



The Cachalotter

News, Information, and Memories by and for the Members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

See You at Homecoming 2005!

“60 Years of Memories”

We're looking forward to seeing all of our members at our first-annual Homecoming at Camp Cachalot on July 9th, 2005, from 12:00pm until 8:00pm. Members of the Alumni Association, as well as all those who have visited or who have been associated with Camp Cachalot since its opening in 1946 are welcome to attend. Activities for the day will include guided historical tours of the camp, an alumni social, dinner in Prescott Hall, and a day-ending campfire. Camp Cachalot will also be in the middle of its summer camp season, and members of the Camp's

staff will be on-hand to give tours and demos in several of the program areas. Jeff Dumais is our event chairman this year.

Homecoming 2005 at
Camp Cachalot

July 9th, 2005
12pm to 8pm

The cost for the day will be \$20 per person for current members of the Alumni Association, \$25 per person for non-members. The deadline for

registration is July 1st, 2005, and payment may be made at any of the Narragansett Council offices or Scout Shop, or by US mail, by sending a check to the Association for the amount. Please be sure to note how many people will be attending and that the check is for them homecoming when sending your payment.

So, break out that old Camp shirt and plan on heading out to Camp to share a little food and fellowship with the other alums! 🐋

Summer Camp Staff Scholarship Fund

As a first step towards fulfilling our mission of the support of Camp Cachalot, the Association is in the process of establishing a college scholarship to be presented to a member of the Cachalot summer camp staff. Our hope is that by offering this scholarship, we will be able to help preserve the continuity of the staff from year to year by making it easier for our college-aged staffers to continue spending their summers at Cachalot.

Our goal is to offer the first of these scholarships, in the amount of \$500, to a staff

member of the 2005 season, and also to raise an additional \$500 to begin setting up an endowment to permanently fund this scholarship.

We have already raised nearly \$700 towards this initial goal, but need our members to show their generosity to make this a reality this year. If you are willing to donate any amount, please contact us at staffscholarship@cachalotalumni.org.

Eligible staff members will be offered the opportunity to apply during the summer camp season. 🐋

Cachalot Waterfront Prints Available

In 1990, the Cachalot District of the Moby Dick Council, as part of its Friends of Scouting fundraiser, had a limited number of numbered special-issue prints of the Cachalot waterfront area commissioned, and gave those prints to donors contributing \$75 or more to the fundraiser. A number of these prints were never given away.



We are in possession of these remaining prints, and are

making them available for a minimum donation of \$100. All monies raised will go directly into the Associations' Building Fund, to be used for improvements of the buildings and property at Cachalot.

If you are interested in obtaining one of these prints, please contact us at:

fosprints@cachalotalumni.org 🐋

The Cachaletter

The *Cachaletter* is the newsletter of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association. It is published twice annually: once in the spring and once in the fall, by the Communications Committee.

Questions or other feedback related to *The Cachaletter* can be sent via email to cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org.

Editor

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

Contributors

Jeffrey Dumais
Christopher Rooney
Thomas Whelan

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association was founded in 2004 with the express purpose of supporting Camp Cachalot and being a social organization for the extended family of the Camp. Anyone who has ever had any involvement with Camp Cachalot, the former Moby Dick Council, or any of the predecessor camps or Councils is eligible for membership. It is a not-for-profit organization operated under the auspices of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Our membership year runs from July 1- through June 30-, and all membership fees contribute directly to our endowment fund, the proceeds of which go directly towards the support of Camp Cachalot.

More information about the Alumni Association, including membership forms, back issues of *The Cachaletter*, Camp history, and online discussion forums, can be found online at our web site:

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/>

We can also be reached via US Mail at the following address:

Camp Cachalot Alumni Association
c/o Narragansett Council, BSA
P.O. Box 14777
Providence, RI 02914



Welcome to the Cachaletter!

Thomas Whelan, Association Vice-Chairman

First, a note of thanks to all of you for joining the Alumni Association and showing that you still love our Camp and want to preserve its history and its future. As I am sure many of you are aware, the goal of the Alumni Association is to directly benefit Camp Cachalot, which means that all monies raised by the Association will be spent in support of our Camp. Our goal is not to relieve the Narragansett Council from its obligations to the Camp, but rather to provide additional support. The Council has preserved many records from the old Moby Dick Council and we are in the process of sifting through these records to assemble a history of events leading up to the current -day Camp Cachalot. This history includes information about our 'predecessor' camps (like Camp Noquochoke), former influential Scouts, Scouters, and professionals like Tom Cullen, and we are deciphering mysteries such as why the dining hall is named Prescott Hall (you'll have to read future copies of the newsletter to find out.)

Our first year of existence has been a busy one; the Alumni Association held a successful Winter Gathering event where our ranks grew to over 50 members; we have a great newsletter (thanks, Dennis!) and we have a great Homecoming weekend planned for this summer.

The Homecoming weekend promises to be the event of the year, so you won't want to miss it - all the details are on the front page, and you should sign up early. Now would be a good time to get on the phone and call your old Scouting buddies to get them out to Camp as well. Remember, like that old song goes... the more we get together, the happier we'll be.

None of the accomplishments mentioned here would have been possible without the support of a great group of people. The Executive Committee worked very hard to make sure the Association got off to a good start and I'd like to thank them here for that effort. I also need to thank Dave Anderson and the Narragansett Council for being so supportive during the start-up phase of the Association. Finally, I would like to once again thank the members of the Association for your support; I hope that we will have a long and happy partnership in supporting the Camp we'll always love... Cachalot.

