

SIXTH MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: Wednesday April 17, 1996

TIME: 09:00 to 15:00

PLACE: Industry Canada Headquarters
Room 1585D, 300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario

CHAIR: Farrell Hopwood

PARTICIPANTS:

IC RAC

Mike Connolly	Ken Pulfer
Denis Colbert	Jim Dean
Darius Breau	Doug Leach
Tom Jones	Bill Gillis
	David George
	Pierre Roger
	Doug Frame

- 1) Review and Approval Agenda - accepted
- 2) The minutes were accepted as written, moved by Jim Dean, seconded by Darius Breau.
- 3) Update on the Amateur Delegation Initiatives
 - a) Report on status of initiatives:

Jim Dean gave an overview of the work that was done by Doug Leach to produce the Amateur Study on examination and Certification Procedures. He outlined the observations of this study and the recommendations that had been proposed. He then gave an overview of the work that went on with the discussion paper on the pilot project and summarized the observations.

A overview of the proposed concepts for operation was also given as well as the recommendations of the study. The ARAS/SARA (Amateur Radio Administrative Services/Services Administratifs Radio Amateurs) HOME PAGE project was also reviewed, outlining the process that was followed and the recommendation to maintain the data base for the upcoming fiscal year. As well the documentation is currently in HTML format but will be converted to a PDF format.

The single license concept was also discussed. It was mentioned that as a consequence of the federal budget legislation, the Radiocommunication Act will be amended to allow for the issuance of a spectrum authorization. This type of Ministerial authorization can be applied to situations like the amateur bands, whereby an organization could be issued such an authorization for a portion of the radio frequency spectrum.

Jim Dean then gave a report on the development of the ARAS/SARA constitution. The final draft has been completed and directors are in the process of being named. The not-for-profit corporation is now ready to be incorporated.

b) Report on amateur study and pilot project

Doug Frame gave a presentation on the two options that have been proposed for ARAS/SARA operation as outlined in the pilot project discussion paper. The major milestones that must be met in order for ARAS/SARA to commence full operation on June 1, 1997 were outlined. The transition period will be from June 1, 1996 to June 1, 1997 and the work that will be required to be done before full operation can commence, was outlined.

ARAS/SARA estimated expenditures for the first 3 years of operation were outlined. It was noted that these figures could only be used in the very general sense as there were still many assumptions being made as much of the soft data required for more accurate projections was not available. The two different options were costed that being, Option 1); offices in Ottawa and Montreal and Option 2) a single office.

ARAS/SARA estimated revenues for the first 3 years of operation were outlined. It was pointed out that some potential sources of revenue may also have policy implications and it would have to be determined that Industry Canada is willing to allow ARAS/SARA to market certain services which may have been provided for free in the past.

It was also pointed out that the expenditures given did not take into account cost involved in the development and implementation of the integrated software system that has recently been identified as an operational requirement.

Ken Pulfer gave a presentation on costs that RAC believes they incur on behalf of all amateurs, separated from those costs that are incurred strictly with respect to services for RAC members. It was pointed out that this issue needs to be looked at from the perspective of whether or not the RAC, in its advocacy role, is perceived to be acting on behalf of all amateurs. From the RAC's perspective, they believe that the basis for their participation in the CARAB is predicated upon the acceptance by Industry Canada that in this forum, the RAC is presenting, to the best of their abilities, the views of the amateur community. Industry Canada feels that there will always be views outside of the RAC that will petition government and these views will need to

be heard. It was agreed that the Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) should clarify the item in the ARAS/SARA budget that will justify RAC funding. The expenses that would be considered justified should be agreed to with Industry Canada and published.

c) Future plans

The implementation of ARAS/SARA was discussed and Jim Dean gave a presentation. It is felt that a full time implementation team needs to be put in place with the ADWG acting as a steering committee. RAC should incorporate ARAS/SARA and all start up and implementation work would be done by the implementation team. Industry Canada would fund the software development project and manage it. As well a contract and/or agreement would need to be concluded between IC and ARAS/SARA for the transition phase and full implementation.

Jim Dean then gave a proposed outline of milestones and target dates for full implementation. Three options had been considered and the favoured one predicts full implementation for July 1, 1997. Items of concern, such as the cost of software development, approval of the spectrum licence and the potential for liability of ARAS/SARA, were pointed out.

Jim then pointed out that several other issues need to be addressed. Start up funding needs to be approved, data base user requirements need to be defined and data base software developed. Certain ADWG activities should also be continued into the next year. These include a contract for maintenance of the ARAS/SARA home page, revision of the business plan, participation in the steering committee and as well, participation in ARAS/SARA and Industry Canada agreements. It was mentioned that in the opinion of the RAC board there are currently three major issues needing clarification, these being, the commitment of Industry Canada for funding, the implementation of funding and the implementation schedule for delegation.

