



# The Cachalette

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

## Time to Break Out Those Patches and Slides!

*Winter Gathering and Memorabilia Expo 2007—Antiques Roadshow style!*

It's almost time again for the annual Winter Gathering and Memorabilia Exposition! This is our big winter event, and is always a great excuse for Cachalot and Noquochoke alums to reconnect, share memories and maybe a meal, and browse through lots of Cachalot, Noquochoke, and other Scouting memorabilia dating back to the earliest days of Boy Scouting. This year, we're taking things one step further, and have invited several experts on Scouting collectibles to appraise your goodies. Think of it as our own little episode of "Antiques Roadshow".



In addition to the memorabilia displays and the appraisals, we'll also be getting a quick update on the Alumni Association and Camp Cachalot, and our History committee will be set up to photograph or scan any photos, documents, or other items. They'll also be showing off some of our increasingly large collection of camp photos—over 1,300 of them! And to round things out, the event is also a full-fledged Trade-o-Ree, so those of you who are interested in trading your items will be able to do so.

This year's Gathering will take place on January 6th, 2007 from 9:00am through 3:00pm,

in the church hall at Smith Mills Christian Congregational Church on Anderson Way in Dartmouth, right off Route 6 and close to the Dartmouth Mall and the surrounding shops. Admission and lunch is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, or \$5 if you sign up for a new membership in the Association when registering. Registrations that include lunch can be made online at our web site at

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/expo2007>

or at any of the Narragansett Council's service centers. All lunch registrations must be made before January 4, 2007. If you're not interested in lunch, admission at the door will be \$5, or free for youth Scouts in uniform.

We hope you'll choose to join us for the day! If you have any questions, please contact us at [expo2007@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:expo2007@cachalotalumni.org).

*Bios of our appraisers can be found on page 7 of this issue!*

### Winter Gathering and Memorabilia Exposition 2007

Saturday, January 6th, 2007  
9:00am through 3:00pm

Smith Mills Congregational Church  
11 Anderson Way  
North Dartmouth, MA

Admission and Lunch:  
\$10 per person for members  
\$15 per person for non-members  
\$5 per person with new membership

Admission only:  
\$5 per person

Email  
[expo2007@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:expo2007@cachalotalumni.org)  
or visit [www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org) for more info.

## Hot Fun in the Summer Sun

*CCAA Summer 2006 Activities Bring Alums Together, Help With Improvements at Cachalot*

Summer of 2006 was, as always, the busy season for Camp Cachalot, and it was no different for the Alumni Association. We had three activities out at camp, book-ending the summer with family camping weekends on Memorial Day Weekend and on Labor Day weekend, as well as holding our second annual Homecoming on



July 9th. We also spent time at our family weekends doing a few service projects.

Memorial Day Weekend saw 14 Alumni families converge on Cachalot. The weather was bright and sunny, which combined with the big service project to result in people spending a lot of time down on the waterfront. Our big project was the waterfront docks, which had new Trex decking material installed on about two thirds of the docks (a few alums headed back a week or so later to finish the job). The "Fox's Den" roof was also re-shingled, and the rifle range had a new coat of stain applied. When we

*continued on page 7*

Left: Some of the alumni kids, building sandcastles on the waterfront (Photo: Dennis Wilkinson)

## 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](mailto:cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org).

Editor  
Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

Contributors  
Manny Bagaço  
Christopher Rooney  
Thomas Whelan  
John Woolley

## 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 1st through June 30th, 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



## For Our Members...

Thomas P. Whelan, Association Chairman

Imagine for a moment...

The year is 1971 and the temperature is in the high 80's. Summer time. You are walking along a forest trail with the underbrush scraping at your legs, you smell food cooking on an open fire, and in the distance you hear children playing. It's a beautiful, near-perfect day and you are glad you took this week off to spend with your Troop at Camp. That night as you're talking with the other Troop Leaders around the campfire someone asks you, "I wonder what this place will look like 35 years from now? How will we be remembered?"

The place? *Camp Noquochoke*.

