

The *E-VOX*

The Official *On-Line* Newsletter of the



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI



Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - **USA**

Officers

President: **Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG** (rjwolfe@rcn.com)

Vice President: **Walt Snyder - KE3SP** (SBWALLY@aol.com)

Secretary: **Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK** (philbert@enter.net)

Treasurer: **Paul Ryan - N0KIA** (n0kia@arrl.net)

Board of Governors

Mark S. Miller - AK3M (AK3M@rcn.com)

Frank Unger - W3FTU (funger@enter.net)

Willie Robertson - AB3BS (WILLIETR@BELLATLANTIC.NET)

Robin Gable - KB3GZV (kb3gzw@arrl.net)

Jim Kelly - KA3UQP (kellyj6@ptd.net)

E-VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M) (AK3M@rcn.com) or (AK3M@arrl.net)

Webmaster- Paul Ryan N0KIA (n0kia@arrl.net)

Repeaters

146.340/146.940 (PL 71.9)

147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)

RACES NET

Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)

All are welcome !

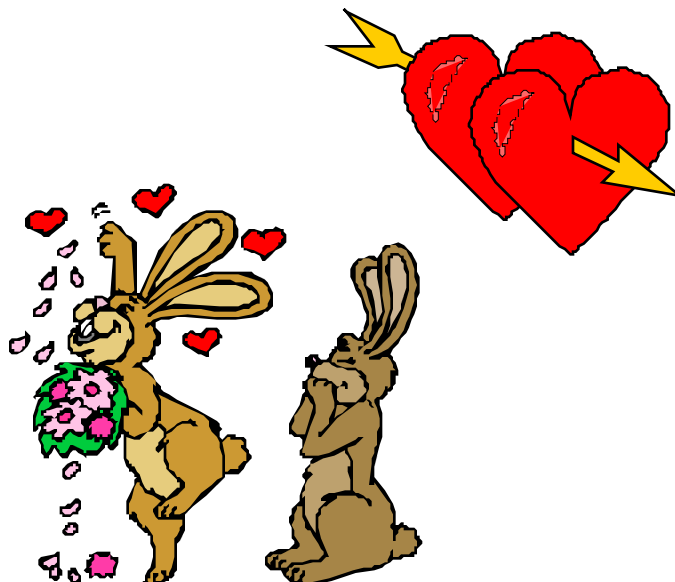


W3OI Home Page: <http://www.w3oi.org>



February 2005 Contents

Meeting Information	page 3
L.C. RACES Net Information	page 3
This Month In Ham Radio	page 4
Minutes of the January, 2005 Meeting	pages 5-6
RACES/ARES NC Operator List	page 7
LVARC Activities	page 8
Winter Vehicle Emergency Kit	page 9
2004 Operation Ho Ho	pages 10-12
New VE Information	page 13
2005 Dues Are Due	page 14
Emergency Communications Training	pages 15-17





**The February meeting will be held on
February 1, 2005 at the Red Cross Building at 7:30.**

Program: Basic Electronics

Presenter: Paul Ryan (NOKIA)



LVARC / RACES NET

**Don't forget to check into the Monday Night
LC/LVARC/RACES Net on 146.94 (PL 71.9) with an
alternate frequency of 147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)
The Net begins at 7:30 pm local time (ET).**

**Many club announcements
will be heard there !**

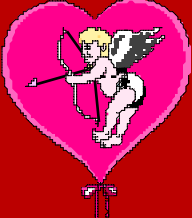

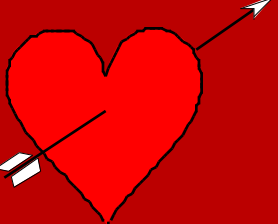
Monday Night RACES/ARES Check In Summary - 2004

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Mondays</u>
January	86	4
February	100	4
March	134	5
April	71	3
May	128	5
June	97	4
July	69	3
August	121	5
September	65	3*
October	107	4
November	146	5
December	119	4

* Labor Day Holiday

1243 <<< 2004 total check-in
(103.5 per mo. avg.)