The chairman expressed his thanks to Jim Dean and the other members of the RAC and Industry Canada for the great amount of effort that all have put into the delegation initiatives in the past year.

4) a) EMCAB2 - update

Nothing to report on the update. It was agreed that this item should be deleted from the standing list.

b) International Amateur Radio Permit and CEPT UPDATE

The RAC has prepared the format in order to issue the International Amateur Radio Permit. At this time they are uncertain as to what the cost will be to issue these permits. As well Industry Canada has officially forwarded the Canadian Administration's request for participation in CEPT and awaits final approval. It was

discussed that perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding should be formalized between Industry Canada and the RAC concerning the issuance of these documents.

c) 220-222 MHz sharing arrangement with FCC

The Federal Communications Commission in the United States has released a third Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding the use of the 220-222 MHz band. The draft sharing arrangement previously proposed with respect to the amateur service remains unchanged and accommodates the request by Canada for a 100 KHz contiguous block of spectrum in border areas.

d) Call sign assignment policy

With respect to the call sign working group, the issue of VE9CB needs to be clarified. Bill Gillis had spoken with our Atlantic Region office and they had informed him that Industry Canada had decided not to reassign call sign VE9CB. The RAC Board of Directors will be asked to approve the RAC's participation in this working group.

e) Harmful Interference

This item is considered to be closed and is taken off the activity list.

f) Publishing Certificate Information

In accordance with discussions at the last CARAB meeting, it was agreed that Industry Canada should investigate the means by which certificate information on amateurs could be made available to the public. Now that the amateur call sign data base is available on the internet through the ARAS/SARA home page, it was agreed that certificate information should be added to this data base. This will be done as an enhancement during the current fiscal year. Before this information will be made available, Industry Canada will require that a data matching process takes place in order to link call sign and certificate information.

g) Codes of Ethics Proposal

The RAC has produced a draft code of ethics for radio amateurs. This will be tabled at the RAC board meeting for approval. Hoppy asked that Industry Canada review the document and provide the RAC with any comments they have.

h) Participation of Amateurs in Interference Investigation

As part of a current initiative to address general public interference the Quebec office of Industry Canada has produced a video for use by the general public in investigation and resolution of interference problems. This initiative also involves the production of a CD ROM and associated publications which are now being finalized. The RAC was given a copy of the video for their information.

It was pointed out that this type of information will now be available to amateur operators.

5) a) New Business

Call Sign Assignment Policy

The terms of reference have been finalized for this working group and it is foreseen that work will commence once the RAC board has approved the participation of the RAC.

b) Discussion of 430-450 MHz Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS) and Wind profilers

It was pointed out that the Prairies and Northwest Territories Region (PNWT) of Industry Canada has produced a procedures document outlining frequencies that can be assigned to DGPS operations in the 430-450 MHz band. The RAC was concerned that these frequencies may have been allocated on a national basis and they would be assigned to radiolocation systems without consultation with local amateur organizations.

Industry Canada explained that the document in question had been developed for use in the PNWT Region exclusively, as this is where the majority of DGPS systems of this type are currently operating. Frequency co-ordination had already been carried out with amateur organizations through out the region and this co-ordination process had resulted in the identification of the frequencies as indicated. The document also clearly stipulated that use of these frequencies was restricted to within the PNWT region. Even though amateur operation is on a secondary basis in this band, it is still the policy of the Department to consult with local amateur organizations before assigning frequencies for use by DGPS.

On another point, it was mentioned that in the United States the installation of wind profiler radar systems in the operating on 449 MHz is being implemented by the National Weather Service. There is concern that these stations could cause interference to amateur operations.

In Canada the Atmospheric Environmental Service had some years ago planned to install wind profiler radar systems in this band. However, to the knowledge of Industry Canada this project had never been implemented and there appears to be no plans to proceed with these types of installations in the future.

c) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Respect to Emergency Telecommunications

Discussion took place concerning a proposal that had been made by the Edmonton

District Office of Industry Canada to Amateur Radio Emergency Services of Alberta. The proposal was for a cooperative arrangement to provide emergency communications if the "Alberta Support Plan in the Event of an Earthquake in British Columbia" was activated.

In Canada most responses to emergency events are dealt with at the municipal level and when the situation is severe the province will assist. The Federal government will only respond in cases of national or international emergency or if assistance is requested by the province. Therefore, it is necessary that any provincial arrangements be concluded between the Amateur Emergency Organization and the provincial authority.

The RAC stated that if an MOU between Industry Canada and amateur organizations is necessary, it should first be concluded at the national level between the RAC and Industry Canada before any subsidiary arrangements are made between district offices and provincial amateur organizations. A similar type of MOU currently exists between RAC and the Red Cross and the RAC suggested that this could be used as an example in drafting an MOU between the RAC and Industry Canada.

It was agreed that a contact person within Industry Canada will be identified and this initiative would be pursued.

6) Date of Next Meeting

The next CARAB meeting is scheduled for September 13, 1996.