

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)

DATE: Friday, September 13, 1996

TIME: 09:00 to 15:00

PLACE: Lasalle Hotel
Kingston, Ontario

CHAIR: Mike Connolly

PARTICIPANTS:

Industry Canada

RAC

Darius Breau	Farrell Hopwood
Tom Jones	Jim Dean
Harold Carmichael	Doug Leach
Doug Prentice	Doug Frame
	David Panting
	Pierre Roger
	Ken Pulfer
	Hans van den Berg

1) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

2) ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 1996 MEETING

The minutes were accepted as written, moved by Jim Dean, seconded by Darius Breau.

3) UPDATE ON AMATEUR DELEGATION ACTIVITIES

A) REPORT ON THE OVERALL STATUS OF THE INITIATIVE

Jim Dean gave a progress report of the work that has been done since the last CARAB meeting. He outlined the budget verification study that Doug Leach has been contracted to do by the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) to provide for more precise costing information. Next, he outlined the ongoing project for maintenance of the Amateur Radio Administrative Services (ARAS/SARA) Internet site and the work that is going on to insert certificate information in the amateur call sign data base. The work in progress by Harry Van Eaton to construct an automated examination software system was mentioned as well as the work that is being done by Lapp Hancock Associates Limited, on contract to the RAC, to produce the user requirements and

functional specifications for an integrated data base management system that will be used by ARAS/SARA for administration of the amateur service. Jim touched on the work that is being done by the RAC to produce a draft procedure manual for delegated examiners and ongoing efforts to incorporate ARAS/SARA.

Next he mentioned the impending move to Ottawa by the RAC and office space has now been leased and preparations are being made for the relocation..

Jim touched upon the proposals that were forwarded to Industry Canada from the RAC board and explained that these touched several different areas. Work was being done by the RAC in conjunction with Industry Canada in respect to examination standards and other standards relating to amateur radio operators as result of the new radio regulations being promulgated in the near future.

Jim then outlined the timing for implementation as currently foreseen. January 1, 1997 is the date that is proposed for ARAS/SARA to commence operation and the Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) has formulated a GANTT chart outlining all milestones and timing that will require to be put in place in order for full delegated operation of ARAS/SARA in June of 1998.

As well, it was mentioned that although the area of spectrum surveillance has not been pursued at this point, it needs to be included as a consideration in the agreement, even if details are not worked out at this time.

Jim concluded by stating that the past six months have been very intensive for all involved and much needs to be accomplished in the next six months.

B) REPORT ON THE PROJECTS ONGOING.

I) SPECTRUM LICENCE

As a result of the federal budget legislation passed in June of 1996, the spectrum licence is now a reality under the Radiocommunication Act. It is the tool that the Minister of Industry will issue to authorize all qualified and eligible amateurs collectively instead of individual radio station licences. In conjunction with this, each station operating under this licence will require to use a call sign that will be issued by ARAS/SARA. Although there will be no discernable change with respect to amateur operation, individual radio licences will no longer be issued and will be replaced by call sign authorities. Although the specific format of these authorities is not yet known, it was pointed out that there will need to be a communication effort to inform amateurs of the initiative.

II) STUDY TO VERIFY BUDGET ELEMENTS AND COSTS

As Jim had already discussed this subject at some length and the study was still in progress Doug Leach did not believe that he should discuss his document on a line

element basis. However, he outlined the major points that needed to be considered by his study, recognizing that many of the decisions with respect to implementation details still need to be made. As a result, Doug Leach invited any RAC or Industry Canada members to approach him after the meeting for additional information.

III) CONTINUATION OF ENHANCEMENT OF INTERNET FACILITIES

The RAC has received a lot of positive comment with respect the WEB site and amateur call sign data base. The data base has been put on the FTP site as a flat file therefore it is now available to be downloaded by the public. Industry Canada and the RAC are currently working to include certificate information on the level of qualification of amateurs on the call sign data base. The matching of certificate information with call sign is currently being done by Internet Gateway Services (IGS).

