

33rd MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)

Date: October 21, 2009

Time: 0900 - 1200

Place: Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Mr. Bob Cooke
President
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Bob Cooke VE3BDB, President
Richard Ferch VE3KI, Vice President Regulatory Affairs
Norm Rashleigh VE3LC, Vice President Industrial Liaison
Special Advisors: Jim Dean, VE3IQ; Bryan Rawlings (for WRC-12), VE3QN

Industry Canada (IC):

Rob Cepella, A/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

Bob Cooke welcomed everyone to the 33rd 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 20 May, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented.

4. Review of Action Items from the 20 May, 2009 Meeting

Subject	Action Item	Update
Reciprocal Operating Arrangements	Amend RIC-3 to indicate that visitors from countries that don't have reciprocal arrangements must apply to the ARSC for special authorization.	Drafted into the RIC-3 revision. Reference on the first page of info on International Agreements on IC website to be changed as well.
Use of the Amateur Satellite Service	RAC to review the IARU guidelines and advise IC if they support the adoption of these said guidelines.	RAC does support the IARU guidelines.
	RAC will form a working group to discuss this issue. IC needs a response as soon as possible. Richard Ferch to get back to Paul Lajoie directly for both action items.	A working group has not been formed as of yet to discuss this matter. The problem is section 47. a) of the <i>Radiocommunication Regulations</i> states "47. A person who operates radio apparatus in the amateur service may only (a) communicate with a radio station that operates in the amateur radio service." RAC expects that all applications are to be coordinated with the IARU and that they follow IARU guidelines. Richard will follow-up in writing with Paul Lajoie.
CARAB Terms of Reference	RAC to consider different options for the CARAB Terms of Reference and discuss with their stakeholders. The Terms of Reference are 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.	RAC has prepared a draft of the new Terms of Reference and has circulated it to RAC stakeholders and Industry Canada.
Meeting with Helen McDonald	RAC has requested a visit with Helen McDonald at the next CARAB meeting. IC will look into this.	This meeting request will be put back to the next CARAB due to the absence of Peter Hill and Gilles Rathier.
Previous CARAB meeting minutes	Gary to find the old minutes for Richard and to provide Richard with the link for the minutes on the Industry Canada website.	Gary to look in his files to find the previous CARAB minutes. He has found the minutes as far back as the 24 th CARAB and is looking to find the earlier ones in his archived

		emails. When the minutes are posted by RAC, IC will publish the link to the minutes on their website.
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5. Emergency Communications and Interoperability

RAC requested an update on their comments on SMSE 005-06. RAC was particularly interested about the use of non-amateur or shared frequencies during emergencies for interoperability. This led to a discussion about interoperability and where it is going. How are amateurs going to be involved / included? Is it possible that interoperability will not include amateurs? Amateurs would like to know where they stand.

IC’s response was that Amateurs and Emergency Services can work in parallel but should not be communicating with each other directly because that would violate the Regulations. IC does not support communications directly between amateurs and other services. IC does support the development of written agreements between amateurs, amateur organizations and emergency agencies to promote cooperation, to practice operating procedures etc.

RAC also inquired as to whether the 220-222 MHz band would be allocated for interoperability (Footnote C11). IC indicated that this band can potentially be used by amateurs but not in direct contact with users in the land-mobile service. This should be clarified in the RIC-3 draft.

Action Item: IC to consider further clarification of footnote C11 in RIC-3. Will consider the extent to which special authority can be granted to Amateurs under disaster situations.

6. Administration of the Amateur Service (RAC)

A review of the ARSC operations leads RAC to believe that at this time, taking over the administration of the ARSC is not financially feasible. RAC may revisit this at a later time, or may choose to modify their proposal to take over only certain aspects of the ARSC.

7. Revisions to IC Documents (IC)

RBR-4: The consultation deadline on the Canadian Frequency Allocation Table (CFAT) was extended to September. Now that the consultation period is over, IC can now continue with RBR-4. The Gazette Notice has been drafted and should go to publications next week.

RIC-3: IC is working on changes following RBR-4. IC would like to publish RIC-3 after comments have been received for RBR-4.

8. Reciprocal operating arrangements

CEPT status: The requirements for visitors from non-CEPT countries that have accepted CEPT T/R 61-01 are not clear. It would be advantageous to have this clarified in RIC-3. The rules currently indicate that a bilateral agreement is required for reciprocal operations. Can this be changed to accommodate more informal agreements?