Now fast forward to today and take a look at the answer to that question. Where a wonderful Camp once stood there are now 5 large house lots and the facilities that made up the Camp are being reclaimed by the forest. There is no written history of Camp Noquochoke and very little photographic history. As an Alumni Organization striving to understand where we came from and how we arrived where we are today we are performing a post-mortem on Camp Noquochoke. Our Historian has spent 2 years collecting photographic records of the Camp and we are now starting a new project to document its history. This Fall I rescued the old metal and wood sign that was the gateway to the Camp (special thanks to the current landowners for allowing us to preserve this artifact). All of this work requires dedication and hard work.

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I wonder what this place will look like 35 years from now?

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As an alumni association it is our duty to record our past, but it is equally important that we protect our future. By acting now we can plot our course into the future instead of allowing it to be dictated to us.

So now I ask you, "What will Camp Cachalot look like 35 years from now? How will we be remembered?" 🐾

To volunteer for the Camp Noquochoke Research Committee or any other Alumni Association committees, please contact Tom Whelan at 617-592-1745 or send e-mail to [chairman@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:chairman@cachalotalumni.org).



## Reflecting on Summer Camp

Christopher Rooney, Reservation Director

2006 was another truly extraordinary season at Cachalot Scout Reservation. Camp experienced a significant increase in attendance. This is a positive development for two reasons. First and foremost, more young men are getting the benefits inherent in a quality summer camp experience. Secondly, increased attendance means increased cash flow which translates into improved program which attracts more campers. A truly virtuous cycle if there ever was one.

2006 also marked Cachalot's grand entrance to the destination camp circuit. Three troops, hailing from Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania visited camp this summer. Two came for the summer camp program, one came to use camp as a base camp for their other adventures in southeastern Massachusetts. All three had nothing but positive things to say about our staff and facilities. Positive word of mouth regarding our camp is now reaching to all corners of the Northeast Region.

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I now pass the baton to my successor.

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The staff remains the major strength of the summer camp program. Over three years as Reservation Director I have had the privilege to work with dozens of the finest young men and women our community has to offer. Their dedication to their jobs, their camp, and the Scouts they serve is awe inspiring.

I now pass the baton to my successor. I have every confidence in the future success of camp under his leadership and look forward to visiting camp in the future as a member of the Alumni Association. 🐾

*Editor's Note: Peter Ashworth took over earlier this fall as both the Cachalot Reservation Director and as the Cachalot District Executive. Peter is a long-time member of the Cachalot family, having camped and worked there in his youth and as a former Scoutmaster. Peter is also a founding member of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association.*

# Noquochoke Rediscovered

*Looking for Help Restoring More Than Just a Sign*

As most of our members are probably aware, the former Moby Dick Council and its predecessors once owned more camps than just Camp Cachalot, and part of our charter as an Alumni Association is to help record and preserve the history of those places. For the communities around Fall River that were a part of the old Massasoit Council, which merged with the Cachalot Council to form Moby Dick Council in 1972, their camp was Camp Noquochoke. Noquochoke sat along the eastern shore of the Westport River. It was sold, painfully and controversially, in the late 1970s to raise funds to make up for a budget shortfall of the new council, which was still carrying debt predating the merger.

While the Alumni Association has made very good progress to date in researching the history of Camp Cachalot, we've made far less headway getting information related to Camp Noquochoke—not surprising, since it's been over 25 years since anyone has camped there. We have a few



photos, an old camp promotions film that was recovered from the old Moby Dick Council offices when they were being moved, and a few personal anecdotes, but nothing more.

At last year's Gathering, we had a lucky break. The Keefe family, who live in a house built on what was once part of the Noquochoke property, had seen some information about the event and decided to drop by. They enjoyed seeing the material that we did have, and noted that several buildings were still standing and that what had been the swimming

pool had been taken over by frogs. And they kept us in mind—in early September they contacted us, and let us know that they knew the location of the old Camp Noquochoke sign, had spoken to a few people, and that we were welcome to have it.

