



President's Column

By Steve Moland

I'm still on a partial high after running my first Boston Marathon. Former Eboard member, and membership meister and previous Boston finisher, Stan Klem, told me he could describe the whole marathon event. He went on to tell me about the months of training, the number pickup and Expo on Saturday, the sumptuous Ronzone pasta feast at Boston City Hall plaza on Sunday, the Club chartered bus, the seeding corrals and hordes of runners at the start, the 26 mile gauntlet of shoulder to shoulder people yelling themselves horse and the staging of the thrill of turning onto Boylston Street off of Hereford St for the dash to the finish. Following the race there is the signing up for the shower queue in the Strider suite at the Buckminster Hotel in Kenmore Square where you can unwind and enjoy the food, drink and friends gathered there. After Stan told me all that, he said, "BUT I can't tell you how it all feels".

You would think that when I heard the details from Stan and similar stories from the rest of my training buddies on each of the pieces of the "Boston" experience, I shouldn't have been surprised when the time came, but I was surprised.....and to think prior to late last summer I had relegated Boston to the back burner as an event that I didn't think really interested me. Something clicked then, probably the ticking sound of me getting older. I got my weekly mileage up to 40 just after Thanksgiving. I trained seriously and finished strong without feeling like it was a survival trek. Stan was so right, he couldn't describe the feeling and neither can I. Sure I could fill a number of pages with prose heavily spiced with excite adjectives but that would not do it. You just have to be there. The previous sentence is just so lame, yet it's entirely true.

I'm so grateful to the Striders for granting me a bypass club entry number for Boston and while I know what it takes to get a number from the club, I've been thinking on WHY the club has numbers to start with. The Boston Athletic Association gives local running clubs a certain number of applications that don't require that the applicants run a qualifying time. These number don't come free in a non-monetary sense. They are essentially granted because the clubs provide some of the thousands of volunteers required to manage the race. Each of these volunteers has to make an application to the BAA to able to volunteer. The Striders do not do the recruiting nor do they track who volunteers.

Many Strider and their families have been volunteer for Boston for longer than I've been a member and they tend to return to specific assignments which they like to do. There are many many possible assignments. I've wondered just how many volunteers there are associated with Gate City. Without all these folks I would not have had the wonderful opportunity I had to get a club number. Perhaps it's time we as a club acknowledged them, and to do that we'll need to know who they are. If you have volunteered or know of a member or friends of a member who provide this valuable service to our sport, please write me, Steve Moland, at 9 Mallard Ct, Litchfield NH 03052 or email me at steve@accessp.com. Let me know what you've done and how long you've been doing it. A phone call to 603 882-2067 would also be most welcome.

There is another very important reason I'd really like to find out how many volunteers we provide. In two of the last three years we have had more requests from deserving Striders than

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