See you at Camp! 🐸



Postcards from Cachalot

Christopher Rooney, Reservation Director

Greetings fellow alumni! My name is Chris Rooney and I am pleased to be embarking on my second season as Reservation Director here at Cachalot Scout Reservation. Summer camp is the highlight of every boy's Scouting year, and at Cachalot we strive to provide an experience no Scout will ever forget.

To enhance this experience we have made several improvements to the facilities and purchased many new program items over the past few years. Thanks to the efforts of our outstanding Ranger, Karrie Dumais, we have sided the trading post building, built dozens of new tent platforms, overhauled the kitchen, and created a new main office/welcome center, amongst other projects. We have also purchased new sailing equipment, six new kayaks, new bows and other archery equipment, and much more.

The entire camp staff is
looking forward to the Alumni
Homecoming ...

If you have not visited camp recently, I would encourage you to do so. The entire camp staff is looking forward to the Alumni Homecoming on July 9 and I hope to see you there. If you are unable to attend this event, you should know that alumni are welcome visitors at any point during the summer season. Camp is open from July 3 to August 6. When you visit, please find me or a member of the senior staff so we can show you around.

Camp is not just a place, it is the people who support it. Thank you for continuing to be a part of Cachalot. 🐸

A Brief History Of...

The 21 Club

This is the first in what we hope will be a series of articles covering the history of someone, something, or some tradition at Camp Cachalot, Moby Dick Council, or one of the earlier camps or councils. As you can see, we're just getting started, and each article may not have all the answers, but we'll try to include as much as we know. If you have more information that can help us fill in the blanks, please contact us at curator@cachalotalumni.org. If you have ideas for future articles, please feel free to drop your suggestion to the same email address. Thanks!

- the Editors

"The 21 Club." It's the oldest of the winter cabins in Camp Cachalot, and has served as a home away from home for many summer camp staffers, weekend campers, and even non-Scouting groups over the years – it's even been a stand-in for the Oriental Garden Theater, and once owned its own pair of sunglasses! But why is it called "The 21 Club," anyway? There have been a lot of explanations put forth, running the gamut from "it was 21 miles from the Cachalot Council office", to "it sleeps 21 people," to "the first group to sleep in it had 21 people in it, and they all drove a nail into the threshold." None of those is the *actual* reason, but we'll get to that in a minute.

First things first: the 21 Club wasn't actually built at Camp Cachalot, it was moved to Camp from its original site off of Drift Road in Westport, MA. The original 20'x30' cabin, which is now the "front room" of the building, was built using wood from the (demolished) Potomska Mills by Aubrey Coon, a Scoutmaster from New Bedford. There are conflicting reports on the time frame in which the move happened (some claims actually predate the purchase of the property, but most are within the 1950s,) but the building was certainly in Camp by very early in the 1960's. The photo below is taken from a group of photos that were taken in that time frame, and provided to the Association by Larry Harney.



After being moved to Camp, the back room of the building was added on, and the building existed in much the same condition until the mid-1980's. At that time, the building underwent a major renovation: the current front porch was added, the windows and siding were completely replaced, and the interior walls and ceiling were paneled and insulated. In the early 1990's the fireplace, which had been repaired multiple times, was "deactivated" and the flue reused for the stove that currently heats the front room.

And the name? That's actually an easy one – Aubrey Coon was the Scoutmaster of Troop 21 in New Bedford. It was originally their cabin, and they're the ones who moved it from Westport to Cachalot. 🐻

Information and research provided by Larry Harney, Vic Sylvia, Ed Tavares, Dennis Wilkinson, and the New Bedford Standard-Times.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

June 30, 2005
End of 2004-2005 Membership Year
Renew early!

July 1, 2005
Last day to register for
Homecoming 2005

July 9, 2005
Homecoming 2005
12:30pm to 6:00pm
at Camp Cachalot
\$20/member
\$25/nonmember

Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

William "Doc" Langfield
Association Chairman
chairman@cachalotalumni.org

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Council Representative
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Staff Scholarship Information
staffscholarship@cachalotalumni.org

Homecoming 2005 Information
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Event Chairman
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To Submit Historical Information
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Membership Inquiries
membership@cachalotalumni.org

Other Inquiries
info@cachalotalumni.org

Good Times at our First Annual Winter Gathering

Good friends, good food, and a boatload of memorabilia

On January 8th, 2005, the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association held its first annual Winter Gathering and Memorabilia Exposition at the V.F.W. Pvt. A. Poirier Post in New Bedford. Sixty-six current and former Scouts, Scouters, and other members of the Camp Cachalot family turned out for the afternoon, sharing their memories of Camp and showing off memorabilia collected over many years. Old Scout flags surrounded the room; collectible patches, Handbooks, neckerchiefs, and photos filled the tables; and a hot and cold buffet lunch filled our stomachs.

Event chairman Manny Bagaço got the show rolling at 2:00PM, after people had had a chance to browse the memorabilia on display for an hour. After a brief welcome, lunch was served, the silent auction was opened, and we got down to business. Manny

and our Vice Chairman, Tom Whelan, provided information about future plans for the Association, including our plans to establish a scholarship fund for future Summer Camp Staffers, and gave some preliminary details about our upcoming Alumni Association Homecoming. Dennis (our webmaestro) and a few other

volunteers spent much of the show busily scanning in the photographs and slides brought in by numerous alumni, adding over 120 new photographs to our archive. These photos, along with many others from the archive, were presented as a slideshow later in the afternoon. 🐟



Just some of the memorabilia on display at this year's show

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