

**TWENTY FIRST MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO
ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2003

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Place: HMCS Bytown Wardroom
78 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Mr. William J. Gillis, President
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Participants:

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

William, J. Gillis, VE1WG, President
James G. Dean, VE3IQ, Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs
Bjarne (B.J.) Madsen, VE5FX, Regional Director, Midwest
David Nimmo, VE1NN, Regional Director, Atlantic
Robert (Bob) Kavanagh, VE3OSZ
Brice Wightman, VA2BW/VE3EDR

Industry Canada (IC):

Mike Connolly, Senior Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Line Perron, Director, Eastern Ontario District, (Amateur Service Centre)
Harold Carmichael, Program Manager, Exams and Certificates, Quebec Regional Office
Rob Cepella, Chief, Authorization, Spectrum Management Operations
Gary Steckly, Technical Policy Analyst, Spectrum Management Operations

Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bill Gillis thanked Jim Dean for arranging for the use of the Naval Officer's facilities for the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was followed by introductions of all participants.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was approved as submitted.

3. Acceptance of the April 23, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were accepted as submitted.

4. Industry Canada gave a brief summary of the of the National Antenna Tower Policy review that is currently underway.

Jim spoke about the RAC submission to Professor Townsend regarding the consultation, and distributed copies of the presentation. The RAC submission parallels the RABC response, which included Amateur concerns in a broad context. The RAC submission complements the RABC through greater detail in amateur specific matters. RAC views the Protocol prepared by Tim Ellam, VE6SH as an appropriate template and has concerns with the Calgary, Alberta protocol due to the perceived height limitation. RAC suggested that a reasonable height would be 68 feet in urban areas and 100 feet in rural areas. Regarding aesthetics, RAC is of the view that all Type II tower installations should be treated the same. That is, a tower to be used to support a television receive antenna should be treated in the same manner as a tower proposed for use by an amateur radio operator. RAC confirmed that they had been in communication with Professor Townsend and that they will meet with him in the future to discuss their submission. Given the considerable challenge in getting municipalities to understand the emergency support offered by radio amateur operators, consideration may be given to RAC providing an article to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on this matter.

5. Status Report by Industry Canada on the Examination Generator and Updating Exam Corrections to the Web Site

Industry Canada reported that the revised exam generator had been posted on the Industry Canada Web site. As well, a mass e-mailing to the accredited examiners has been done, in which they were informed that the revised exam generator was available for download and detailing the enhanced printing procedure that was created following the discussions at the previous CARAB meeting.

RAC noted that some instructors seemed to be unaware that they should no longer be using the old exam format, and suggested that IC insist that they submit the exam sheet and grading with each submission to the Amateur Licensing Centre as a means to ensure that the new exams are being used. IC will remind the delegated examiners that the old exam questions are not to be used, and that they should now be either faxing or mailing the exam sheets to the Licensing Centre with each submission.

Action Items:

Industry Canada will advise accredited examiners that the old exam questions are not to be used, and that they should now be either faxing or mailing the exam sheets to the Licensing Centre with each submission.

RAC will place a notice on their Web site indicating that accredited examiners are required to use the most current exam format available.

6. Status Report by Industry Canada - Reciprocal Operating Agreements - Thailand and Hong Kong

Industry Canada gave a brief update on the progress with these initiatives. There have been some changes in the personnel in Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) who had been handling the Thailand agreement. The new DFAIT staff and IC have been working together in an effort to advance this initiative.

7. RAC Brochure Mail-out (Update by RAC)

RAC gave an update on the brochure that might be included in any future Industry Canada mass mail-out to the amateur radio operator community. The purpose of the brochure is to promote membership in RAC as well as to remind recipients to update Industry Canada in the event of a change of address. The integrity of the call sign data base is very important to both the amateur radio community and Industry Canada.

Action Item: RAC will forward electronic copies of their brochure for use in future Industry Canada mass mail-outs to radio amateur operators.

8. Update on 135 kHz and 5 MHz Experimental Work

RAC noted that amateurs are aware of the policy that IC authorization for any tests on non amateur bands should be first routed to RAC. Experimental tests are being undertaken under a stated plan and objective which is that tests are in support of RAC intentions to eventually make submission to the ITU for band reallocation.

9. Amateur Radio Service Centre Administration News (ARSC)

Line Perron informed the RAC of her new position and consequent departure from the Licensing Centre, and she also thanked the RAC for their support during her tenure of office. Guy Roy will be replacing Line as Director of the Centre until such time as the staffing at the Centre is concluded.

