

## Camaraderie,

A significant factor in the success of the Signal Mountain Lions Club is a difficult to define social construct called camaraderie.

Go all the way back to Shakespeare, and read **Henry V** and the quotation about "the Band of Brothers". That's a classical expression of the condition. If you look, you will find many illustrations throughout history of what camaraderie looks like. Even if we have trouble defining it, we know it when we experience it.



In Lion Club speak, watch the Lions at the Football refreshment stand, telling stories, or teasing each other as we work the crowd of happy souls. That's camaraderie!

Babysit the golden days of the Bar-B-Q pits late at night, telling lies and sharing a surreptitious beer, that's camaraderie!

Talk to the gang that built the Blacksmiths Shop at McCoy about the many hours spent together on that project; that's camaraderie!

We cook and serve burgers and Hot Dogs at McCoy's Memorial Day picnic; that's camaraderie.

We take field trips, large and small, building camaraderie. Working the Shred day program is camaraderie. Service alone is good, but service with others has a special attraction!

Camaraderie is a feeling of trust and friendship among a group of people who have usually known each other for a long time and gone through meaningful experiences together. It is something many older members seek walking down the last fairway; someone to share the walk with. It attracts members to the veteran's group and the Military History group, and many other gatherings.

We also raise money for charitable causes, and that has its place in the club, too. However, in our focus on fundraising, we've unintentionally made camaraderie a lower priority, to our own detriment. Recapturing it is our challenge for the future, lest we watch the club slowly lose its energy.

We're not running a business. We're a somewhat happenstance collection of do-gooders, with many individual motivators, and the camaraderie meter may have slipped a bit as we grew. We need to recapture it.

George Davenport  
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