

## **Final Minutes**

### **30th MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

Date: May 1, 2008

Time: 0900 - 1300

Place: Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Rene Guerrette,  
Director, Amateur Radio Licensing Centre

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU - President  
Richard Ferch VE3KI/VE3IAY - Vice President Regulatory Affairs  
Ed Frazer, VE7EF - Director, BC and Yukon  
Bill Unger, VE3XT - Director, Ontario North and East  
Bj Madsen, VE5FX - Director, Midwest  
Len Morgan, VE9MY - Director, Atlantic  
Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC - Vice President Industrial Liaison  
Special Advisors Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN and Jim Dean, VE3IQ

Industry Canada (IC):

René Guerrette, Director, Amateur Radio Service Centre  
Jean-Claude Brien, Director, EMC Analysis and Consultation, Spectrum Engineering  
Justine Sider, Spectrum Engineer, Terrestrial Engineering  
Gary Steckly VE3ZGS, Technical Policy Analyst, Operational Policy  
Rob Cepella VE3HCC, Technical Policy Analyst, Operational Policy

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Rene Guerrette welcomed everyone to the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of CARAB, followed by introductions of participants.

### **2. Review and Approval of the Agenda**

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

### **3. Acceptance of the 24 October, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

### **4. Review of Action Items from the CARAB 29**

It was noted that the meeting with IC Emergency directorate had not occurred as planned. Dave Goodwin reiterated his desire to have this meeting.

### **Action - RAC will pursue this meeting directly through DRP-E**

### **5. Emergency Communications – RAC**

**6.**

Dave Goodwin expressed RAC's desire that ARES receive some official recognition to enhance their ability to provide assistance in times of emergencies. This will be raised further at the meeting with DRP-E.

### **7. Administration of the Amateur Service (IC)**

IC described current developments, including recent initiatives to increase contacts with Accredited Examiners. RAC made favourable comments on the quickness of response from the Amateur Radio Service Centre to requests from amateurs. There was a long and lively discussion on integrity of the database, focusing on the continuing unresolved issues of unreported Silent Keys and unreported changes of address.

### **8. Call Sign Considerations (RAC)**

RAC presented a brief summary of the proposal it had made in January regarding special event and contest call signs. IC commented that it was a complex proposal and committed to study it further.

**Action - RAC offered to meet with IC to discuss this proposal in more depth, and IC accepted.**

**9. Revisions to IC Documents (IC )**

Industry Canada reported that a revised version of RIC-1, the guidance document for Accredited Examiners, is in the final stages of preparation. IC and RAC staff agreed to meet to discuss corrections and modifications to be made to other RIC documents. These changes would include modifications to the requirements for reciprocal operation in Canada to take into account changes made by ITU, CEPT and the FCC respecting Morse code requirements

**Action - AC and IC will meet to review required changes**

**10. Reciprocal operating arrangements**

This was discussed in the context of item 8 – revision of documents (see comments above).

**11. Spectrum Issues (RAC)**

RAC indicated that it would be making requests regarding several spectrum allocation issues, including 2200m, 600m and 60m. The current regulatory situation in each of these three cases is different.

At 2200m, RAC will be requesting that IC consider a domestic allocation consistent with the recent ITU decision.

At 600m, RAC will be making a proposal in support of special authorizations for a group of amateurs to conduct experiments similar to the previous special allocations at 2200m.

At 60m, RAC will be preparing a proposal for consideration of a domestic allocation like those in the US and UK. RAC also made a presentation on measurements of interference from electrical utility smart metering systems in Ontario.

**12. Broadband over Power line - BPL (IC)**

Industry Canada reported on recent developments related to BPL, as the focus turns from

alternative broadband delivery towards utility management. . There was a discussion on the recently announced outcome of ARRL's lawsuit against the FCC on this topic, and this situation is being closely monitored. RAC enquired as the possibility of Canada following the same approach of imposing certain spectrum notches as was the case in the US. This approach may be followed in Canada as well.

**13. Industry Canada Antenna Support Structure Policy (RAC/IC)**

Industry Canada presented a brief overview of the process that led to the present policy that includes mandated sharing, as well as the exclusions from the requirement to consult with the land use authority and the public. RAC expressed some concern over the consistency with which the policy is being applied and supported by IC staff across the country. While IC has specialists in each region whose job it is ensure the most consistent application of these policies, each situation is assessed on its own merit.

RAC followed up with an update on the cases ongoing in Surrey and Coquitlam.

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

RAC made a presentation on its proposals for restructuring of amateur radio. Industry Canada representatives expressed interest and pointed out that these proposals would require changes to the regulations. IC staff strongly suggested that any such proposal be as comprehensive as possible and include coordinated changes to all levels of qualification, as well as any other requested changes to the regulatory structure. IC staff also urged that the qualifications and privileges of licence classes should be made as consistent as possible with emerging international standards in this area, most notably the CEPT Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate, the CEPT Novice Licence and the proposed CEPT Entry Level Certificate. IC also pointed out that for any such proposal to succeed, it would have to be structured in such a way as to minimize the demands on IC resources and staff time.

**15. Youth Education Program – Update (RAC)**

RAC presented an update on the status of the Youth Education Program.

**16. RAC News**

RAC gave an update on the changes that have occurred with the election of their new executive committee, as well as their plans to meet in August at the Ham fest in Winnipeg, and in 2009 in Sorel Quebec.

**17. Industry Canada News**

Industry Canada welcomes their new Assistant Deputy Minister, Kevin Lindsey who replaces Mike Binder who left to assume the responsibilities of the President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

**18. Preparation for the 31<sup>st</sup> Carab Meeting – Date Time Place**

The 31st CARAB meeting was tentatively scheduled for the week of October 20 or 27 in Ottawa.

**19. Preparation of Post Carab Communiqué**

**20. Adjournment**