



# The Cachalotter

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

## History, Food, and Fellowship at Gathering '06

Very early Cachalot and Noquochoke pictures among the highlights of this year's Winter Gathering and Memorabilia Expo

For the second year in a row, dozens of alums braved foul New England weather to gather at our annual Winter Gathering and Memorabilia Exposition. This year's event moved to a new venue at Smith Mills Church in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, and was an enjoyable time for us to get together, see some young and old familiar faces, and swap stories over our buffet lunch, all while surrounded by Cachalot and Scouting memorabilia.

As is becoming the norm with our events, we had several people among our attendees who we hadn't seen in a very long time—decades, in some cases; along with people brand-new to the Cachalot family. Our displays included camp patches, books and magazines, uniforms, rare flags, and other items from the prodigious collections of several of our members, as well as items for trade or sale from a few vendors as part of a Trade-o-ree, which was new to the agenda. Our own History Committee was on scene as well, to help answer questions and display photos and film from our growing collection.

One of the highlights of the day came courtesy of Bob Burbank, a new member of the Alumni Association who brought along both an assortment of old Cachalot patches as well as an album of photos from one of his first years at Cachalot, 1948. These images, taken a mere two years after the camp opened, show a camp still under construction, as well as the boys who were out enjoying their summer, staying in tents not dramatically different than are used today.

We also got a surprise visit from a family whose home is on some of the land once occupied by Camp Noquochoke. They report that several buildings still stand, albeit in poor condition, and that

the swimming pool is now doing duty as a frog pond.

Many thanks to all who attended! 🐸



"1948 Newest campsites, across the pond from Nob Hill" - one of several photos from the early years of Cachalot provided by Bob Burbank at this year's Gathering. *More photos on page 6.*

### Camp Cachalot Alumni Homecoming 2006

Sunday, July 9th, 2006  
12:00pm until 9:00pm

Camp Cachalot  
Plymouth, Massachusetts

\$15 per person for members  
\$25 per person for non-members

Email  
homecoming2006@cachalotalumni.org  
or visit [www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org) for  
more info.

## Join Us At Homecoming 2006!

See you at Camp on July 9th!

We're looking forward to seeing all our alums out at Cachalot on the afternoon of July 9th, 2006, for our second annual Homecoming! This year's event promises to be even more entertaining than last year's, as we'll be getting together right in the middle of summer camp action, right along with the Troops getting started on their week in camp.

The day will get started with check-in and a social at Camp from noon until 1:00 PM, when we'll be formally greeted by our Chairman and given a brief update on the various goings-on of the Association over the last year. During the afternoon you'll be welcome to come along on a tour of the camp in operation, and we'll be sharing (and looking to collect) tidbits of camp history along the way. We'll dine on the finest camp barbecue for dinner, and wrap the day up by joining all the Scouts in camp for their opening campfire!

The cost for the Homecoming will be \$15 per person for members of the Alumni Association (including the immediate families of Family and Lifetime members), or \$25 per person for non-members. You can register either at any of the Narragansett Council Scout Shops, or by visiting us online at [www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org). Your ticket for the day includes admission, a patch, a collectible program, and dinner.

As with our other events, our History Committee will be on-hand to scan your photos and slides or photograph any memorabilia that you'd like to show off.

If you have any questions, please email us at [homecoming2006@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:homecoming2006@cachalotalumni.org).

Hope to see all of you back at "the place we know so well"! 🐸

## 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  
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 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*

First a big Thank You to Mike Blais for the services he performed out at Camp in repairing a section of the power lines. When I mentioned the deteriorating condition of our power lines to Mike, who happens to work for NSTAR, he jumped on the opportunity to give something back to Camp. Mike assembled a team of volunteers and worked with NSTAR this past Fall to replace a series of telephone poles in imminent danger of failing. Along with his coworkers, Mike spent several days at Camp planting new poles and running new lines. Thanks to Mike's actions a good percentage of the outdated poles are now repaired which means Camp is a better place because of him.