The sign, which you can see in the accompanying photos, is in poor condition. We aim to restore it, preserving as much of the original as possible. We plan to determine the best way to do this first, of course, which means that we'll need to contact museums or others who have skill at this kind of preservation, as well as whatever work and materials would be involved in the actual restoration. This will take people—but we're looking to restore more than just a sign. A lot more.

Noquochoke was in operation for nearly 60 years, and it was a part of the history of the Cachalot Council even before the merger. Scouts from Cachalot Council shared the facilities there for summer camping for a number of years before Camp Cachalot was purchased. We want to restore what's been forgotten about the history of Noquochoke and the old Fall River Area and Massasoit Councils. Probably

more than anything else, this has to start with people—the people who camped at, served on staff at, and were a part of the history of Camp Noquochoke. We've been fortunate with Camp Cachalot's history to still have many people involved who were there in the Camp's early days in the 1940s. How many people have first-hand knowledge of Noquochoke's early days in the 1920s?

If you yourself went to Noquochoke, or know people who did, we're looking for leads. We're also trying to find



someone to spearhead this effort, both in restoring the sign and in rediscovering the history. If you're willing to help, please let us know by contacting our Association Chairman, Tom Whelan, either via email at [chairman@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:chairman@cachalotalumni.org) or at 617-592-1745. If you just have a "hot lead", or have some personal memories of Noquochoke that you'd like to share with us, please contact our history committee via email at [curator@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:curator@cachalotalumni.org). We look forward to hearing from you! 🐸

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

July 1st, 2006  
Start of 2006-2007 Membership Year

January 6th, 2007  
9:00 AM through 3:00 PM  
Winter Gathering and  
Memorabilia Expo 2007  
Smith Mills Church, Dartmouth, MA

May 25th through 28th, 2007  
Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend  
Camp Cachalot, Plymouth, MA

June 30th, 2007  
End of 2005-2006 Membership Year  
Renew early!

## Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

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Manuel Bagaço  
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Family Camping Information  
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To Submit Historical Information  
[curator@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:curator@cachalotalumni.org)

Other Inquiries  
[info@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:info@cachalotalumni.org)



# Collector's Corner

*Collecting Camp History through Memorabilia*

This is the first in what will hopefully be a regular submission to the *Cachaletter*.

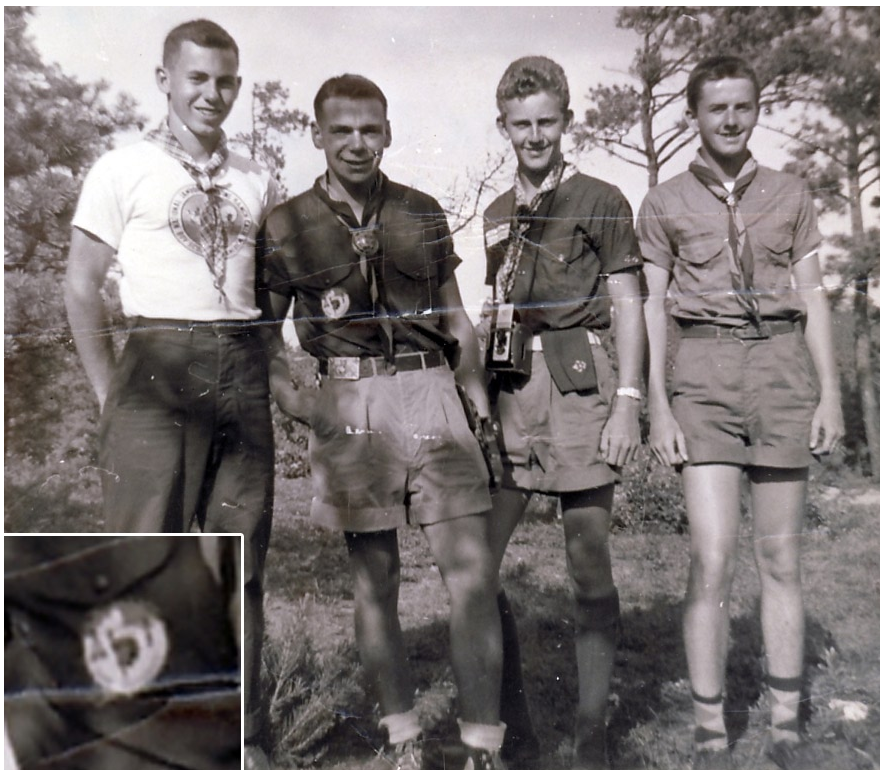
A patch is typically the kind token that we, as kids, would receive for attending a Scouting event or Scout camp. A patch is a picture, in cloth, of the event. Later on in life, we can hold this patch and a flood of memories comes back to us of days gone by.

