service again. Guy Charron is taking care of email and phones five days a week and looking to make changes to improve service.

13. Industry Canada News

Industry Canada has done some restructuring. All Regional Directors now report to Mike Connolly (Spectrum Operations). DGRB has lost all broadcast, satellite and cyber whom are now with DGSE. As a program, DGRB is looking to get a good balance of skills (office and field). Lots of documents are also being worked on and getting published. There was also mention of some upcoming retirements.

Action Item: RAC has requested a visit with Helen McDonald at the next CARAB. IC will look into this.

14. Preparation for the 33rd CARAB Meeting – Date Time Place

The 33rd CARAB meeting is planned for either the week of October 12th (Oct 13 and 15) or October 19th (October 19 and 21).

Action Item: RAC to get back to IC with the preferred dates for the next CARAB.

15. Preparation of Post-CARAB Communiqué

A post-CARAB communiqué will be prepared by Richard Ferch for publication.

Action Item: Gary to find the old minutes for Richard and to provide Richard with the link for the minutes on the Industry Canada website.

16. Adjournment