I wish that I could tell you that this was the end of the repair work needed in Camp, but it's only the beginning. In addition to an outdated electrical service many of the buildings are still in need of TLC and there are more projects than there are volunteers willing/able to do them so it is up to us to pick up a hammer and a paint brush and get to work. I hope to meet more Alumni Association members like Mike who have a skill and a desire to help, but are looking for the right project. If this sounds like you please drop me a line and I am sure that together we can find a project out at Camp for you.

The end of the Alumni's second year is on the horizon (remember that our membership year runs July 1 through June 30) and we have a great celebration camping trip coming up on Memorial Day weekend.

The weekend is only open to current members of the Alumni Association and their families, but it is free, so be sure to check out the details in this newsletter and sign up early. We are in need of people with paintbrushes and screw-guns to assist us with the 2 projects we hope to complete, the first of which is the staining of the rifle range (weather permitting) and the second is to replace the decking on the docks. We've even planned activities for the children including a movie night complete with popcorn! This promises to be a fun filled weekend and I would love to see everyone there. If you know anyone not already a member who wants to come out to Camp that weekend let them know that all they need to do is join the Alumni Association.

See you at Camp! 🐟

---

**I hope to meet more  
Alumni Association  
members like Mike...**

---



## Notes from Cachalot

*Christopher Rooney, Reservation Director*

Spring is now upon us and that means summer is fast approaching. This summer at camp looks to be a particularly successful one. Absent Jamboree competition and with the addition of a few new Troops, attendance is on the rise. Latrine facilities, docks, program centers, and the trading post are all getting an upgrade thanks to the diligence of our Managing Ranger, Karrie Dumais, and the help of our friends in the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association.

---

**... our camp makes  
a positive difference  
in the lives of the  
Scouts who attend  
each summer.**

---

Your time and your money really do make a difference in the life of our camp. And our camp makes a positive difference in the lives of the Scouts who attend each summer. Since most of these Scouts may never get the opportunity to do so, allow me to thank you on their behalf.

I would also like to invite you to visit us this summer. The annual alumni homecoming on July 9th will be a great time to see camp in action and reminisce with old friends, but if you cannot attend that weekend, you are welcome to visit any other time. Camp will be serving Scouts from July 2 to August 5 this summer. I am extremely proud of the young men and women who provide an extraordinary program to Scouts and I am sure you will be as well.

Thanks for all you do for camp, and I hope to see each and every one of you this summer. 🐟

# Come Camping!

*Cachalot open to Alumni families on Memorial Day Weekend*

Members of the Alumni Association and their families are encouraged to pack up their tents and sleeping bags and join us at Cachalot for Memorial Day Weekend. Camp opens at 4:00 PM on Friday, May 26th, with departure to be no later than 11:00am on Monday, May 29th. There is no fee for the weekend.

We will be looking for volunteers from those attending to help us help Camp, by spending some time on one of the service projects we have slated for the weekend. We hope to make substantial progress towards re-staining the Rifle Range and installing new decking boards on the Waterfront dock system, so whether you're comfortable with power tools and a hammer, or are more at home slinging a paint brush, there will be somewhere that everyone that would like to can pitch in. For alums bringing younger children with them, there will be supervised craft and sports activities that the kids can take part in while their parents lend a hand.

This will be our third family camping weekend, and as with past weekends, we have some basic guidelines:

- All camping must be in tents. Sites are first-come, first-served. Toilet and shower facilities will be available.
- Only current members of the Association and their families may participate (you can sign up for membership at the event).
- Families are responsible for their own meals.
- All of the usual rules and regulations of Camp Cachalot apply.
- As a courtesy to others, sites are expected to be quiet by 10:00 PM.

In addition to the daytime activities, everyone will be welcome to participate in a kid-friendly movie night on Saturday evening (the popcorn is on us!) and an old-fashioned campfire and sing-along Sunday evening.

Last year's family camping weekends were a great time, and we got a lot of work done for the Camp, re-staining both Prescott Dining Hall and the Waterfront Tower. And if you can't make it out on Memorial Day, don't worry—we'll be doing it again over Labor Day Weekend! Keep an eye on our web site, [www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org), for more information during the summer.