The first picture to the right is of the earliest known Camp Noquochoke patch. Dating back to the 1920s, it is actually felt on felt material. The colors are blue on gold. If you have any information about this patch, or if you would like a color scan of the patch, please let me know.

The second picture, below right, is of the first design of the Camp Cachalot camp patch. The patch pictured is the second issue. The first issue, which is not the one shown, dates from the late 1940s to the early 1950s and was a twill patch with a cut edge. This second issue dates from the early to mid 1950s and has the same design, differing only by the addition of a rolled edge.

Question or comments are always greatly appreciated, and can be sent via email to [cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org). 🐋

*Editor's Note: color images of these patches are available in the image gallery at our web site, [www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org).*



Cachalot Staff members from 1953. From left to right, John Reale, Don Costa, Brian Dextrateur, and Terry O'Toole. The first Cachalot patch design can be made out on Mr. Costa's uniform pocket, and is magnified in the lower right to help see the features for comparison to the image above.

*(Photo from the collection of John Reale)*

# A Brief History Of...

## The Council Ring

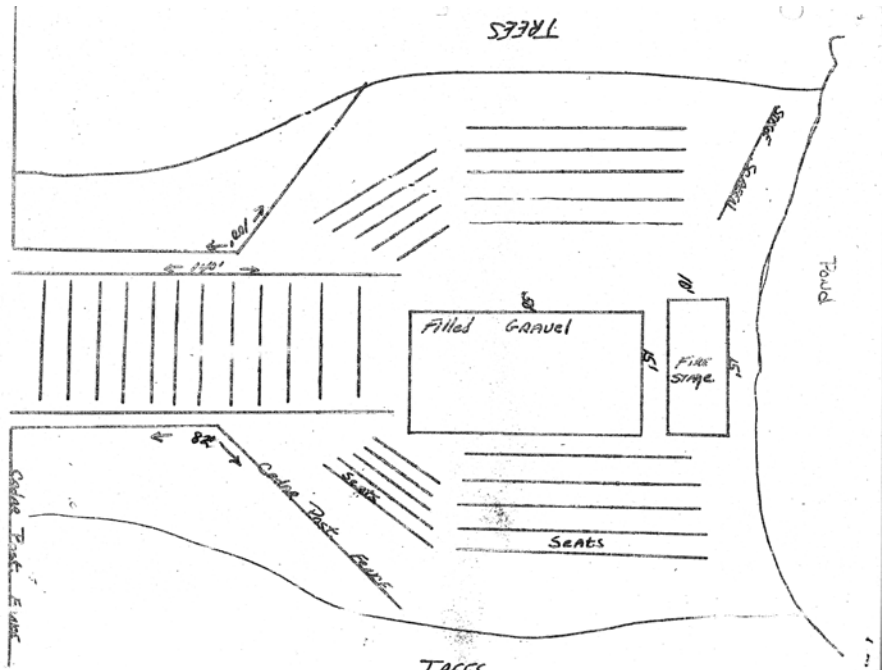
What would a trip to camp be without a campfire? Each week of summer camp at Cachalot has, for a long time now, been book-ended by an opening and closing campfire in the Council Ring, with staff and Scouts alike singing both on-key and off, putting on not-quite-ready-for-prime-time skits, and blowing off a little steam and having fun. Wrap it all up with some words of wisdom or a little inspiration, and with Scout Vespers, the light of day falls softly into the night, and more Scouts will go home with memories of songs both silly and serious.

