

## **Massasoit Memories**

Guest Speakers, Camp Noquochoke Memories and Memorabilia Highlight Gathering 2008

Fall River Heritage State Park's main exhibit hall made for a wonderful historic backdrop for our displays of Cachalot and Noquochoke

artifacts and memorabilia, and its auditorium played stage for an entertaining and informative trio of guest speakers at our fourth annual Winter Gathering on Saturday, January 19th. We had over 50 alumni and interested members of the community come through and have a look, learn a bit more about the Alumni Association, and join us for a few snacks during the course of the event. Quite of few of the faces were folks we hadn't seen in a long time.

Our big display, exhibit-wise, was the recently-recovered (and still to be restored) Camp

Noquochoke sign, which we were able to get a little information on from some of our Noquochoke alumni. The sign followed



Above: Mike Vieira checks out the Noquochoke sign

our ranger home to Camp Cachalot, as we continue to plan out our restoration efforts, where it joins a collection of the signs and

plaques that identified the buildings at Noquochoke. We are still looking for people interested in helping to restore the sign-if that's you, drop us an email at curator@cachalotalumni. org.

The highlights of the day were certainly our guest speakers, who took to the stage after a brief meeting (where members got an update on the current state of the Association.)

Narragansett Council Scout Executive Dave Anderson kicked things off with a brief presentation on what the Alumni Association has meant to the camp and the Council since it was established. Dave spoke of the

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# **Homecoming 2008**

#### Homecoming 2008 Details

July 12th, 2008 12:00рм through 5:00рм

Cachalot Scout Reservation Plymouth, MA

Free admission for members and non-members (\$5 suggested donation for optional lunch)

Send email to homecoming2008@cachalotalumni.org or visit us online at www.cachalotalumni.org for more information.

Grab that old camp hat, a little sunscreen, and come join us out at Cachalot on Saturday, July 12th, 2008 for our fourth annual Homecoming! This free event always makes for a fun afternoon out at camp, to catch up with old friends and see how things have or haven't changed at your favorite places.

The day kicks off at noon with lunch, to be served by the grill in the pine grove. We'd request a donation of \$5 to help defray the costs of lunch, if you're able. We'll follow this up with a brief Annual Meeting of the Association, where we'll update you with the various things the Association has been doing, let you know about (and make suggestions on) our plans for the future, and answer any questions you might have.

After our Annual Meeting, we hope to spend a little time taking "class pictures" of our attendees by decade, and, for those who are interested, capture some of your camp stories on videotape to help preserve the "living history" of Cachalot. For the rest of the afternoon, Camp will be open for you to explore, either on your own or with a guide, or you can just spend some more time with those old camp friends. We should wrap up the day at 5:00PM.

Keep an eye on the Homecoming page at our web site, http://www.cachalotalumni. org/homecoming, for more information as we get closer to the date. If you do plan on joining us for lunch, we'd also ask that you'd stop by that same web site and RSVP before July 5<sup>th</sup>, so we have some idea how many will be attending and can be sure to have enough food on hand.

If you have any questions, please drop us an email at homecoming2008@cachalotalumni. org. We hope to see you out there, at "the place we know so well!"

#### The Cachaletter

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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 Peter Ashworth Jeff Dumais

#### 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-forprofit 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



# Member(ship) Update

Jeffrey P. Dumais, Association Chairman

Spring is here at last. And with it comes that little itch behind your ear telling you to get outside and do something. Well, why not join the Alumni for some family camping on Memorial Day weekend at Camp Cachalot? Information is available at www.cachalotalumni.org and elsewhere in this issue of The Cachaletter.

I mentioned in my letter in the Fall 2007 edition that I felt it important to talk about membership, and I still do. I am pleased that we have been able to maintain an annual increase in people who have signed up as members. Unfortunately, the list seems to have an also increasing number of people whose membership has lapsed and have not yet renewed. Please, if you know someone who might be in this situation, give them a call and ask them to renew. And while you're at it, call someone who hasn't yet been a member and ask them to join.

I was excited to announce at the Winter Gathering our new membership payment options, please see the article on the next page for more details.

And lastly, it has been exciting to see over the past years the high level of interest in our Alumni Scholarship program for current Cachalot staffers. As of today, we are funding two scholarships totaling \$750. Our endowment is currently funding approx-

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imately \$600 of this amount. Please feel free to contact one of the Executive Committee members if you are interested in helping us to fully fund the other \$150. Our endowment needs approximately \$1500 to reach this goal. My goal as Chairman is to have this goal reached by the time we award the Scholarships in late July.

Thanks for all you do for Cachalot!







