



January 2018

# The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the  
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club  
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater  
K3RJC 444.9 Mhz Repeater  
K3FI - CLUB CALLS - WM3PEN  
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



## SharkRF OU openSPOT January 18

### HARC MEETING SharkRF OU openSPOT

Dennis, W3LSX, will be presenting info on the SharkRF OU openSPOT at the January 18 HARC meeting. openSPOT is a standalone digital radio IP gateway designed mainly for amateur radio. You can reach DMR, D-STAR and C4FM/System Fusion networks by using an openSPOT, internet access, and your DMR/D-STAR/C4FM radio.

Maybe you are thinking of getting on one of the digital modes. Now you can get on all 3 for under \$350. With a couple other accessories you can take this in the field and operate. The openSPOT retails for about \$240 and a DMR HT can be found on Amazon for under \$100.

Come out and learn about how to get on some of the digital voice modes.



### ARRL Board to Meet – ARRL Membership Expresses Concern Over Proposed Changes

The ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled to meet January 19 and 20. Several proposals to change the ARRL's Articles of Association and Bylaws are scheduled to come up. Many of the items have to do with transparency. There has been a lot of discussion on the various internet sites as well as social media. Several of the proposals keep board motions in the board room. Directors will be required to support the party line and not be able to indicate how they voted on a particular item. According to a CQ editorial ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF replied to CQ "by a) pleading ignorance to which proposals we were asking about - "The board reviews governing document changes at almost every meeting..." - and b) by stating that the members should never have seen the proposals prior to board consideration and action. "At all times in the past, such proposals have been treated as board-confidential, transmitted only to board members for their consideration before any public discussion."

Past Atlantic Division Assistant Director WA3PZO agreed with CQ that at least some directors would "regularly review proposals coming up for board action with his "cabinet" (assistant directors, section Field Organization leaders and club presidents) *prior* to board meetings to seek their input and guidance on making his voting decisions. There was never a suggestion that this might in any way be improper."

Needless to say the outcome of this board meeting will be followed closely. Stay tuned!



**ARRL** The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**®

## HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Saul Brody, W3WHK

Secretary - Steve Miller, KC3AZT

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

Sol Volen, N3UBY

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 3rd. Thursday @8:00 PM. Pathway Bldg, Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd . Phila PA. Picnic in August. Holiday Dinner in December.



H.A.R.C maintains the 146.685 repeater located @ Univ. of PA., Phila PA with inputs in Abington, N.E. Phila, and Cherry Hill, NJ; More Club Information & Member Applications can be had by contacting any of the Directors via E-mail. [WM3PEN@arrl.org](mailto:WM3PEN@arrl.org), the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website [www.HARCNET.org](http://www.HARCNET.org)  
**Upcoming Events**  
**HARC Meeting – January 18**  
**HARC Meeting – February 15**

## PHILA ARES INFORMATION

All amateurs interested in participating should check into the Phila ARES Net, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, hosted on the Phil-Mont Repeater System; 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL) ;444.80 MHz (+offset 186.2 PL) When control operators are available, Echolink node 29742, WU3I-L, is on the repeater. Backup link is KB3IV-L.

All interested amateurs are welcomed and encouraged to check in for more information. There is always a different topic of interest to the amateur community discussed with an informal round table of comments and suggestions.

Look forward to having all check in on Sunday nights @ 9:00 pm. See web site for more information.

- Visit the Philadelphia ARES web site <http://www.harcnet.org/aresindex.html>



## VE SESSIONS

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club has testing in Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month. Exams , 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA.

Registration begins at 7pm.