If you are interested in attending, please contact us via email at [familycamping@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:familycamping@cachalotalumni.org). No registration is required, but we would like some idea of how many people plan to come out. If you have any questions, you can also address them to that same email address. We hope to see everyone there! 🐸

Below: Alumni members painting the trim on Prescott Hall during last year's Memorial Day Weekend (Photo: Dennis Wilkinson)



## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

July 1st, 2005  
Start of 2005-2006 Membership Year

April 1st, 2006  
Start of Membership Renewal period

May 26th - May 29th, 2006  
Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend  
Camp Cachalot, Plymouth, MA

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

July 9th, 2006  
12:00 PM through 9:00 PM  
Homecoming 2006  
Camp Cachalot, Plymouth, MA

## Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

Thomas P. Whelan  
Association Chairman  
[chairman@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:chairman@cachalotalumni.org)

Brian A. Bastarache  
Association Vice Chairman  
[vicechairman@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:vicechairman@cachalotalumni.org)

Manuel Bagaço  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:treasurer@cachalotalumni.org)

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II  
Secretary  
[secretary@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:secretary@cachalotalumni.org)

Christopher Rooney  
Council Representative  
[crooney@narragansettbsa.org](mailto:crooney@narragansettbsa.org)

Staff Scholarship Information  
[staffscholarship@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:staffscholarship@cachalotalumni.org)

Homecoming 2006 Information  
Jeff Dumais  
Event Chairman  
[homecoming2006@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:homecoming2006@cachalotalumni.org)

Family Camping Information  
[familycamping@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:familycamping@cachalotalumni.org)

To Submit Historical Information  
[curator@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:curator@cachalotalumni.org)

Membership Inquiries  
[membership@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:membership@cachalotalumni.org)

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



# A Brief History Of...



At the top of "The Hill", with a great view of Five Mile Pond below, is a building that just about anyone who's ever spent a week of summer camp at Cachalot is sure to recognize—the Prescott Hall, our dining facility and more. Whether the occasion has been Sunday dinner, a Lodge Officer Training, a Klondike closing ceremony, a crack-erbarrel, or even the occasional flooded-out Camp-o-ree, you've probably spent a little bit of time in the dining hall.

That is, provided you've been to camp since 1950. For the first 5 years of operation (1946-1950) there was no building to house the kitchen; instead, there was a collection of military-style canvas tents set up on wooden platforms for your dining convenience. Prescott Hall was completed just in time for the 1951 season of summer camp, and was a big enough addition that it merited coverage in the New Bedford Standard-Times:

"Big news at Camp Cachalot is a newly-constructed mess hall; high upon the pine-studded hilltop over the waterfront. Completed just in time for the camp season, the structure resembles a large modern log cabin and is constructed of sturdy tight-grained wood." - *Standard-Times, August 15th, 1951, p 13.*

The article goes on to note that the kitchen had not yet been completed, as the Council was still

in the process of bringing electric power into camp. The electric service, and the kitchen, were expected to be complete in the fall.

The original structure was a bit smaller than today, a nearly L-shaped building with the kitchen at the end facing what is today the parking area.



Scouts waiting outside Prescott Hall, circa 1959. Note that they are standing on the fireplace side of the building, where the current kitchen and dishroom now stand. (Archive Photo)

It also hadn't been dubbed "Prescott Hall" just yet, and our research so far has failed to turn up exactly when that occurred, or what Prescott's first name was. There were two prominent individuals active in the Cachalot Council around the time the camp opened, William Prescott and Oliver Prescott, Jr. Both were on the Council's governing board in 1932, and were still noted in other documents as members of the Council in 1941 and 1942, although what their official capacity was is unclear.

The building escaped serious damage in the fire of 1964, but part of the reconstruction effort put money towards expanding the building. By the summer of 1966, the kitchen had been relocated to a new addition on the side of the building facing the road, and the old kitchen area was added on to, increasing the size of the dining area significantly. Later additions in the early 1990's and 2000's added a larger walk-in cooler and an expanded equipment storage area to the kitchen, respectively. Most recently, an covered outdoor dining area on the side facing Five Mile Pond was added, and is a popular dining spot in the summer.