IV) EXAMINATION SOFTWARE

Harry Van Eaton has produced functional specifications for the automated examination software. The next step is to produce the modules for examination which can be sold as a product. There are currently three modules that we foresee for development. The first module will provide for amendment and insertion of examination questions in the question data bank. The second module will provide for automated examination and correction.

The third module is an printing option for those situations where paper examination is required. It is hoped that the inclusion of a statistics module will provide a clear indication of any problem areas in the question banks or examination process. As this item touched upon delegated examiners, Industry Canada took the opportunity to provide information on their recent survey of client satisfaction with respect to all delegated examiners for all radio operator certificates. The survey found that the delegated examiner program was viewed as an excellent service by the clients and in fact, statistics demonstrated that clients were more satisfied with the service of delegated examiners than Industry Canada staff. As a result, the Minister has sent a letter expressing his gratitude to all 2500 delegated examiners.

V) AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE INTEGRATED DATA BASE

RAC considers this instrumental to the success of the delegation initiative. The user requirements and functional specifications document should be ready for the end of October and as this will have to be contracted through the bidding process, it will need to move as quickly as possible. The RAC indicated that they are quite pleased with the work that has been done by LAPP HANCOCK to date.

VI) EXAMINATION WORKING GROUP

The intention of this group is to provide a more comprehensive scope of examination

questions with respect to the current amateur examinations. During the 1997 calendar year this volunteer group intends to draft a new set of amateur basic examination questions and request public input with respect to their work. The calendar year 1998 is foreseen to address the advanced questions. In the interim, new advanced and basic examination questions as well as code tests will be ready for the end of this fiscal year, however these will all be based on the current examination syllabus. As this is an RAC working group, it has not been determined yet what role Industry Canada should play in order to ensure that the final product is acceptable to Industry Canada. Even though the final results will be in the form of a proposal, on going participation by Industry Canada would be useful. Industry Canada agreed that this may be useful and would consider it further. Also, it was determined that the RAC should approach Industry Canada formally for recognition of this initiative.

VII) BUSINESS PLAN

Industry Canada stated that they are still on track with the funding initiative as per the GANNT chart. The first meeting is proposed with Treasury Board for early October and the agreement between ARAS\SARA and Industry Canada will need to be in draft form. As well, it was pointed out that the final draft of the agreement between Industry Canada and RAC will require to be sanctioned by each organization's legal authorities.

VIII) AGREEMENTS

The main agreement is between Industry Canada and ARAS\SARA as discussed in the item on the business plan. As well, the RAC believes that an agreement between Radio Amateurs of Quebec Inc. (RAQI) and ARAS\SARA will also be required. The area of spectrum surveillance was discussed and it needs to be determined as to the scope of the activity and what agreements and with whom need to be considered. There is the potential that a number of different organizations may be involved and we need the benefit of having a clearer concept of what the boundaries of this activity will be.

c) FUTURE PLAN, TIMETABLE AND MILESTONES

(I) Industry Canada contact during implementation.

There will likely be a requirement for levels of contact during implementation between ARAS\SARA and Industry Canada. It would appear premature to start identifying levels within each organizations at this time but it will need to be a consideration.

4) REVIEW OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES

A) INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO PERMIT (IARP) AND CEPT

UPDATE

The European Radio Organization has replied favorably to the Canadian CEPT proposal. However, if we were to use the IARP certificate format, before they could give approval to Canada's request, they require an indication on the face of the permit that it is issued in accordance with CEPT requirements. Industry Canada International Branch is communicating with the Organization of American States (OAS) to determine that it is possible to modify the certificate format for Canadian amateurs to include the CEPT agreement.

It was also brought forward that the RAC are now ready to issue International Amateur Radio Permits (IARP) and they request formal recognition from Industry Canada to do this. A letter from Industry Canada will be forwarded to the RAC indicating that they are recognized by Industry Canada to perform this function. However, in accordance with the treaty agreement, Industry Canada will first need to determine at what level within Industry Canada this delegation of authority must be sanctioned.

B) 220-222 MHZ SHARING ARRANGEMENT WITH FCC

No action has taken place on this item since the last CARAB meeting as we are still awaiting a reply from the FCC as to their acceptance of the agreement.

