

A SHORT HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE PARMA RADIO CLUB

written by
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The Parma Radio Club was formed in 1948. Among the founders were George Lippert W8YHR, Doc Natherson W8BLB, Ray McDaniels W8DBH, and Le Roy Vortman W8CKU.

In the early days the meetings were held in the homes of the members. The first meeting was held at Doc's home, in Parma Hts. After more members joined the club, the meetings were regularly held in the basement of a delicatessen where the Yorktown Theatre now stands. The meetings were held at the Last Stop Inn, Thoreau Park School, Fire Station #2, and are presently held on the fourth Friday of each month at the Parma Savings Co.

In the early days of the club about 80% of the members attended the meetings, which were more of a social nature, although occasionally a technical talk was given. No dues were collected, but a kitty was kept, by holding an auction or by taking up a collection. Among the early members were Tony Pavlik ZQI, Walt Widlar ERI, Al Pheonix BVN, Clyde Champness BGF, and Bill Demeter GMF.

George Lippert was elected the first president, and each year new officers were elected from the original members. When Civil Defense was created many young hams joined the club. A family corn roast was held at least once a year at Metropolitan Park off Snow Road. Dinners were also occasionally held.

A simple constitution was written after the second or third

meeting at McDaniels' home. A formal constitution which was necessary to obtain a club license, was written several years later by Warren Geary PCJ. The present constitution was revised and approved on November 2, 1957.

Even before the Parma Radio Club was formed, the hams were active in communication work. For example - in 1943, when hams were off the air, permission was granted by Parma City Officials to demonstrate the feasibility of two-way radios in Police and Fire Department cars. Among those who took active part in the test run were CKU, BGF, COG, and SRF, accompanied by the Mayor, Police Chief, and Fire Chief of Parma. Actual emergencies were assimilated in this test. The officials were so impressed with the results of this mobile equipment that two-way radios were installed in Police cars and Fire equipment.

Some of the Old Timers are no longer with us, so to bring them back to the Parma Radio Club meetings, we hold an annual "Old Timers' Night." At this meeting the official affairs of the club are held to a minimum so there can be more time devoted to rag-chewing; also a feature of the evening is the annual door prize and the usual coffee, tea, and donuts.

About six months after the club was started, the Parma Net was formed. McDaniels had several 29080 kc crystals, so the members decided to use these for the net frequency. This net was of a social nature. After Civil Defense was started, the same frequency was retained for the Parma Radio Emergency Net. In the early days of the net a new Net Control Station was assigned each month at the club meeting. Sometimes as high as 20 members checked into the

net, among them such Old Timers as ARD, DUP, DFL, CMI, NYJ, WLM, and VM.

About the year 1950 the Parma Radio Club received a station license W8HJF which has now expired. The equipment for this station was donated by the members and was first put into operation when meetings were held at Thoreau Park School.

Several years ago a code and theory class for Novices and Generals was instituted by Charlie Meyers MGP and Henry Bormann CZN at the Estabrook Recreation Center. Classes are regularly held under the leadership of Ray Rosenberry EBF with the assistance of Tom Hill DHX and Bill Wilhelm.

Since 1956 the Parma Radio Club has published a monthly bulletin called the PRC BULLETIN which is mailed to all members one week before each meeting. The bulletin contains the business to be discussed at the next meeting, happenings at the previous meeting, gossip, wanted and for sale ads, and interesting extras. Previous editors have been SUB, SQZ, CUT, BQY, CUX, DHT, and DJC. The present editors are RVB, QCO, and Bill Buchholz.

Some of the Old Timers are no longer with us. Wayne McDaniels moved to London, Warren Geary went back East, while Doc Natherson and Walt Widlar are now among the Silent Keys.

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