Multiple spots at Cachalot have been used for council campfires over the years. One early map of camp shows the campfire area roughly where the Boathouse now stands, and there is other evidence of Tom Cullen Field being used in this way. Since the early 1970's, though, most of these campfires have been conducted in the Council Ring, in a hollow on the northern shore of Five Mile Pond. The story of that council ring is really a story about our resident Order of the Arrow lodge.

The current site of the Council Ring was first proposed by the Agawam Lodge in a letter to the Cachalot Council dated March of 1971, and construction began over the weekend of April 22nd of that year. The money to develop the site was raised by the lodge a few years earlier by running a concession booth at the Annual Scout Show. The site plan had a central stage with seating on both sides, and an entrance staircase coming down the hill directly opposite Five Mile Pond. The approach staircase was flanked by cedar fencing. This site plan can be seen to the upper right. The stages were never elevated as drawn.

This configuration lasted almost 12 years, until many of the seats in the ring were in need of significant repair. In spring of 1983, the lodge (now the Neemat Lodge, following the Cachalot/Massasoit merger in 1972) came forward to revamp the site. This was no simple repair job—over the course of two year's worth of work weekends, the entire site was reconfigured. The old entrance stairs were planted over with donated trees, a new entrance was cut in opposite the new, elevated stage (replacing the old stage and the seats at the bottom of the original site plan), and a brand-new, terraced seating area was built of heavy planking and telephone pole stubs. Atop the stage, twin fire pads were created. Huge amounts of earth was moved and dozens of telephone poles were dug into post holes and laid as terrace retainers, almost entirely by boy-power. The site was finally completed at the Ordeal Weekend in June of 1985, just prior to the opening of summer camp.

In the early 1990s, a backdrop was added behind the stage to provide a screened area for people to enter the stage area from and to help reflect sound back towards the audience. And every Sunday and Friday during summer camp, it's still filled with dozens of Scouts, staff members, and visiting family, and once again overflows with song and Scout Spirit. 🗡️



The 1971 site plan, as submitted by the Agawam Lodge to the Camping Committee



Above and below: photos from a daytime campfire in the current Council Ring, from our Homecoming in 2005. The stage backdrop and terraced seating is visible. Directly behind the performer in the shot above you can see how grown in the old entrance trail is today. (Photos by John Woolley)







Alum Al Stiles cutting decking to size to be installed on the waterfront docks, Memorial Day Weekend 2006



Alums screwing down the new decking on the waterfront docks, Memorial Day Weekend 2006



Alumni kids taking a break and reading some stories, Memorial Day Weekend 2006



Checking out the Nature Lodge, which occupied the Boathouse this summer, Homecoming 2006



Staying warm and toasting some marshmallows over the fire, Labor Day Weekend 2006



Alumni and campmasters alike swarm the 21 Club on Labor Day Weekend, getting ready to install new siding

## Summer Fun

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weren't busy with the service projects, the families spent time enjoying the waterfront, playing games in Tom Cullen Field, singing around the campfire, and enjoying a movie night over in the old Trading Post, which became the Handicraft Lodge for summer camp this year.

Unlike Homecoming 2005, this year's Homecoming was held on a Sunday, with Scouts in camp, so that attendees could see how the summer camp program operates today, right down to the opening night campfire in the Council Ring. We were fortunate to have several folks there who hadn't been to camp in many years, but who brought their memories to share (and in some cases, old pictures for us to scan)—in particular, John Reale, who served on staff in the early-to-mid 1950s at the Abner's Outpost and the waterfront, loaned the Association his collection of photographs from that era, along with his Jamboree Scrapbook, for us to scan. We've completed the scanning, and you'll be seeing many of those photos appear on our web site in the coming months. Thanks, John!

We wrapped up our summer activities with our Labor Day family camping weekend. Unlike Memorial Day, the weather was uncooperative, with light rain through most of the weekend, although we escaped mostly unscathed by the heavy rains of the remnants of tropical depression Ernesto. Despite the damp, 15 families attended for at least some of the weekend, and we were able to make some progress on our project, re-siding the 21 Club, completing most of the south and east exposures.