There's long been a tradition of hanging plaques in the open rafters of Prescott Hall to memorialize your Troop's or Patrol's week at summer camp. Plaques currently hanging in the rafters date from the 1950s all the way through last

summer, and feature everything from simple one-color wooden plaques listing the members of a unit all the way through elaborately painted, carved, and crafted masterpieces of wood, cloth, rope, and metal. Check out the pictures accompanying this article for one well-known example. In addition to all of the unit plaques,

the kitchen wall is a repository of many of the bronze plaques saved from Camp Noquochoke, and the underside of the roof sheathing is scrawled with the names of dozens of former kitchen staffers.

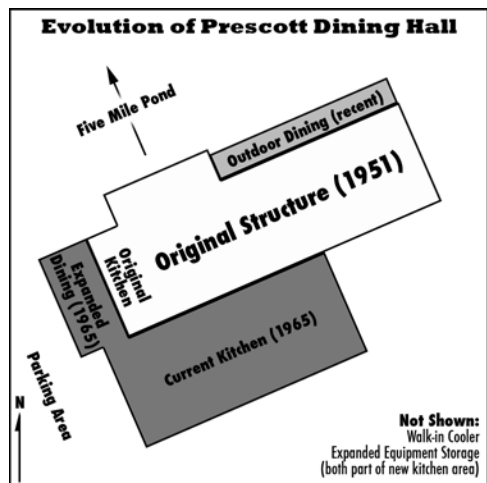
The building is currently in good condition, although there's always a little work to be done. The Alumni Association gave the building a fresh coat of stain in 2005, and that's holding up well. The window shutters will likely need some work in the next few years, and, unfortunately, the fireplace is all but unusable in its current condition (not that it ever stood a chance of warming

more that the people directly in front of it to begin with.) The ambience it once provided is missed.

This summer will mark Prescott Hall's 55th birthday, and as in summers past, it's sure to be used by Scouts and Scouters by the table-load, and filled to the rafters with song at least a few times every day. They'll dine on the finest Camp cuisine (it really is better than you remember it, not that it was ever that bad to begin with...), and listen to all those important announcements (announcements, announcements, please!) that come with a day in camp. At the end of their week some of them will even add a little bit more to the history of the place with their own plaques. Here's hoping it continues to be a center of fellowship for many more years to come! 🐟

**What do you remember about Prescott Hall? Sign on to our discussion forums at <http://www.cachalotalumni.org/forum> and share your memories!**

It's really a shame that we can lose track of who a building was dedicated to in so short a span of time, but that's part of what we as an Association are trying to reclaim and preserve. Any help that our readers can provide is greatly appreciated! -- *The Editor*



# A Brief History Of...

*Photos of Prescott Dining Hall*



The original dining tent and water tower, visible on a hill over Five Mile Pond. This photo was taken in 1949, two years prior to the opening of Prescott Dining Hall. *(Archive Photo, courtesy of Ed Tavares)*



Prescott Dining Hall in 1959, taken from what is now the parking area. The original structure of the building is easily distinguished in this picture. *(Archive Photo, courtesy of Vic Sylvia)*



Scott Chadwick, a member of the kitchen staff, salutes outside the dining hall in 1956. This photo was taken from the pond side of the hall, and shows the opposite entrance from that shown on the previous page. *(Archive Photo, courtesy of Scott Chadwick)*



Attendees of a Ranger course standing for grace before their meal in Prescott Dining Hall, in the early 1960s. *(Archive Photo, courtesy of Larry Harney)*



Prescott Dining Hall in 1968. The extension to the dining area where the old kitchen once stood, as well as the expansive new kitchen, are visible in this photo. *(Archive Photo, courtesy of Vic Sylvia)*

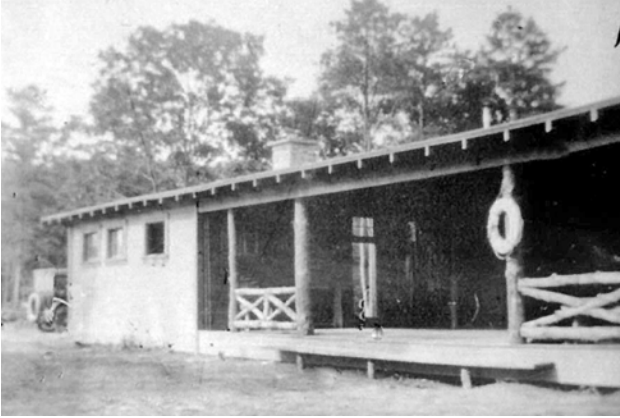


Scouts at the Great International Pig-Out Camporee in May, 1983, sampling the multinational dishes prepared by the Troops in attendance. Taken inside Prescott Hall, facing the kitchen. *(Archive Photo, courtesy of Bill Ashworth)*