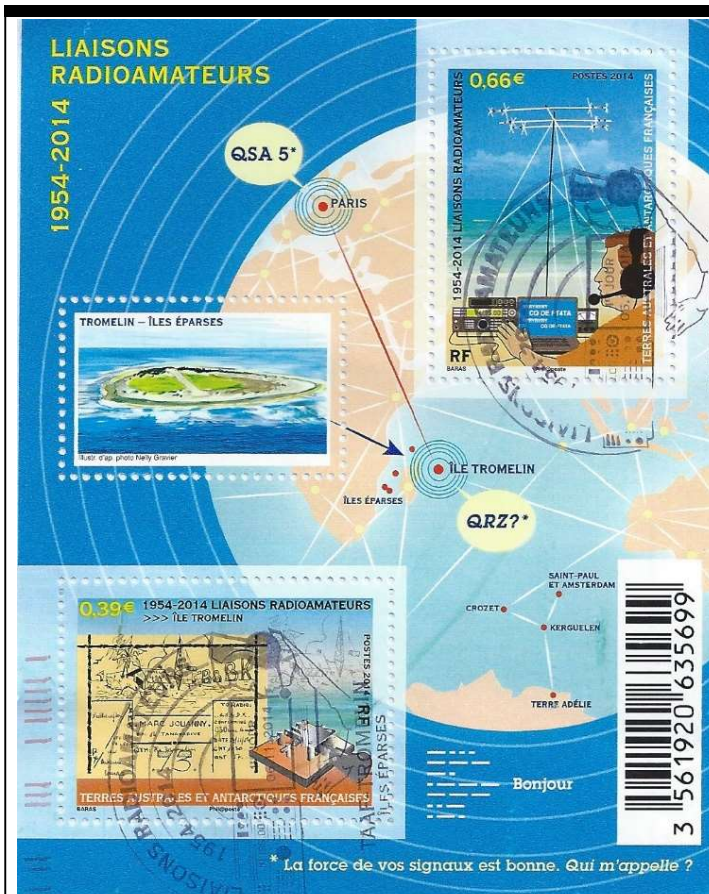
**Warminster Amateur Radio Club**, Monthly, Last Mon. 7:00 pm at the Wilson Senior Community Center 580 Delmont Avenue Warminster, PA 18974.

George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.

Mid-Atlantic ARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the Lower Providence Township Building. The VE Test Sessions are coordinated by Dick Stewart [K3ITH](mailto:K3ITH).

## HF AWARDS MANAGER

Are you getting close to having all 50 states confirmed for the Worked All States award or working enough grid squares for to qualify for the VUCC Award? As a HARC service you can now have your QSL cards verified by Bob, WA3PZO, and not have to ship the cards to ARRL Headquarters. You must be an ARRL member to qualify for the awards. Additional information and links can be found on the HARC website ([www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org))



## Stamps, Stamps, and More Stamps for SFTW

2016 turned out to be a banner year for HARC's participation in the Stamps for the Wounded Program. Over 31 pounds of stamps were collected and shipped to the SFTW program. While the numbers were down last year we had a record number of people contribute to the program and a number of repeat contributors. Thanks to all. We have had many inquiries about SFTW from the 13 Colonies event. The collected stamps are distributed to various centers around the country to help with physical and occupational therapy programs for our wounded vets.

## HARC About to Turn 40!

HARC will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018. How would you like to celebrate it? We have archives of information and photos of the club. Should we have a party? Should we do something special? Let any of the Board members know your thoughts.

## NE Phila Youth Run Sunday, October 15 NE Philadelphia Airport

HARC members came out to support the NE Phila Youth Run. Despite some early rain the day turned out to be good for the runners. Organizers of the event expressed their appreciation for our help along the route.



## December Holiday Dinner

HARC members and their families enjoyed dinner at the Country Club Diner in December. Thanks to Steve, KC3AZT, for arranging the event.

## Stay Connected!

The HARC Club net meets every Wednesday night at 8 PM on the Club repeater. Check in and see what's going on. HARC has a Facebook page. Sign up today. Follow HARC on the web at [www.harclink.org](http://www.harclink.org) and via the HARC Spark.



## Pennsylvania "67" Challenge Award

Amateur Radio operators around the world have the opportunity to participate in the Pennsylvania "67" Challenge. The Challenge,



sponsored by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, is to make contact with all 67 Pennsylvania Counties. The Challenge is open to all amateur radio operators regardless of individual station capabilities. All contacts must be 2-way communications made in real time. These contacts may be on any Amateur Radio band/mode.