We're already planning our activities for next summer—keep an eye on our web site, and the next issue of *The Cachaletter*, for all the details! 🐟

Have a look over on the opposite page for some pictures from this summer's activities!



As we did last year, members of the Alumni Association will be present to run the warming house and the crackerbarrel at this year's Cachalot/Massasoit District Klondike Derby out at Camp Cachalot. We'll be playing a little ragtime, and dishing out the hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks while trying to let more people know about the Association.

If you're planning on being at the Klondike, stop by, have a cupp'a joe, get warmed up, and chat for a while! 🐟



**Manny Bagaço** is the chairman for the Winter Gathering, and a member of the International Scouting Collectors Association (ISCA). He has been collecting scouting memorabilia for almost 30 years. Manny's specialty is local history, primarily memorabilia of the Greater Fall River (Massasoit Council), New Bedford (Cachalot Council later formed Moby Dick, Narragansett Council BSA), and specifically Camp Cachalot and Camp Noquochoke memorabilia. He is also the author of the *Collector's Corner* column in the *Cachaletter*.

Manny has the premier Maine High Adventure Memorabilia collection in the country and is in the process of composing a collectors' guide for this specialty area.

🐟

**Jonathan Groves** is a member of ISCA, has been collecting for over 25 years and specializes in New England Order of the Arrow issues and New England Scout Camps. Jonathan has been a contributor to the ISCA Journal and Blue Book (guide to O.A. issue nation-wide). Along with being a regular contributor to the ISCA Journal and Blue Book, Jonathan has co-authored a pricing guide to Order of the Arrow issues.

Jonathan has an extensive collection of New England Order of the Arrow and a premier New England Scout Camps collection.

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**Mitch Reis** is a member of ISCA and has been collecting since 1981. He specializes in National Issue, Boy Scout patches, medals, uniforms and insignia. Mitch is one of the country's leaders in collecting Boy Scout memorabilia.

He has researched and written the following four books:

- The Boy Scouts of America During WWI and WWII
- A Guide to Dating and Identifying BSA Badges Uniforms and Insignia – 3rd Edition
- The History of the Lone Scouts Through Memorabilia
- The History of the Connecticut Rivers Council BSA

Mitch is also a member of the American Scouting Historical Society and a regular contributor to the ISCA Journal.

🐟

**Roy Weatherbee** is a member of ISCA and has been collecting memorabilia for over 25 years. He specializes in New England O.A. Issues, Region One memorabilia and New England Boy Scout Camps.

Roy has been a regional editor for Blue Book since the first edition. A regular contributor to the ISCA Journal, Roy also serves as the Northeast Region vice-president for ISCA. Roy is also a distinguished member of The American Scouting Historical Society. Roy has the distinction of having the premier New England O.A. issues collection in the country.

# We Have a Winner!

*Assistant Waterfront Director Sam Weissman Awarded 2006 Staff Scholarship*

During this year's Staff Banquet, our Chairman, Tom Whelan, announced that Samuel Weissman, the Assistant Waterfront Director at Cachalot, would be awarded this year's Camp Cachalot Alumni Association Staff Scholarship. This was the second year that this scholarship was available, and Samuel was chosen from a field of very qualified applicants.

Samuel, an Eagle Scout from Fall River who is serving his fourth year on the summer camp staff, attends the University of Maine, Orono, where he majors in Biology/Pre-Med. He is currently in his junior year. In addition to his time on the waterfront staff, he has previously served as a Staff Patrol Leader and as the CIT Director.

This year's scholarship was in the amount of \$500, with nearly all the funds coming from the donations of our membership. We have already begun raising funds toward the 2007 scholarship. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at [scholarship@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:scholarship@cachalotalumni.org), or visit our web site at:

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



Sam Weissman, our 2006 Staff Scholarship Recipient (Photo: Tom Whelan)

## **Camp Cachalot Alumni Association**

c/o Narragansett Council, BSA

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