

ROBERT L. (BOB) WALQUIST, Associate Fellow



Bob Walquist, who served as Chair of the Los Angeles Section early in the century and continued as an activist on its Advisory Council, died on July 20, 2008 at age 80.

During his over 30 years at TRW, he directed their Ballistic Missile effort at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino; led the Defense Support Program satellite program in its early stages; was appointed Vice President and Head of the Space and Technology Group where he served about 10 years; and, prior to his retirement in 1988, ran a special program in support of the company's SDI ("Star Wars") effort. His effective management style was unusual, spiced with sarcasm and cajolery. He was affectionately known as 'Big Foot' in tribute to both his style and large, over six-foot, frame.

Bob received his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from Cal Tech, and a Master's and Professional Engineer degrees in E.E. from MIT. At school, he was active in Water Polo, Rugby, and Football. He remained physically active in his adult life, pursuing skiing, sailing, and off-road motor biking. At the latter, he averaged one serious injury per year which only momentarily slowed him down.

He had a variety of off-work interests: He taught Spacecraft Systems Design courses for the Cal State Long Beach (his home town) and for the UCLA Extension program; worked on the Los Angeles Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America; acted as a Mentor for many years at the special high school for high achieving students, CAMS (California Academy of Mathematics and Science); and was active in the IEEE and the Cal Tech Alumni Association.