

The Senators --- An Introduction

The Senators Group was formed in 1982 by three retirees who were members of the Scarborough Amateur Radio Club (SARC). They were Bill Rourke, VE3MBF, (My Best Friend), now a silent key; Bert Alexander, VE3MQR, (Mighty Quick Rabbit), also a silent key; and myself, Harvey Porter, VE3LLO, (Liquor Licence Officer) who met together each week to achieve a common goal – to get our Advanced Licences. This having been accomplished, we realized how meeting as a small group helped us to also exchange ideas on such things as antenna designs, repairing faults that occurred on our equipment, and particularly in Bill's case, letting the people at CARF, CRRL, and DOC know that we considered the exams for Amateur Radio to be too difficult for the average person wishing to join our hobby. Besides this, of course, was the friendship we now enjoyed while discussing our common denominator – Ham Radio.

At this point, several other “retirees” joined us – Nelson Gardiner VE3NSG; Carran Knox, VE3NPL; and Tom Skinner, VE3NSJ; until we reached the Magic Number 10. We felt that any more would be difficult to handle and we have limited it to that number for 20 years. Since that time, other retirees wishing to enjoy this kind of weekly camaraderie, formed a second group, naming it “The Satellites” and you will be hearing about their activities in our newsletter. (SARC newsletter, gh)

Originally we met in rotation in our homes. Eventually we received permission to use a place at the Stephen Leacock Centre on Birchmount Ave. This room was adjacent to the hockey rink and during winter it got darn cold so that when an opportunity came up to use the Patio Floor at Metro Toronto Legion Village on Lawson Road at Highland Creek, we eagerly agreed. This was built as a Retirement Home for War Veterans and their spouses, and was provided with a room which was equipped with a Ham Radio station (through a grant from the government) for Veterans who were qualified as Ham Operators. We recently added a new member, Evan Herriot, VE3IND, who is now a resident now at TLV and is a welcome addition to our meetings.

Over the years our group has been assisting SARC in such ways as organizing displays in Malls to publicize Amateur Radio, presenting talks at the Club Meetings about their special interests in the Hobby, helping with the ARES program and other Community Service work and until recently, producing a Club station on Field Day, an activity which we really enjoyed.

The work background of our group is varied. We have engineering expertise, teaching expertise, technical service work, automotive servicing work – very diversified sources of knowledge. This is a big help when we need to solve our individual problems when our V.C.Ps' (? gh) refuse to work, lawn mowers refuse to cut the grass or the pump at

the cottage refuses to provide that much-needed water. Yes, we do discuss subjects other than Amateur Radio including some reminiscing about our War years on active service. We are a little doubtful about the authenticity of several of these stories.

We rigidly enforce several rules at our meetings: that we do not provide an agenda; that we do not record minutes of our meetings and the most important, that He who forgets it is his turn to bring in “The Cookies” that week will be in “Big Trouble”, or words to that effect.

Although all of us are not SARC members, each of our group has agreed to turn in an article for our (SARC gh) Newsletter during the coming months. They'll cover such items as a Homebrew project the person has been working on; perhaps an interesting trip he has taken, how he survived the agonies of “getting on the air” for the first time or a subject that he thinks would be interesting to the Club members. In this way you will be introduced to each of our current Senators group. We hope you will enjoy these articles and we appreciate the invitation from Priscilla (Editor of SARC newsletter gh) to participate in this way.

73 for now,
VE3LLO

Note: The undated original document prepared for the SARC newsletter and provided by 'Senator' Harvey Porter, VE3LLO had faded considerably due to age and was re-typed on November 2, 2017 by 'Senator' Gordon Hogarth, VE3CNA to provide a copy that was easy to read.