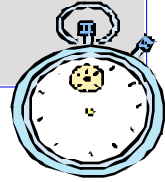
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30				Vermont Minnesota Delaware QSO Party N. Am Spring SSB 10-10 Winter QSO Party-Phone
		1	2	3	4	5
Vermont Minnesota Delaware QSO Party N. Am Spring SSB 10-10 Winter QSO Party-Phone	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jim KA3UQP					Dutch PACC Contest CW/SSB Louisiana QSO Party
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dutch PACC Contest CW/SSB Louisiana QSO Party	ARES RACES Net 7:30 KB3GZW KB3GZV				LVARC VE Test Session 7:00 pm	ARRL Intntl. DX Contest CW
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
ARRL Intntl. DX Contest CW CQC Winter QSO Party CW/SSB	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Paul NOKIA			 Full Moon	CQ 160-m Contest SSB	Russian PSK WW Contest PSK31 CQ 160-m Contest SSB Miss. QSO Party
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Russian PSK WW Contest PSK31 Miss. QSO Party N.C QSO Party	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff N3MFT	<div>February</div> <div>2005</div> 				
27	28					

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday Friday 1, 2005 7:30 pm at the Red Cross Building

LVARC VE Test Session - Friday February 18, 2005 - 7:00 PM



Minutes of the January 4, 2004 Meeting de Phil (KB3HMK), - Secretary - LVARC



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes

Date: January 4, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1930 Hrs, (EST / EDST).

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, then a moment of silence was observed for Silent Keys.

There were a total of 23 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 2 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: All board members were in attendance.

Corrections Additions to the minutes: No corrections or additions

Approved by: Walt – KE3SP
Second by: Mike - KB3LOD
Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Paul reported an ending balance of \$1,119.38 for the month of December

Approved by: Jim – KA3UQP
Second by: Willie – AB3BS
Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: Rod (N3XG) reports that the 147.135 repeater is getting interference when you have the p.l. tone off. The station, WJ2DX can be heard. Rod will talk to the repeater coordinator to see what can be done.

Program: Phil (KB3HMK) reports that tonights program will be Rod (N3XG) doing a presentation on "How To Read A Propagation Chart". The program for February will be Paul (N0KIA). He will be doing a program on "Intro To Basic Electronics". Paul sent out an e-mail describing what the program will be about. If you did not receive an e-mail, most likely he does not have your e-mail address. If you would like to find out what the program is on, send Paul an e-mail with your address.

(Minutes - continued on page 6)



(Minutes - continued from page 5)

Volunteer Examiners: Test fees will go from \$12 to \$14. The club will now be allowed to keep up \$8. As of now there is no one signed up to be tested for January.

Field Day: We need a chairperson to head the committee. If anyone is interested let the President know. Lou (N3OL) did a great job for last years Field Day. Thank you.

Web Site: Paul (N0KIA) reports that the server has been moved. The website was down due system wide failure. He's hoping it will be back up tomorrow. The comments page is back up and running. It was broken for quite some time. Let Paul know if there are any problems or any information that needs to be updated.

Education: A technician class will be held either in April or May. Rod (N3XG) will let everyone know when the final date is. He would like to set the minimum of students to 5.

Old Business: Operation Ho-Ho was a big success. Mark (AK3M) and Larry (NR3R) were featured in an article in the Morning Call. There were 5-6 kids that day. Pictures will be posted on the newsletter.

Robin (KB3GZV) will contact the gentleman that wants to donate equipment to the club. Robin will talk to him to see what the value of the equipment is.

Rod (N3XG) is working on the 501C3 for the club. Dave (WA3HVR) is checking on how much it will cost.

New Business: A board meeting is scheduled for Friday Jan. 7.

Paul (N0KIA) made a motion to continue to make a donation to the Lehigh Valley Red Cross for letting use the facilities. A second was made by Robin (KB3GZV).__

Robert (WA3JSZ) will donate a mini tape recorder to aid the secretary when taking notes.