Action Item: Gary and René to clarify in section 5.2.3 of RIC-3 to indicate procedure to address existing bilateral agreements (DFAIT) vs. case by case (other countries).

US “no code” visitors: Resolved in RBR-4.

9. Spectrum Issues

137kHz: The consultation is completed, no negative comments thus far. We will see where it goes from here.

500kHz (600m band): There is currently one amateur with a developmental authority for this project and another 3 currently being processed. RAC enquired as to who the amateurs are authorized to talk to when performing the tests for this WRC-12 agenda item. IC indicated that amateurs should not be intentionally communicating with operators outside Canada, however, if unintentional communications were to happen, an exchange of location details for research purposes would be allowed. Bryan Rawlings gave a presentation about the WRC-12 activities.

5 MHz: RAC has indicated that a proposal should be ready soon for submitting to IC. This would likely request the same frequencies as the US as well as an additional 2 frequencies chosen from those that had been authorized for Canadian experiments prior to WRC-2007.

10. Amateur Satellite Service

This item was discussed during the review of the Action Items at the beginning of the meeting.

11. CARAB Terms of Reference

The modifications to the CARAB Terms of Reference as proposed by RAC are to be circulated to the entire group including Peter Hill and Gilles Rathier. The proposed Terms of Reference are to be reviewed and discussed between IC and RAC. If necessary, a teleconference can be organized prior to the 34th CARAB meeting in Spring 2010 so that the new Terms of Reference can be signed and in effect before the obligation of a Fall CARAB meeting.

12. Antenna Support Structure

Richard Ferch had requested that the RAC Antenna Structures Committee put together a report of their experiences over the past couple of years with regards to implementation of CPC-2-0-03 – Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems, and a draft copy of this report was discussed.

The main point that seems to be a recurring issue is the exclusions in section 6, especially the 15m height or less criteria, where it is not being implemented uniformly. RAC feels that some District Offices are following the local rules as opposed to the CPC.

IC discussed this issue with RAC and indicated that this document is not intended to have exclusions written in black and white, there are instances where local situations will have certain exceptions that will not necessarily be accepted in other municipalities. The key point is that the installation must be appropriate for its surroundings. For this same reason, it could happen that a municipality would bring an amateur / proponent to court even though a District Office accepted the proposal.

13. Other Business

Olympics radio communications: The amateur community has already been advised by VANOC that their services will not be needed for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. This being said, the amateur community is wondering if the 2m band will be used for communications (as has happened in the past with foreign dignitaries). How are they to coordinate their amateur frequencies? Will there be a protocol for the amateur community to follow in the event of interference? Who do they call? RAC would like to sensitize the directors of Amateur Clubs in the area of the situation.

Action Item: Joanne to contact an IC representative in Vancouver to address these concerns. It would be ideal to receive an answer prior to November 15, 2009 which is the deadline for the next issue of The Canadian Amateur Magazine (TCA).

Ontario Cell Phone Ban: RAC wanted to know IC's position on the new Ontario Cell Phone ban since they've been receiving complaints from members indicating that Federal jurisdiction should override Provincial jurisdiction. RAC is wondering if a public notice should be issued to explain this issue. IC indicated that although they may issue licences for the operation of a radio, the Province of Ontario issues the licences for the privilege to operate a motor vehicle. IC has indicated that their Spectrum Management Officers, who are using equipment while on the road, must also obey this new law.

14. RAC News

RAC advised us that as of September 21, 2009 they have a new office manager; Denise Wagorn.

15. Industry Canada News

At Industry Canada, Tom Jones has retired but is back as a casual employee.

Peter Hill has been promoted to Senior Director, Spectrum Management Operations.

The Director General Mike Connolly will be retiring soon. A successor has been chosen however that person cannot join Industry Canada right away. It is unknown as to when this person will start. In the interim, Peter Hill is acting for Mike Connolly and Heather Hall is acting for Peter Hill.

Chaouki Dadouki from the Emergency group has left Industry Canada. Nadia Lombardi will remain the point of contact for RAC.

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

16. Preparation for the 34th CARAB Meeting

The 34th CARAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 27th (pre-CARAB) and April 29th (CARAB).

Action Item: RAC to confirm with IC that these are the official dates of the next CARAB.

17. Preparation of Post-CARAB Communiqué

A post-CARAB communiqué will be prepared by Richard Ferch for publication. Deadline November 15, 2009.

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.

18. Adjournment