A new clerk, Sonya Saint-Laurent will be starting next week at the Centre, and France Bissonnette continue until the end of the fiscal year to assist in the transition.

10. Frequency Assignments for the Grand Prix - Montréal (update ARSC)

Line Perron informed the committee that she has been in discussion with the IC coordinator for the Grand Prix in the Montréal District office and he is aware of the situation that existed in the past. They seem to have avoided a recurrence of the problem this year as they have had no confirmation of reports of interference which were not resolved. Harold Carmichael added that coordinating more than 600 frequencies for such

an event is not an easy task, but they make every effort to avoid interference to amateur frequencies.

11. Considerations in the Administration of the Amateur Service (RAC)

Jim Dean presented a preliminary response to the presentation made by Ontario staff at RAC 20 last year. Jim Dean's response consisted of an analysis of the fiscal issues surrounding these types of initiatives in general - giving a discussion of the broad cost issues and a short discussion of potential revenue sources.

Mike Connolly thanked Jim for the effort that he had put into his estimates, and observed that it was evident that Industry Canada had additional work to do in this area as well. The questions which remain to be addressed revolve around the intangible benefits that could exist should IC and RAC develop a more synergistic approach to the management of the amateur radio service.

12. Presentation on Youth Education Program (RAC)

B.J. Madsen gave an interesting presentation on the RAC's Youth Education Program; a program they have been developing with the intent to "foster a mutually beneficial relationship between young people and Amateur Radio". The program is designed to take advantage of resources that exist in our public schools, through teachers' organizations and youth groups.

The program emphasizes the many benefits presented to students and society in general when students are involved in activities that encourage development of technical skills which can lead to broaden career paths and open doors into industry. Mike Connolly offered support with respect to introductions to individuals in Industry Canada who might be able to offer support, in areas such as *School-net or Computers-for-Schools*. As well, this program may be a good candidate for an alternative program for disposed departmental telecommunications equipment (test receivers, spectrum analyzers etc.) that could be of value to aspiring amateurs. He further suggested that universities might be a good avenue to explore.

Mike Connolly added that in this type of endeavour, the availability of accurate demographic data could be valuable, and suggested that David Foote's analysis might be of benefit.

13. WRC-2003 Decisions and their impact on Morse code examinations (RAC)

Brice Wightman and Bob Kavanagh gave a presentation of the work of the ad-hoc Committee on Amateur Qualifications. This group has been working for some time on various matters concerning the level of qualification of Canadian radio amateur operators. The recent WRC-03 decision to leave the decision on Morse code qualifications and operation below 30 MHz to the discretion of individual administrations has raised the

priority of these issues in both the amateur community at large as well as with RAC and Industry Canada. The ad-hoc committee presented a well thought out plan involving the many elements of competence in amateur radio (general level of knowledge, equipment building skills and operating abilities including Morse) intended to rationalize the overall design of the amateur competence profile, and amend the certificate structure.

Mike Connolly had several process related questions following the presentation, but his primary concern was how far this proposal was from approval for transmittal to Industry Canada for consideration. He indicated that Industry Canada would welcome a formal submission, and commended the ad-hoc Committee and RAC for wading into an issue as murky and potentially contentious as that of the Morse code debate.

RAC indicated that the ad-hoc Committee had approval for transmittal of their recommendations of phase 1, and that it would follow up with a formal submission.

14. WRC 2003 Decisions and their Impact on Call Sign Formulation (RAC)

David Nimmo presented a paper which discussed the potential impact that the call sign changes might have on the amateur community, and tabled a document that demonstrated how the changes might be incorporated into Industry Canada's current call sign policy.

Mike Connolly thanked the RAC for their input, but suggested that Industry Canada would not offer any early opinions on this matter as it had not yet considered all the implications.

15. Future Update of Radiocommunication Information Circulars 2 and 3

This discussion was rolled into item 13.

16. Preparation for the 22 CARAB meeting - Place, Time, Date

A tentative date of May 6, 2004 was proposed, with the location to be determined.

17. Adjournment of 21st meeting of the CARAB.

Summary of Action Items:

1. RAC will place a notice on their Web site indicating that accredited examiners are required to use the most current exam format available.
2. RAC will forward electronic copies of their brochure for use in future Industry Canada mass mail-outs to radio amateur operators.
3. Industry Canada will advise accredited examiners that the old exam questions are not to be used, and that they should now be either faxing or mailing the exam sheets to the licensing centre with each submission.