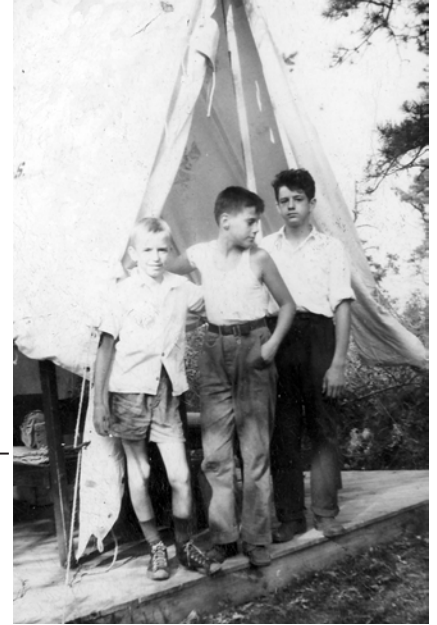


# More Highlights from Gathering 2006

*Photographs from the Very Early Days of Cachalot and Noquochoke*



The "Mess Shack" at Camp Noquochoke, 1921. From a collection of photos of Noquochoke originally taken by Frederick Webb, a boy attending the camp in its opening year. (Archive Photo, courtesy Manny Bagaço)



From left to right: Bob Steele, Bob Burbank, and Dick Burbank in front of their summer camp tent, Camp Cachalot, 1948. (Archive Photo, courtesy Bob Burbank)



Top to bottom, left to right, facing camera: Malcolm Taggerty, Charlie Richmond, Bob Burbank, Phillip Gervais, Francis Thorley, and Bob Steele on the Cachalot waterfront in 1948. (Archive Photo, courtesy Bob Burbank)

A view of Five Mile Pond from "Nob Hill", Camp Cachalot, 1948. (Archive Photo, courtesy Bob Burbank)



Unidentified Scouts at Camp Cachalot, 1948. This photo was titled "Goin' Home" in the original album. (Archive Photo, courtesy Bob Burbank)

Unidentified Scouts from "Tent 3", also from the Webb album, Camp Noquochoke, 1921. (Archive Photo, courtesy Manny Bagaço)





# Do You Recognize These People?

Help us to identify the members of the 1970 Cachalot Summer Camp Staff!



As part of our ongoing effort to document the history of Camp Cachalot, we've been collecting all of the old camp photos that we can find. Unfortunately, we get a lot of pictures where we're unable to identify the time, place, or people they represent. Here's an example.

This photo was provided to us by Carl Amaral, and is of the 1970 Summer Camp Staff at Camp Cachalot. Carl is at position 20 (see the position chart, below right) and was the Program Director that year. The picture was taken next to the old Trading Post, just outside the administration office. Between Carl, David Goldrick, and a few other alums, we have identified a number of people in this picture, who we have listed to the left, above the position chart.