Contacts made using repeating devices such as FM repeaters, Amateur satellites, moon-bounce, and keyboard-to-keyboard contacts through digipeaters/nodes are valid, because these QSOs are made in real or near-real time. Contacts using IRLP, Echolink, or D-Star are valid as long as a radio is being used by both operators. All contacts must be made from the same county. For further info check out [www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org).

## HARC Gets Letters

HARC gets letters and emails asking about amateur radio. Here is one with a different twist.

My name is Raj from the Philadelphia music group, Lushlife. My new album features an ode to amateur radio operators, Judica-Cordiglia brothers. And as a bit of an "art project" style release - we are exploring an idea to premiere our song broadcasting on amateur radio covering Philly -- repeating the song on the broadcast lasting for 3 days and starting on midnight January 1st.

In any case, I don't know the specifics of broadcasting amateur radio as you can imagine, but I'm wondering if you guys can help me understand if something like this is possible!

Reply: We explained that no music is permitted on amateur radio. However I was not familiar with the Judica-Cordiglia brothers.

So here is a bit of amateur radio history from Wikipedia.

The **Judica-Cordiglia brothers** are two Italian former amateur radio operators who made audio recordings that allegedly support the conspiracy theory that the Soviet space program covered up cosmonaut deaths in the 1960s. The pair claimed to have acquired recordings of several secret Soviet space missions

that ended in tragedy and mystery. This has generated public interest for more than 50 years,<sup>[1]</sup> despite there being a large number of detailed rebuttals to the brothers' claims.<sup>[2]</sup>



### Background

Achille (b. [Paderno Dugnano](#), 1933 - d. [Turin](#), 2015) and his brother Giovanni Battista (b. [Erba](#), 1939) set up their own experimental listening station just outside Turin. They began to pick up the signals in October 1957.<sup>[3]</sup> The brothers used a disused German [bunker](#) at a site named Torre Bert. Working with scavenged and improvised equipment, they claimed to have successfully monitored transmissions from the Soviet Sputnik program and Explorer 1, the first American satellite, using equipment that recorded flight information such as telemetry, voice recordings and visual data.

### Recordings

The following month, the Soviets sent the dog Laika into space, the first animal to [orbit](#) the Earth. The Judica Cordiglia brothers claimed to have intercepted signals from this release. Achille, a medical student at the time, identified the animal's heartbeat. To verify, they woke up their father, a doctor and a college professor, and compared the sounds to his pet dog.<sup>[3]</sup>

On November 28, 1960 they made recordings that they claimed refuted the idea that Yuri Gagarin was the first man in space. The Bochum Radioastronomical Observatory in West Germany reported that it had received signals different from those that used to come from Soviet satellites. The Judica Cordiglia brothers also picked up on these signs, and claimed to have heard an [SOS](#) message in Morse code. Based on the Doppler effect, they deduced that the spacecraft was moving further away from Earth, rather than orbiting.<sup>[3]</sup> Two days later, once again, the Soviet Union announced that it has put a 7.5-ton spacecraft into orbit, and that it has disintegrated. Strange coincidence," noted Achille in the TV documentary "I pirati dello spazio" (The Space Pirates), made in 2007. Moscow has always denied that it was a

manned flight.<sup>[3]</sup> The historical flight of Gagarin is also in the documents of the two brothers. In the film, they show a recording made the morning of April 12, 1961, which they claimed to be conversations between the cosmonaut and mission control.



On May 23, 1961 the brothers claimed to have recorded a female voice speaking in Russian, saying "it is very hot," "I see flame," and asking if the ship was going to destroy itself, before the signal was interrupted.<sup>[3]</sup>

The brothers achieved fame in Italy because of the recordings. They received national media attention and made a visit to NASA, as a prize obtained on a television program.<sup>[3]</sup>

Their listening activities came to an end in 1965. On April 7, Radio Moscow, an official vehicle of the Soviet government, said the recordings were false and denied the information that there could be lost cosmonauts. According to the brothers, the claims of Radio Moscow were an attempt to silence them.<sup>[3]</sup>

In total the Judica-Cordiglia brothers released nine recordings over a period of four years.

