

REMEMBERING ALISON

On September 3, 2005, Alison Kisch, a dear friend to me and to many in our running community, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 39. At the time, Alison and her husband, Bob Boothe, and daughters Ellianna, 6, and Karina, 4, were vacationing in New Harbor, Maine. Alison's untimely passing was a profound shock to our running community, largely because in the personal sense she had impacted the lives of so many. At her memorial service, held under sunny skies at Kettle Cove Beach, many people spoke, all remembering her gift as a listener, full of encouragement and praise for any worthy effort. Many spoke with emotion of Alison's intervention in their lives at times of trouble. For me, she had been for many years a true friend, whom I will always greatly miss.

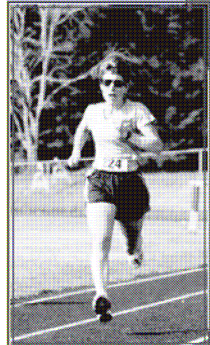
As many of you know, Alison was a great runner and very competitive racer, always placing near the top. She excelled at longer distances, half-marathon to marathon. The Alvin Sproul Memorial Samoset 10K, held August 14, in which she was second woman overall and first in her age group, was her last race.

Alison and Bob were the most devoted couple I can think of. They met at the University of California at Berkeley and came to Maine in late 1993. When I once asked Alison how Bob had proposed marriage, she said, "Oh, no, I asked him!" Before and since the arrival of their daughters, they had been together as a unit as much as possible, hiking, biking, skiing, enjoying plays and concerts, and much more. Since her passing, I've been struck often by the irony of someone of Alison's great zest and energy for life leaving it too soon. She was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery in Portland, where for years she had enjoyed weekly runs, a place she said she always found so peaceful.

Pat Buckley



Alison Kisch
December 14, 1965
to September 3, 2005



I would start out races with Alison and would decide that I would stay with her, but she would always hold a steady pace or get stronger and I would start to fade. I have said to friends on more than one occasion that I wanted to run like her. She was a strong steady runner with a kick at the end. She was also a wonderful mom. I haven't seen her as much lately because I spend most of my time in Running Dog Sports, but when I was at Peak Performance we would occasionally have discussions about trying to juggle a lot of different responsibilities. I always thought that she had found that important balance. I will miss seeing her.

Kathy Hegner