New members/Guests: Mark Withers (KB3FDN)

New Members Motion to Accept by: Jim (KA3UQP)

\$\$\$	W3OI Finances	\$\$\$	
Balance as of December 30, 2004 - \$1,119.38			



E-VOX MATERIAL NEEDED

de Mark (AK3M)

If you enjoy reading the LVARC newsletter and want to see it continue, please send your submissions to Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com. Your submission may be in ANY format (pictures or text).

Monday Night RACES/ARES Net Control Operators January 2005



January 3

AK3M

Mark

January 10

KB3GZV/KB3GZW

Robin/Dorian

January 17

N0KIA

Paul

January 24

N3MFT

Jeff

January 31

AK3M

Mark



February 2005

February 7

KA3UQP

Jim

February 14

KB3GZV/KB3GZW

Robin/Dorian

February 21

N0KIA

Paul

February 28

N3MFT

Jeff

CORRECTION: Willie's call in the January, 2005 issue of the EVOX was incorrect. His call has been corrected in this issue. Willie's call is AB3BS and not AA3BS.





LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Tuesday February 1 --- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 PM (Red Cross Bldg.)

Wednesday February 2 --- Groundhog Day

February 7 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday February 14 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday February 14 --- Valentine's Day

Friday February 18 --- VE Test Session (7:00 pm Red Cross)

Monday February 21 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday February 21 --- President's Day Observed

Monday February 28 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.

LVARC 2004 Program Schedule

de Phil (KB3HMK) - LVARC Program Chairman

February - Basic Electronics (Paul - NOKIA)

DON'T FORGET

The LVARC VE program. If you know someone would like to become a ham or if you want to upgrade your license, the LVARC can help!

Contact Mark (AK3M) for details
(610-865-9183 or AK3M@rcn.com)





Emergency Winter Car Kit



Many times, we have discussed the necessity of an emergency communications kit but with the winter weather upon us, the idea of an emergency winter car kit is also essential! Winter weather allows for some of the worst driving conditions and yes, sometimes accidents. This may happen to you or another but it always means trouble. You may be caught in a traffic jam or even worse, a complete stand still for an undetermined amount of time. Keeping the necessary items in your trunk in a "gym-type" bag may be one of your best investments. In your bag, you may want to keep the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. flashlight | 5. spare batteries | 9. basic tools |
| 2. blanket | 6. water | 10. jump start battery or jumper cables |
| 3. small snow shovel | 7. extra gloves | 11. 12 Volt DC air compressor |
| 4. fire extinguisher | 8. granola bars | 12. road flares or other visual signals |

Remember to keep your gas tank at least half full. This will help keep condensation out of your tank, help with weight for traction and permit you to run your engine for heat. Also, don't travel without your HT/radio and/or cell phone.



2005 DUES ARE DUE

(See page 14)

The "Real" Father of Modern Radio?

Edwin Armstrong (1890-1954)

Inventor of three electronic circuits that are the heart of modern radio, television and radar, Armstrong is largely forgotten today.

His designs for regenerative and superheterodyne circuits made AM radio practical, and his invention of FM gave us static-free high fidelity radio. He was a junior at the Columbia University School of Engineering when he put together his first regenerative circuit, and then the first continuous wave transmitter. His principles are still at the heart of all modern radio transmitters.

Like many innovators, Armstrong struggled

against corporate pressure and existing standards that were threatened by his breakthroughs. It wasn't until after his death in 1954 that many of his patents were validated by the courts, and Edwin Armstrong finally took his well deserved place in the history of wireless technology.



From: Jameco Catalog - Fall 2004 vol. 644
Submitted by Frank (W3FTU)



Operation Ho Ho, 04 ... Another Success

de Mark (AK3M)

On a cloudy, cool day in December, LVARC elves visited the Lehigh Hospital at Cedar Crest for the fourth "Operation ho Ho!" Armed with HT's, the elves met with Dawn Miller of the hospital staff who showed them to the children's unit where they began their visit to the rooms.