Since the 1960s, critical analysis of the recordings has cast doubt on their provenance. For instance, audio transcripts reveal that none of the cosmonauts, who were supposed to be [Soviet air force](#) pilots, followed standard communication protocols, such as identifying themselves when speaking or using correct technical terminology.<sup>[4]</sup> Likewise all the recordings contain disjointed sentences and grammatical errors (e.g. the meaningless "...аша передача будет теперь", Nov 1963)←("аша передача будет теперь" Translation: "...[o]ur transmission will now...") contradicting the known fact that the Soviet space program only used highly trained, well-educated [Russian](#) native speakers from aeronautical backgrounds.<sup>[5]</sup> Though some of the transcripts record cosmonauts saying they are leaving Earth's orbit (i.e. heading into interplanetary or "deep" space), the manned Vostok 3KAs could not reach escape velocity because their designs

never contained secondary-burn propulsion units. This was inherent to the [Vostok programme](#), a project to put the first Soviet citizens into low Earth orbit and return them safely. [OKB-1](#) only required spacecraft with velocities that could reach Earth orbit (28,160 kilometres per hour (17,500 mph)) far less than the speed needed to break orbit (40,320 kilometres per hour (25,050 mph)). Propulsion units powerful enough to leave earth's orbit did not begin to appear until the test firing of the [RD-270](#) engine in 1969; and it was not until the N1 moon rocket (with the [NK-33](#) engines) in 1974 that the Soviets built a spacecraft able to reach open space.<sup>[6][7]</sup> It is impossible to "accidentally" veer off into deep space without firing a rocket engine powerful enough to accelerate to escape velocity. Brazilian astronomer Ronaldo Rogério de Freitas Mourão stated that "These stories fell into disrepute after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Many secrets of the Russian program came to light and nothing on that subject [was addressed]". "The Russian program had several failures that they did not hide."<sup>[3]</sup> Mourão also reported that attempts to intercept radio signals were not made in Europe alone. "There was a lot of listening, as there was an American interest in destabilizing the Soviet Union and that kind of information would not go unnoticed," said the astronomer. "If there was anyone before Gagarin, we would know."<sup>[3]</sup>

#### Legacy

In 1964 they won the Italian TV quiz show *Fiera dei Sogni* ('The Fair of Dreams') that enabled them to visit [NASA](#) as their prize.

In 2007 the brothers were the subject of a documentary called *I pirati dello spazio* ('Pirates of Space').<sup>[3]</sup> *Fortean Times*, a science-sceptical magazine, published an article on the brothers and their recordings of lost cosmonauts in March 2008. A sympathetic dramatisation of the brothers' story, called "Listen Up" by Glen Neath, was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in May 2009. In 2011, the brothers' story was featured on the Science Channel TV show, *Dark Matters: Twisted But True*. The *Dark Matters* Season 01 Episode 05 also presented the story in an extremely sympathetic light, only briefly mentioning any skepticism that exists.

In later life, Achille became a cardiologist while Giovanni Battista worked for the Italian police providing phone-taps in criminal investigations.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judica-Cordiglia\\_brothers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judica-Cordiglia_brothers))

**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

**January 18 - Club meeting**

**SharkRF OU openSPOT**

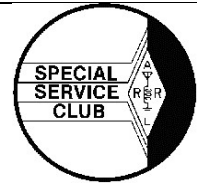


**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136**

<http://www.harcnet.org>

**WM3PEN/K3FI**



All members in good standing are eligible to vote and hold a board office. Dues are \$20.00/year.

Make checks payable to H.A.R.C. and mail to 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136. Membership year begins May 1.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? \_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_