

35th MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)

Date: October 28, 2010

Time: 0830 - 1230

Place: Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Mr. Geoff Bawden
President
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Geoff Bawden VE4BAW, President
Richard Ferch VE3KI, Vice President Regulatory Affairs
Norm Rashleigh VE3LC, Vice President Industrial Liaison
J. T. (Mitch) Mitchell VE6OH, Director, Alberta / Northwest Territories / Nunavut

Industry Canada (IC):

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Geoff Bawden welcomed participants to the 35th meeting of CARAB.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Acceptance of the 29 April, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented.

4. Review of Action Items:

The outstanding action items from the 29 April, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Several action items were closed as listed here or later in these minutes, and the updated status of the remainder is listed in the summary table at the end of the minutes. The table will be updated immediately before the next meeting and the updated copy will be distributed with the agenda for that meeting.

- 32.2** Completed.
- 32.3** Completed.
- 32.5** Replaced by item 33.4.
- 34.1** Replaced by item 35.2.
- 34.2** Replaced by item 35.2.
- 34.3** Completed.
- 34.5** Completed.
- 34.6** Completed.

5. CARAB Terms of Reference

A revised Terms of Reference document was prepared and agreed to in advance of the meeting. RAC presented signed copies to IC for Fiona Gilfillan's signature.

Action Item 32.4 was closed.

Action Item 35.1: IC to sign the ToR and return a copy to RAC. RAC to post the approved Terms of Reference on the RAC web site.

6. Policy and practice of IC mandated intrusion into allocated amateur bands

There was a discussion on the recent events in Quebec, in which teams in a bicycle racing event had been authorized to use temporary frequency assignments in amateur bands during the event. Industry Canada pointed out that this has happened before and will likely happen again. The root cause is that frequency allocations are not consistent between countries, and that frequencies that were allocated to amateurs in Canada were used by both licensed and non-licensed services in other countries (e.g. PMR, the European equivalent to FRS, is in the 440-450 MHz band), making it difficult to avoid conflicts between visitors and domestic uses.

RAC noted that there had been no advance warning, making it difficult to coordinate frequencies or to warn Canadian amateurs in order to avoid interference. Fortunately, no reports of interference were received related to the event in question.

RAC impressed upon the IC officials that RAC, on behalf of Canadian amateurs, objected to intrusion into amateur bands by non-amateur services, especially for non-emergency purposes. IC

noted the objection, committed to improve coordination and cooperation and advised that they were sensitive to RAC's concerns.

7. IC policy on responding to correspondence

RAC pointed out instances in which correspondence with some groups in Industry Canada had not been responded to, making it difficult to know the status of requests. IC referred to a recent reorganization as one possible cause. Peter Hill suggested that all correspondence with other groups within IC should be copied to Spectrum Operations. Both parties agreed that modernizing and improving communications between the regulator and Canadian amateurs as represented by RAC was an important goal. Industry Canada undertook to set up a special e-mail address that could be used for gathering and recording all formal communications between RAC and IC.

Action Item 35.2: Industry Canada, Spectrum Management Operations to set up an e-mail address to which copies of RAC communications with other groups within IC will be sent.

8. Status on 60M access request

RAC described recent developments in this area, particularly a recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from the FCC which would change one of the frequencies allocated to amateurs in the US, and which would also liberalize some of the restrictions on modes and powers currently applicable there RAC had recently written to Industry Canada pointing out this proposed change and making a corresponding change to the frequencies being requested in Canada. Spectrum Management Operations was not yet aware of this most recent request, and asked RAC to forward copies of its recent correspondence on the subject.

IC committed to keep RAC informed on developments on the request for allocations in the 60M band. RAC emphasized the importance of this request to Canadian amateurs.

Action Items 34.1, 34.2 were closed.

Action Item 35.3: RAC to forward copies of correspondence on this topic to Spectrum Management Operations. IC to provide an update on status to RAC before the end of the calendar year.

9. Status on RBR-4 and RIC-3

RBR-4 and RIC-3 are to be revised shortly. Changes expected include updating of frequency allocations (international changes made at WRC-2003, changes at 220 MHz, the recent allocation at 135 kHz); clarification on policy and requirements for reciprocal operation; and clarification of the rules around emergency communications. Gary Steckly is working on these and hopes to have

revised versions ready for the approval process by the end of the calendar year. IC indicated that RAC would be offered the opportunity to review the revisions prior to publication.

10. Update on Call sign Database & implementation of expected changes

IC briefed RAC officials on the status of the web access project designed to allow amateurs direct access to the IC callsign and certificate database, thus allowing such activities as applications for callsigns and change of address. It is anticipated that the system will be live no later than November 2011. Articles on the new system will be published in upcoming TCA's. IC asked RAC to serve as "acceptance testers" to help the developers ensure that the system would work as designed.

The new system will be more flexible than the previous system, and will simplify the possibility of future changes such as assignment of longer call signs or call signs with different prefixes. The current call sign policy is not expected to change immediately, but the new system will make policy changes easier to implement.