# **Camp Improvements**

Peter W. Ashworth, Camp Director

Recently, I received the following e-mail:



I'm emailing you to let you know that Troop 54 from Centerville will be returning to Camp this summer. Your program was fantastic last year and all of the boys agreed that we should return. We'd like the same campsite (Acooshnet) if possible and would like it for two weeks in a row. Week #3 and #4. Many of the boys will attend both weeks, one in the regular program and the second in Eagle week

Thank vou

Teri

ASM Troop 54 Centerville

Troop 54 Centerville tried Cachalot in 2007 because of our joint venture with the Cape Cod and Islands Council. To say the least, I was extremely excited to hear this. The quality of program at Cachalot continues to get better and better.

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# **Multi-year Membership**

New Membership Options for 2008 and Beyond

Beginning with this year's renewal period, we are adding reduced-rate 2- and 3-year membership options to our 1-year memberships. We hope this is helpful to our members, with smaller contribution per year and fewer times to have to remember to renew; it certainly helps the Association, as even with these smaller contributions our endowment will grow faster and we'll have fewer expenses sending people renewal reminders and annual membership packages.

In addition to the 2- and 3-year membership varieties, we're also expanding the Lifetime membership option so that people can make arrangements to use a payment plan rather than a lump-sum contribution. A full list of the updated membership rates is below:

Membership Class	1 year	2 years	3 years
Member	\$25	\$45	\$65
Youth Member (under 21)	\$10	\$18	\$25
Senior Member (65 or over)	\$10	\$18	\$25
Family	\$50	\$90	\$130
Lifetime		\$500	

Full information will be included in this year's membership renewal package, which should arrive in your mailbox in early June. The web site will also be updated by that time to allow online renewals and registrations.

People interested in becoming Lifetime members of the Association via a payment plan, or people with questions about multi-year memberships, should contact us via email at membership@cachalotalumni.org

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As always, our never-resting camp ranger, Karrie Dumais, has spent the off-season preparing the camp, by fixing platforms, doing roadwork, repairs in the kitchen, and other projects. Of course the Alumni did lots of work at the end of last year at their Labor Day Family Weekend. The Alumni continues to go above and beyond for the improvements that will help for generations to come.

I would like to introduce, at this time Cachalot's newest Program Director, Patrick Canary. Pat has been camping at Cachalot since he crossed over from Webelos with Troop 46 out of the

The quality of program at Cachalot continues to get better and better.

Annawon Council. He has worked in Extreme, Scoutcraft, and most recently served 3 years as Nature Director. He brings a large amount of energy and knowledge to the program.

Finally, let me remind you to come and see us during the Annual Alumni Homecoming on July 12th. Homecoming is 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 6 to August 2 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. Here's to another successful summer!

# **Upcoming Events** and **Important Dates**

May23<sup>rd</sup> through May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend Camp Cachalot, Plymouth, MA

> July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 12:00<sub>PM</sub> through 5:00<sub>PM</sub> Alumni Homecoming 2008 Camp Cachalot. Plymouth, MA

August 29<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 Labor Day Family Camping Weekend Camp Cachalot, Plymouth, MA

# **Executive Committee** and Other e-Mail Contacts

Jeffrey P. Dumais Association Chairman chairman@cachalotalumni.org

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II Association Vice Chairman vicechairman@cachalotalumni.org

> Thomas P. Whelan Treasurer treasurer@cachalotalumni.org

Peter W. Ashworth Council Representative pashworth@narragansettbsa.org

Membership Committee membership@cachalotalumni.org

Staff Scholarship Information staffscholarship@cachalotalumni.org

Homecoming 2008 Information homecoming 2008@cachalotalumni.org

Family Camping Information familycamping@cachalotalumni.org

To Submit Historical Information curator@cachalotalumni.org

Other Inquiries info@cachalotalumni.org

### **Collectors Corner**

Information on Scouting Collectibles Abounds Online, If You Know Where to Look

Whetheryou're a neophyte collector, someone with a box full of all the camporee patches you've collected through the years, or an avid trader who is one first issue away from a full set of Northeast Region Order of the Arrow lodge flaps, there's almost always something new to learn about when collecting Scouting memorabilia. As you might expect, there's a wealth of information on-line about Scouting and Scouting collectibles. Here's a collection of sites that have some good information, whether you're buying, selling, trading, storing, or displaying your collection. I hope you find them useful.

# The International Scouting Collectors Association (ISCA)

scouttrader.org

bbindex.html

ISCA is a non-profit membership organization of Scouting collectors from across the United States and other Scouting countries who, among other things, seek to help preserve Scouting history through the artifacts that Scouting has produced since its inception. Members subscribe to a code of ethics, and the organization publishes a list of recognized dealers. While much of the site is memberonly, there's a good deal of useful public content as well, most notably a collection of "getting started" articles as well as a calendar of upcoming Trade-o-Rees.

# The Internet Guide to Order of the Arrow Insignia

www.oaimages.com

This site, run by collector John Pannell, is a treasure-trove of information on the various flaps, event patches, neckerchiefs, and other materials produced by Order of the Arrow lodges, complete with pictures of the vast majority of items. The site also has a glossary of patch trading terms and abbreviations that you would find in the "Blue Book" guides.