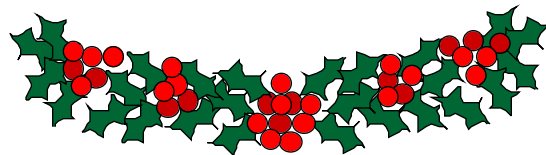
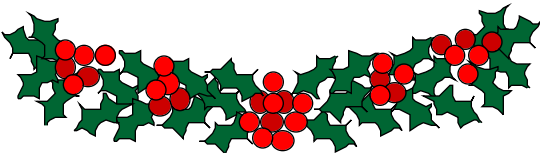


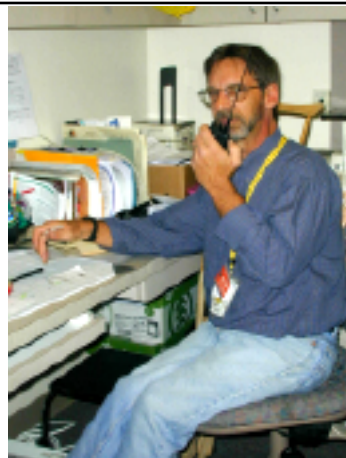
Once again, it was my pleasure to act as Santa. Although in that role, I do not get to visit with the children as I am separated in another room out of sight. The children had some interesting questions for Santa as one young lady wanted to know why Santa painted Rudolph's feet different colors!! All the children promised to leave Santa a snack and some said they would put out carrots for the reindeer. All the children received a gift from the elves courtesy of the LVARC!

This year, we were accompanied by Frank from the Morning Call who followed the elves and took pictures. An article appeared in the Morning Call the next day (Monday December 13, 2004).

This event could not have been possible without the help and support of many ! I wish to thank Larry (NR3R) for his thought and shopping for all the gifts, Dawn Miller of the hospital staff, Frank from the Morning Call and all the elves.... Phil (KB3HMK) and Mrs. Bigg, Larry (NR3R) and Robin Miller, Mark (AK3M) and Rae Miller, Robin (KB3GZV) and Dorian (KB3GZV) Gable, Mike (KB3KEJ) and Holly VanPoots and, for his first time as an LVARC elf, Reed VanPoots! Final TNX to all the members of the LVARC for their support in this event!

(see pages 11 & 12 for related pictures)





OPERATION

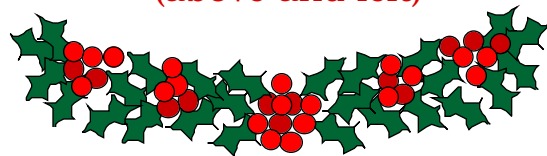


HOOHOOO





**The “2004
Ho Ho” Kids
(above and left)**



**The “2004
Ho Ho” Team
(right)**

Larry (NR3R), Robin (KB3GZV), Dorian (KB3GZW), Rae Miller, Robin Miller, Mark (AK3M), Phil (KB3HMK - back) and Phil's mother. Not shown, Mike (KB3KEJ), son Reed and XYL Holly and LVH contact Dawn Miller.





VE Information for 2005



Starting January 1, 2005, the **fee** charged for all applicants at ARRL VEC coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions **will increase from \$12.00 to \$14.00** for the 2005 year. ARRL VE Teams (LVARC) may retain up to \$6.00 of this fee to directly reimburse their team's out-of-pocket examination expenses. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading his or her operating privileges.
(source: QST January 2005, page 98)

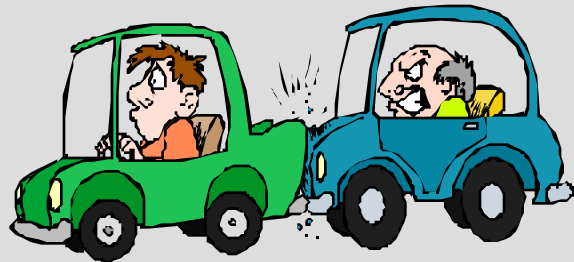
Current Question Pool Status

Current Technician class Element 2 (effective 7/1/03) Expires 6/30/07
Current General class Element 3 (effective 7/1/04) Expires 6/30/08
Current Extra class Element 4 (effective 7/1/02) Valid until further notice

(source: QST January 2005, page 98)

Driving Misconception

Driving or stopping really close to the car in front of you will get you to your destination faster and will prevent an accident.





