



Our good friend, Alex, passed away May 5th. We were continually awed by his positive attitude throughout his battle with cancer. His ever-present smile was evident even when we knew he must be having a tough time.

Alex was born in Seattle and attended the University of Washington. He worked as a chemical engineer in Berkeley, CA, but regularly visited his family in the Seattle area. Alex was a long time shell collector but only joined our club about 11 years ago. I was surprised to find it had only been 11 years as it felt like much longer. He made friends easily and quickly and tried to schedule his visits to coincide with club meetings and field trips. Alex's mother, Lia, would accompany him to meetings and we got to know her as well.

Alex had a well-known fondness for conchs, trivia, and cockles and it was no accident that our auctions contained a few extras of those items when we knew he'd be present. He also loved to travel and had visited many countries around the world, making new friends everywhere. We always enjoyed receiving his postcards from his travels although he often beat his postcards home! Alex was planning future shelling trips right up until the end.

He will be deeply missed. L.S.

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