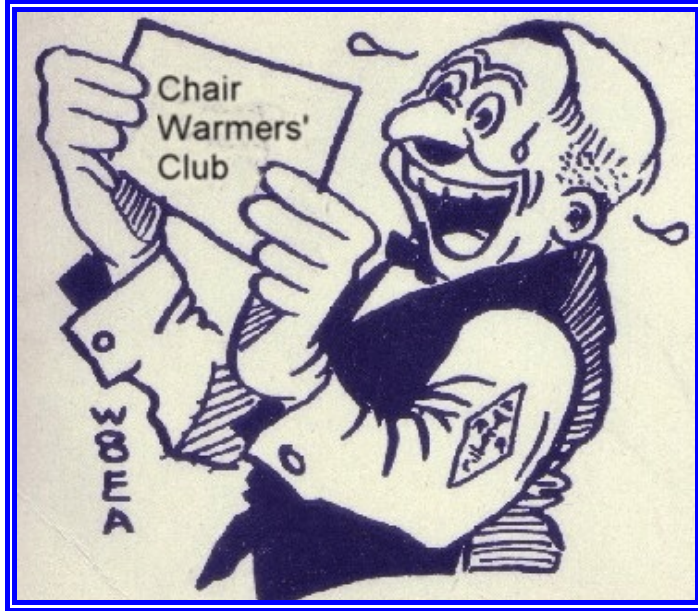


## The Chair Warmers' Club



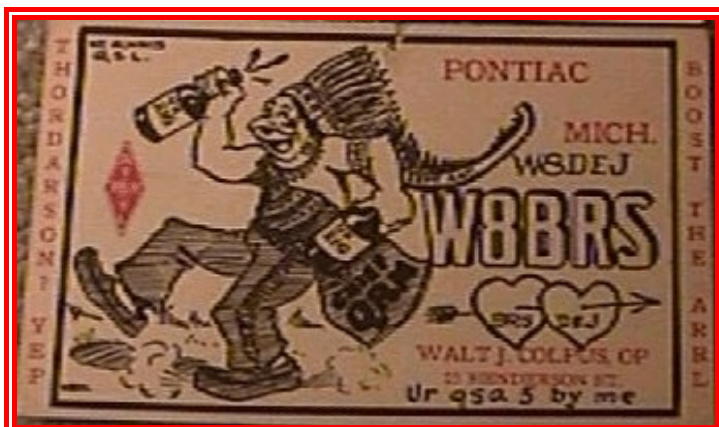
Forward; Your author would request any data or material on this story brought to our attention. Including news letters. Thanks in advance!

This fascinating fraternal group started with the imagination of Max Colvin W9WV of Kansas City. Later was organized in April 1929 by **Walt J. Colpus W8BRS, of Pontiac, Michigan.** Walt suffered from a arthritic condition.

In its first 18 months of existence had grown from a small group of some half dozen members to an international organization of nearly one hundred members in this country, Canada and UK.

The Chair Warmers' are unique in more than one respect, it publishes a neatly mimeographed official news letter, made up like a regular magazine with cartoons drawn especially for it by a loyal good friend of the society, Otto Eppers W8EA. Outside of the illustrations all work of issuing the bulletin is done by members, James Lisk, W8EQ of Lima Ohio, the editor. Hugh Hossler W8DIK is the assistant editor who prepares the stencil and mails them to Rudy Drews W8DSQ, a junior member in Lansing Mich who runs off the sheets, makes up the magazine and places them in the mail to the members. A technical editor in the person of F.R. Gibbs W8BAU (W8IJ) of Columbus Ohio writes an article each month on transmitting equipment and answers the questions of the members. Editors note; Gibby was the founder of popular amateur radio sales "Universal Radio" Columbus Ohio) They have a heritage page on the Universal Internet site.

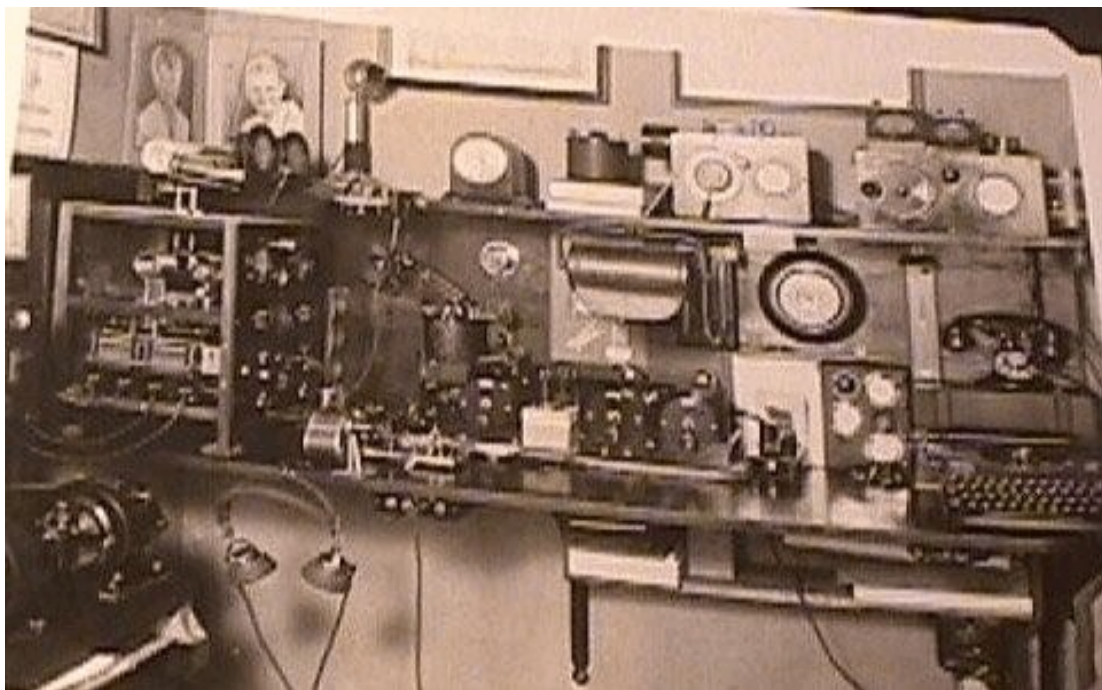
Club literature said; Anyone requesting literature in writing to Walt Colpus W8BRS Secretary, of Pontiac, Mich, who is eager to get in touch with other shut-ins, blind and physically handicapped amateurs, will send a twelve page illustrated booklet telling about the Chair Warmers' Club.



CWC was affiliated with the ARRL and virtually all members holding operating licenses are League members. The purpose of the club is to band together all licensed shut-in amateurs and any other shut-ins who wish to take up amateur radio. The members are divided into two groups; Junior and Senior. The seniors being those who already have stations and are helping the juniors to obtain licenses.

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Walter Colpus Jr. W8BRS crippled by arthritis of Pontiac Michigan was a first class radio pioneer. Now having recent information reviewed on the Internet by his (Walt's) nephew Rick Brooks in Angola Indiana; "My grandfather Walter Colpus Sr. made Ripley's Believe it or Not. After Walter Sr. became totally blind, he put in all the plumbing in their house on Henderson Street in Pontiac Michigan. Grandfather trusted his sons to do the house wiring but not the plumbing. Pictured an early Colpus W8BRS advanced wireless station in Pontiac, Michigan. (Note the MG on left bottom), plus OM Uncle Walter himself. Walter's brother Eric also helped out in the radio hobby.



(Partially scripted from Charley Estes W9FYM QST Feb 1931 P98) and info from Rick Brooks on the Colpus family. W8SU 2008