

Empire Runners Club Hall of Fame 2011

Kathy Dalton Van Riper

b. 8/20/1969 d. 2/5/2010

Qualifying Standard met:

- Kenwood Footrace 10K, 1985 (age 15), 31:54. Age grading: 81.69%
- Sonoma High School track record, 2-Mile, 1987 (age 17), 11:06. Age grading: 82.05%

Kathy was one of the first of our local female running super stars. Her name comes to mind with the likes of Julia Stamps, Sara Bei, Trina Cox, Jenny Aldridge, and Amber Trotter. She accomplished her first Hall of Fame qualifying time came in 1985 at the age of 15 on the very difficult Kenwood Footrace 10K course. Two years later she set the top 2-mile track mark at Sonoma High School, a record which at this date still stands.

In 1991, Kathy earned a bachelor's degree in education at Northern Arizona State University, which she attended on a track scholarship. After graduating, she came back to Sonoma and taught math, science, and physical education at St. Francis Solano School. She met her husband, Marc, when she took an EMT training class taught by Marc in Santa Rosa in 1993. They married a year later. Their daughter, Jillian, was born in 1997. Their son, Ian, was born in 1999.



Kathy is most remembered for her heroic battle of 10 years against breast cancer and as an inspiring crusader for a cure. She and Marc established Kathy's Camp for Kids, a non-profit organization providing community and support for children of parents with cancer.

Even while she was ill, running continued to play a special role in Kathy's life--as personal therapy and celebration of a healthy life and as precious recreation for herself and for her family. In 2009, the Empire Runners Club created the Kathy Van Riper Inspiration Award to be "presented annually to an Empire Runners Club member whose personal courage, generosity of spirit, and/or dedication to the sport of running extraordinarily inspires us as runners and fellow human beings." Appropriately, Kathy was the award's first recipient.

Kathy Dalton (Van Riper) running for Sonoma High School