

Dream Job Becomes Reality for MTC Member

By Kathy Hepner

Running Dog Sports in Gorham, Maine recently opened, and with it a dream business has been realized. I had thought about starting a retail business many years ago, yet I was never sure what kind of business it would be. The retail industry has always appealed to me, and I have had many retail jobs over the years usually in a part-time capacity along with a full time office job. My husband and I even owned and ran a Christmas tree farm in Pennsylvania for a few years. We moved back to Maine in 1994, and I began running again shortly after the birth of my second son. My passion for running was revived, and I was lured into the world of road racing. It became apparent that my competitive spirit also was being revived. I enjoyed the races as well as the social time the races provided. Runners are a great group of people. They encourage each other and always there to offer support no matter what the issue may be. I was hooked!! Some time later, I began working for a specialty sports store in Portland. There is where I truly learned more about the sport. I learned how to fit running shoes, about the world of "technical" running clothing and all of the "gadgets" available to help customers get out the door for their run. I loved the time in the store and mostly helping customers find what they needed to succeed. Customers hold a never ending source of information, and listening to what they have to say is valuable beyond measure. Watching a satisfied customer leave the store with a smile and wave good bye was my reward.

So, it became clear that a running store was what I wanted to own. My passion for running and my passion for people have been combined into one ideal job, Running Dog Sports. The store is located at 166 Narragansett Street in Gorham, and is just down the street from Gorham High School, the University of Southern Maine and the new Gorham Sports Center. I plan to start with running shoes, clothing and gear and after the first few months, add a selection of field hockey and soccer cleats and equipment. I want to support the running community, but also support the sports community here in Gorham. There will be a website which will be available sometime during the next couple of months. There will also be a discount offered to all Maine Track Club Members and local high school teams along with special offers for all customers.

It has taken many years to realize this dream, and I plan to succeed. I will be in the store to welcome all who stop by. I look forward to seeing you all at Running Dog Sports.

Kathy Hepner

Running Dog Sports
166 Narragansett Street
Gorham, ME 04038
839-4RUN (839-4786)



(40-49) Outstanding Runners

Cathy Hepner had a very impressive year, with some significant wins. She placed age group 1st at the Burn off the Turkey 5K in 20:47, and in the Irish Rover 5K 21:18. Also of note, she ran the Beach to Beacon 10K in 42:45 and she placed an age group 2nd at the Kerryman's Pub 4 miler in 27:08. We're proud to recognize and have her part of the MTC running family.



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