2005 Dues Are Due

Dues keep the LVARC strong and allow us to contribute to Operation Ho Ho and the ARRL, buy pizza, finance Field Day and more. Dues are one way the LVARC stays "afloat." The good news, is that **dues will REMAIN THE SAME AS LAST YEAR** (and the year before)!

Regular Dues (includes autopatch) \$17.00

Family Dues \$3.00

**Associate
(non-ham) \$5.00**

Send your dues to:

**Paul Ryan (NOKIA)
5814 Lindbergh Street
Orefield, PA 18069-2250**

**or pay Paul at the
January, 2005 meeting**

or pay at the club's web site.

Make checks payable to: *The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club*

**** Please notify Paul of change of address, email or phone number(s) ****

Why Join/Renew Membership In the LVARC ?

Why should you join the LVARC? What do you get for your membership? What does

the LVARC have to offer?

You get great programs, a monthly newsletter, dinner meetings, soon to be Tech classes, Field Day, a terrific web site, informative, friendly members, a holiday party, special programs (Operation Ho Ho), participation in community activities, group ARRL purchases, a dedicated RACES/ARES program, pizza meetings, access to an autopatch and **much more!!**

**I'm gonna
re-new now !!!**





EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

Submitted by Jim (KA3UQP)

Continued emergency communications training is one of the keys to the future success of Amateur Radio and justification for our band privileges. The following article does a very nice job and making this case.

Special thanks to Mr. Faulkner for giving PA-SitRep permission to post the article.

-David Kleber, KB3FXI
PA-SitRep Owner/Founder

Amateur Radio; Emergency Communications, Asset or Liability? Part 1 of a Series ©

By Robin L. Faulkner, N7GSU

Over nearly forty years of involvement in emergency communications in amateur radio, the military and public safety; I have been asked many times for my input in matters pertaining to the emergency communications capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service. Having served on both sides of the fence, I suppose one does sometimes have the advantage of being able to see the forest, in spite of all those trees.

The truth is, those not directly involved in Amateur Radio, and in some cases, those that are; do not fully understand how truly unique Amateur Radio is. From the standpoint of it's potential as an emergency communications asset, unlike the communications systems normally deployed by public safety agencies; Amateur Radio has the ability to adapt and expand to meet the rapidly changing requirements of any communications emergency. This is not the case with any other public safety radio system, no matter how large, well designed or financed it might be. This aspect of the Amateur Radio Service alone is in no small way responsible for our very existence, and one of the reasons why nearly every nation on the planet has set aside very valuable radio spectrum to it.

Our many available modes and bands allow us flexibility unmatched by any other single communications service. In an emergency, we can simply select additional channels to handle the increased traffic load. Our spectrum space is nearly limitless, whereas even the largest public safety agency system has a finite number of channels available. Our high frequency capabilities using NVIS and other techniques, allows communications in any terrain, without the support of fragile infrastructure, such as repeaters. Even with all our capabilities, there are some very real, and not so real shortcomings of our service in the minds of some public officials.

Although there are many Emergency Managers, public safety agency chiefs and elected public officials with Amateur Radio Licenses; even these professionals are often of the opinion that our service is more a liability than an asset, when it comes to it's use in an actual emergency. Unfortunately for all concerned, this opinion is often not without foundation. Although from a technical point of view, there is little doubt our service has potential as an asset to public safety in an emergency, the volunteer nature of our service, if not it's very name; is often the greatest obstacle to its' greater acceptance and utilization by those agencies we seek to serve.