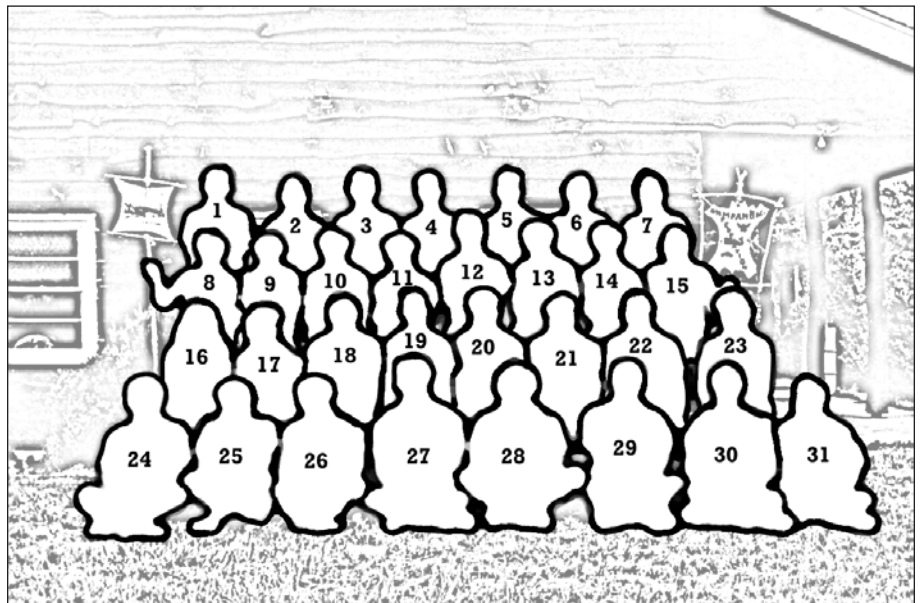
If you can identify anyone else, please send us a note with their position in the picture from the provided chart. We're also looking for the job that person held in 1970, and we'd love to have contact information for anyone in the picture as well. All information can be emailed to [curator@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:curator@cachalotalumni.org).

We have several other staff photos, mostly from the late 1980s, on our web site -- have a look and see if you can fill in some of the blanks there, too! 🐟

- 9. Rocky Goldrick
- 13. Brian Nobrega
- 14. Aaron Lansky
- 15. Kirk Manter
- 16. Sally St. Pierre

- 17. David Goldrick
- 18. Bob St. Pierre
- 19. James Cooney
- 20. Carl Amaral
- 26. George Mello (Motta?)

- 27. Jeff Walecka (Weller?)
- 28. Steve Godomski
- 30. Bob St. Pierre, Jr.
- 31. Everett Graviel



# 2006 Summer Camp Staff Scholarship

*Still seeking donations for this year's award*

During Summer Camp 2006, we will be awarding our second scholarship to a member of the summer camp staff. The amount of this year's scholarship will be \$500. To be considered for the award, all applicants must:

- Serve on Camp Cachalot Summer Camp Staff the year the application is submitted.
- Hold a High School diploma and be attending college or other higher learning institution in the fall of the year the application is submitted.
- Have demonstrated leadership ability in Scouting and a strong record of participation in activities outside of Scouting.
- Deliver a completed application to the current Reservation Director no later than the end of the third week of Boy Scout Summer Camp.


Applications for the scholarship will be available at the beginning of summer camp from the Reservation Director. Applications will be reviewed by the Reservation Director and members of the Alumni Association's

Scholarship Committee to select the winning applicant. The winner will be notified prior to the conclusion of summer camp.

The scholarship program was quite successful in its first year, with over \$1000 raised and several staffers applying. This year, we are still far short of our goal of another \$1000 (remember that we try to raise both \$500 for the current year's scholarship and an additional \$500 to help establish a permanently endowed scholarship.

If you'd like to contribute, remember that your donations are fully tax-deductible. Contributions can be made at any Association event, at any of the Narragansett Council Scout Shops, or by visiting us online at:

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

If you have any questions, either about applying for the scholarship or about making a contribution, please contact us at [scholarship@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:scholarship@cachalotalumni.org). 

## *Klondike Derby A Success*

Several members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association dressed in their finest flannels, waxed up their moustaches, spun up a little ragtime music, and threw on a few gallons of coffee and hot chocolate to run the warming house and crackerbarrel at this year's Klondike Derby. In addition to music, food, drink, and a little Yukon style, we had information on display about the Alumni Association and our efforts.

This year's Klondike was a success all around, with the units in attendance having a great time, despite the unseasonably warm weather. The Governor for the event, our own Jeff Dumais, was glad to have our help, and we thank him for allowing us to spend the day out there talking up the Association. We added a few new members to the rolls, and even got a few donations for our Building and Scholarship funds to show for our efforts.

We plan on offering our services to the Klondike Governor again next year, and hope to make an even better show of getting into character for the day. If you're interested in lending a hand, please email us at [info@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:info@cachalotalumni.org), or catch up with any member of the Executive Committee at one of our upcoming events. 

## **Camp Cachalot Alumni Association**

c/o Narragansett Council, BSA

P. O. Box 14777

East Providence, RI 02914