

President's Perspective



After hearing of Harold Feltz's passing, I reflected on how he influenced all of us. He led by example and served as a role model in many ways: Harold showed us how to test our limitations. His physical feats are the stuff of legend. He never backed down from a challenge. To the contrary, he went out of his way to find new challenges to conquer. To Harold, pursuing a challenge and pursuing a dream were one and the same.

He showed us responsibility and accountability. Harold never took the easy way out. He held himself accountable and never made excuses, even when it would have been easy to do so. Harold was the Nordic Fox nominations chair in 2005, which was the year of our futile quest to find a vice president. Later that year, I asked Harold if he would be willing to continue as nominations chair for the following season. He responded that he was willing, but that he felt that he had let the club down by not fulfilling all of his responsibilities during his current term. I assured him that he had gone beyond the call of duty and that the outcome was simply a matter of circumstances, but he still refused to use this as an excuse.

Finally, he encouraged us. Harold was extremely patient and had a gift for instilling confidence in others. During the 2003 UP trip, he pulled me aside and asked if I would be interested in serving as club vice president. At the time, I was relatively new to the club and knew very little of its inner workings. Harold sensed my apprehensions and put me at ease by telling me why he thought I would make a good vice president. His confidence in me in turn gave me the confidence to accept that challenge.

We all learned a lot from Harold and can honor his legacy by remembering these lessons and passing them along to others. We will miss Harold, but we are all better off for having known him.

LARRY