To many, the very word amateur is associated with being less than professional, or something less than expert. When one is used to dealing with human lives and property, you can see where a term like "amateur paramedic", or "amateur police officer" might give one pause, where the term "professional paramedic" or "police professional" might invoke completely different feelings. Amateur, as in 'Amateur Radio' of course, reflects the unpaid, volunteer nature of the service, i.e., 'amateur athlete'. But this is an example of why we are sometimes met with some reservation on the part of those charged with the public safety, when it comes to being utilized in their emergency operations plans. This however, is only one example, and one more easily dealt with. There are, unfortunately, other examples that are more difficult to overcome. There are 'volunteer paramedics' and "volunteer fire fighters" and we know that this reflects only the fact they are unpaid for their services to the public.

This does not mean they are less trained than their paid counterparts, or that they are exempt from meeting certain standards of education and conduct. Perhaps we should move to have the term Amateur Radio Operator changed to Volunteer Radio Operator? I would probably not support that idea, but I certainly do support becoming more like our volunteer cousins, the fire fighters and paramedics. These folks train and work very hard, and subject themselves to certain demands of conduct, training and experience.

Certainly a person having just completed basic training as a fire fighter, is not going to be expected by the public, his peers, or his superiors to be as well suited to all aspects of the job, as one who has undergone additional training above the basic level, or one with more experience in the field. Why is it then that many of the Amateur Radio fraternity feel that having an operator's license makes them an automatic asset to public safety communications? Unfortunately, this attitude is held by many amateurs, and is an example of something in need of change. A driving license gives one the right to drive upon the public streets and highways, but does not entitle the driver to drive a heavy truck for hire. It is the minimal requirement for additional training and experience.

A Technician or even an Extra Class Amateur License does not make anyone an emergency communications expert, or even an asset to the public safety. Unless one is willing to undergo additional training and experience, and to subject one's self to accepted standards of conduct and discipline, these serve only as minimal requirements. An Emergency Manager or Fire Chief is not going to place anyone at risk; including his other personnel, and certainly not the public; without making very sure you know what you are doing. In matters pertaining to emergency communications, this means you are expected to know more than how to hook up and use a radio transmitter and antenna.

You must also know something of how to conduct yourself concerning sensitive communications, dealing with the press, your limitations as well as your assets. If you expect to be dumped into the middle of a forest fire to provide emergency communications to professional and volunteer fire crews, then you had best also know the basics of fire fighting, and how it related to your own safety, that of the public at large, and the other members of 'the team'. In short, you might be the best communicator in the world, but if you expect to be placed in the thick of it, you might want to know which way the wind is blowing!



Until a Fire Chief or Emergency Manager is relatively confident you will be more of an asset than a liability, he or she is not going to utilize you in any meaningful way. At best he risks a lawsuit, at worst he might be responsible for having cost someone's life. Unless you become part of the solution, you are part of the problem. Be willing to view the issue from his or her perspective, and you will soon realize there is more to it than just showing up with a car full of radios, and an orange vest. If you are willing to show up for offered training, and not just when there is a real emergency. If you are willing to listen as well as talk. The Fire Chief or Emergency Manager might just move you and your ARES group into his asset column, and out of the one headed 'liabilities'.

#####

This article was posted to PA-SitRep.com with the permission of the author, Robin L. Faulkner, N7GSU

Robin Faulkner hosts an EmComm products website at the following address:
www.emcomm-products.com



LVARC Comment Link Fixed

from an email from Paul (NOKIA)

Hello All LVARC Members and Guests:

I was unaware until recently that our "Comment" link on our main web page was broken. All comments made using that form were being dumped into the bit bucket. I'm not sure how long this has been going on, but the last comment I received via the old link was on 5/9/04!!!

After much tweeking and finally converting to cgiemail we're back in business. Anyone who wants to try it out, feel free. And if you submitted comments in the past six months and wondered why they were ignored, now you know why. You can resubmit them and I can now "officially" ignore them ;)

Oh, the link is on the main page and goes to:

<http://www.w3oi.org/cgiemail.htm>

73,
Paul (NOKIA)