C) CALL SIGN WORKING GROUP REPORT

David Panting, the chairman of the joint Industry Canada/RAC Callsign Working Group gave an outline of the work and progress of the group to date. The first draft of a report has been produced and circulated for further comment by the working group members. The RAC plans to report on the progress of this group in the next issue of "The Canadian Amateur" and invite comment on the matters being considered from the amateur community. After a reasonable period has passed, the members of the working group will study the comments received and prepare a final report.

D) PUBLISHING CERTIFICATE QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

As discussed in the report on projects ongoing, this initiative is being handled as an enhancement to the callsign data base currently available at the ARAS/SARA internet site.

E) CODE OF ETHICS PROPOSAL

The code of ethics has been draft by RAC and is the process of being finalized.

F) PARTICIPATION OF AMATEURS IN INTERFERENCE INVESTIGATION

This item is now being addressed with respect to the delegation project and therefore

can be deleted from the ongoing activities list and continued with in the ADWG update. Industry Canada gave an outline of the video and compact disc that have been produced on solving interference problems. These products are available to the general public for their use in applying technical solutions to resolve interference situations.

G) MOU WITH RESPECT TO EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION

After the last meeting, Industry Canada had contacted Emergency Preparedness Canada and received favorable consideration to resume work on an agreement with the RAC. This item is being handled by the emergency planning section within Industry Canada. Due to other priorities, they have not been able to pursue this initiative recently, however, it is intended to continue with it in the future. It was suggested that Pierre Mannville report on the discussions at the next CARAB meeting.

5) NEW BUSINESS

A) GAZETTING OF THE PROPOSED RADIOCOMMUNICATION REGULATIONS AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON AMATEUR RADIO

The RAC pointed out there is a section of the proposed Regulations section that appears to single out the amateur service with respect to causing interference. They feel this is somewhat odd as it appears that the amateur service is the only radiocommunication service to be identified in this manner. It was suggested that the RAC formally reply to Industry Canada with their comments.

It was also pointed out that with the promulgation of the new regulations, the Radio Operator Certificate Regulations will no longer be in force. Therefore, requirements for operator certificate examinations will need to appear in a separate procedural document.

B) WRC-97 "CANDIDATE BANKS" FOR LEO SATELLITES

Previous World Radio Conferences have made allocations for very low capacity digital systems operating as low earth orbiting satellites. Canada does not have any interested parties who are seeking new allocations therefore we will not be actively pursuing this in WRC-97. Industry Canada recommended that the RAC assist in the development of the Canadian proposals in the conference preparatory committee. This would also ensure that the RAC is aware of whatever international proposals are being considered.

C) PROPOSAL TO INDUSTRY CANADA BY RAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the RAC forwarded a proposal to Industry Canada with respect to a number of suggested improvements as a result of the study conducted in

1995 on amateur examination and certification procedures. Eleven suggestions were pointed out with respect to modifications being made to existing examination and certification procedures.

Industry Canada commented that they were in general agreement with the majority of the suggestions that had been put forward by the Board. As well, action was already being taken on a number of the points raised with respect to current delegation initiatives and these would be implemented. As the points to be considered all fall within current or future areas of the delegation initiatives it was suggested that these concerns continue to be handled within the auspices of the ADWG and the amateur delegation project.

D) RAC'S RESPONSE TO IARU ON ITU RR2735

The RAC has formed an ad hoc committee which is reporting to the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) on the relevancy of the current International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations with respect to amateur operation. With respect to the regulations regarding the knowledge requirement of the Morse Code, it is the RAC's believe that this requirement need not be maintained internationally. Most amateur organizations in other countries have yet to provide their input to the IARU so Canada's recommendations are being looked at very seriously. The historical research that was done by the RAC on this matter indicates that the rationale for amateurs to have a knowledge of Morse Code was due to a requirement for amateurs to cease operation, if requested to do so, by commercial stations. It was not directly related to an examination standard.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be April 17, 1997 in Ottawa.