One difference that was noted was that there would no longer be a database of available call signs; users would have live access to the list of call signs, and there would be an immediate indication if a requested call sign was not available.

Action Item 35.4: RAC to provide deadline for TCA publishing deadline (for issue just prior to software release) in order for IC to provide screen shots of new software and help with the text.

11. IARP and CEPT permits: recent changes to application and scope

Geoff Bawden reported that at the recent IARU Region 2 meeting, it had been reported that El Salvador had signed the protocol to the IARP agreement allowing for signatories to either one of IARP and CEPT T/R 61-01 to accept each other's reciprocal operating permits.

Industry Canada reported that there was an ongoing exchange of communications between CEPT and IC on the topic of the CEPT T/R 61-01 agreement in order to bring the Canadian participation into line with the latest amendments to the agreement.

Action Item 35.5: IC to review CEPT document with updated changes.

12. Encryption of Digital transmissions; discussion of current practices and future challenges

A situation was discussed in which a repeater is being used with encrypted digital signals on amateur frequencies. It was noted that the encryption key has been published on a web page, but owing to the unavailability of key loading equipment to most amateurs or even to IC, knowledge

of the key was of no assistance in decoding the signals. It appears that this practice meets the letter of the current regulations, but not the intent. RAC pointed out that this would not be legal in the US, where the regulations prohibit transmission of “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning”. Both parties agreed to continue to discuss and follow up on this topic.

Action Item 35.6: IC HQ to contact the District Office to get a better understanding of the situation.

13. Other Business

IC and RAC discussed the positive role that amateur radio played in emergency situations and IC noted that there would be value in more cooperation and planning between IC and RAC in this area. Follow-up meetings between RAC and IC will be arranged over the coming months. RAC is already linked with the ARRL and the US regulator [FCC] on emergency issues and welcomes this initiative of IC.

14. RAC News

Geoff Bawden mentioned that the RAC Board and Executive would be conducting a strategic planning session over the weekend, following the CARAB meeting.

15. IC News

There has been a reorganization in SITT. The former Telecommunications Policy Branch has been absorbed into Spectrum Management Operations Branch and Engineering, Planning and Standards Branch.

In Spectrum Management Operations, Peter Hill now has an Associate Director, Heather Hall, who may attend some meetings in his place.

René Guerrette and Gary Steckly are both expecting to retire soon, probably before the next CARAB meeting. Participants thanked them for their past work on behalf of the Amateur Radio Service.

16. Preparation for the 36th CARAB Meeting

The next meeting of CARAB is anticipated for next April, concurrent with the RAC Board meeting. RAC will inform IC of its proposed date as soon as the Board meeting is scheduled. IC pointed out that the sooner this can be done, the better from the point of view of scheduling availability of staff.

Action Item 35.7: RAC to propose a date to IC as soon as possible, once a date has been fixed for the RAC Board meeting.

17. Preparation of Post-CARAB Communiqué

A post-CARAB communiqué will be prepared by RAC and sent to IC for comments prior to publication.

Action Item 35.8: RAC to send communiqué to Peter Hill for comments prior to publishing as an RAC Bulletin.

18. Adjournment

Summary of Outstanding Action Items

Action Item No.	Subject	Action Item	Update
32.1	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.	To be included in revisions to RIC-3.
32.6	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.	Industry Canada to find as complete a set of minutes as possible to be forwarded to RAC for posting on the RAC web site.
33.1	Emergency Communications and Interoperability	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.	Industry Canada to forward the name of a contact to RAC so that a meeting can be set up to discuss emergency operations issues further.
33.2	Reciprocal operating arrangements	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).	To be included in revisions to RIC-3.
33.4	Meeting with Helen McDonald	RAC has requested a visit with Helen McDonald at the next CARAB meeting. IC will look into this.	RAC to take care of scheduling an appointment with her office.
34.4	Power Line noise	To be mentioned at TeleSOC	Industry Canada to mention this topic at the Canadian Electrical Association meeting next week.
35.1	CARAB Terms of Reference	IC to sign the ToR and return a copy to RAC. RAC to post the approved Terms of Reference on the RAC web site.	
35.2	IC/RAC correspondence	Industry Canada, Spectrum Management Operations to	

		set up an e-mail address to which copies of RAC communications with other groups within IC will be sent.	
35.3	Spot Frequencies at 5MHz	RAC to forward copies of correspondence on this topic to Spectrum Management Operations. IC to provide an update on status to RAC before the end of the calendar year.	
35.4	Updated Call Sign Database	RAC to provide deadline for TCA publishing deadline (for issue just prior to software release) in order for IC to provide screen shots of new software and help with the text.	
35.5	Recent changes to CEPT	IC to review CEPT document with updated changes.	
35.6	Encryption of digital transmissions	IC HQ to contact the District Office to get a better understanding of the situation.	
35.7	Next CARAB Meeting	RAC to propose a date to IC as soon as possible, once a date has been fixed for the RAC Board meeting.	
35.8	Post-CARAB Communiqué	RAC to send communiqué to Peter Hill for comments prior to publishing as an RAC Bulletin.	