#### Like the OA

http://www.geocities.com/rustyvanreeves/

ASHS is an organization with goals similar to ISCA. They publish the "Blue Book", an 2-volume reference book of Order of the Arrow insignia and memorabilia.

The American Scouting Historical Society (ASHS)

Right: an
Agawam Lodge
felt patch (image
from oaimages.com,
displayed flipped

horizontally)

# **Near the Century Mark**

Council Collecting Troop Histories in Preparation for BSA's 100th Birthday

The month of February 2010 will mark a significant milestone for the Boy Scouts of America as it celebrates 100 years as an organization. In light of the BSA's anniversary, the Narragansett Council is hoping to document more of our local history by compiling histories of Scout Troops, Cub Packs, Explorer Posts, and other units, working with the unit historians to do so.

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association shares this goal of preserving local Scouting history. While our focus is on the history of Cachalot and its predecessor camps and, to some extent, the history of the former Moby Dick Council and its predecessors, our History Committee thinks that it's very likely that we count among our members many people who may no longer be actively involved with their old units (or were with units that no longer exist) but who may still have first-hand knowledge of those units' histories. If that describes you, we'd encourage you to get in

touch with your old troop, and offer to share what you know. Narragansett Council's "Over the Hill Gang" is spearheading the effort, so if you don't know who to contact, or your old unit isn't around any longer, you could drop their point person, Jules Cohen, an email at julesacohen@cox.net or a phone call at (401) 294-6617. Of course, if you have any Cachalotrelated stories, we'd appreciate an email as well at curator@cachalotalumni.org!

More information on the BSA's plans for their 100 Year anniversary can be found at:

http://www.scouting.org/100years/

More information on the unit history project for the Council can be found on their blog at:

http://narragansettbsa.blogspot.com/2008/02/100th-anniversary-of-scouting-unit.html

#### **Council Strip Patch Image Archive**

www.councilstrip.com

Like the OA Insignia Guide, this site covers Council shoulder strip patches, including images of each patch issue.

#### **Camp Images**

campimages.com

Another similar site, this one covering patches issued by various Scout camps.

#### eBay

www.ebay.com

Unless you've been living under a rock (or have never used the Internet), you've heard about eBay, the most well-known internet auction site out there. A fair number of Cachalot alumni buy and sell Scouting memorabilia on eBay, and, while it can be one way to find new items to add to your collection (or sell off pieces of it), it has just as much value as a research tool. Careful searching and browsing of eBay (a topic far too large to be covered in one article) can give you a better idea of what's out there and turn up patches and collectibles you may not have known about before. One handy tip is to use the "advanced search" mode to look only at auctions that have already completed, which can help give you some idea of what pieces of your collection might be worth.

# **The Scout Patch Collector's Base Camp** patchcamp.com

If one of the links we've already listed doesn't answeryour question, one of the links collected at this site probably will. The site bills itself as a "directory of helpful internet resources for pursuing our hobby of collecting and trading Scout memorabilia" and has a broad collection of links to various patch collecting web sites across the 'net.

# A Brief History Of...

Cabins 1 and 2

In the mid-1970s, options for year-round camping at Cachalot were pretty simple: you stayed either in the still-new Adirondack Shelters, the fully-enclosed-but-still-drafty 21 Club, brought out your own tents, or slept out under the stars. In the winter months, for those who were unaccustomed to or just inexperienced at camping in the snow, the 21 Club and Adirondacks were really your only choices.

The 1970s had also brought other changes, most significantly the merger of the former Cachalot and Massasoit Councils into the new Moby Dick Council, and the sale of Camp Noquochoke. This meant more troops looking for accommodations at Cachalot, and, as Noquochoke had a fair number of cabins available, more troops than before who might want to use cabins for their monthly outings.

To help meet these needs, grants and donations were solicited from the Magee Fund, Cliftex Corporation, the Crapo Charitable Foundation, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, and the Fall River Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs to construct two new winter cabins above Little Five Mile Pond just northeast of the Guilmette Ranger Cabin. These cabins, dubbed simply "Cabin 1" and "Cabin 2", were built as mirror images of each other, using a relatively new construction technique of dry-stacked concrete blocks bound together with a stucco-like coating of cement and fiberglass threads. Although the initial plan was for the work to be done primarily by volunteers, that turned out to be impractical and much of the work was done by Paul Seguer, a local contractor who was then the Scoutmaster of Troop 74 in North Dartmouth, and his crew.

The buildings were completed in 1981, and were each equipped with a coal stove for heating purposes and a wood-fired range for cooking, they tripled the available heated space for camping at Cachalot. Water was initially provided by a small hand pump that needed priming (and occasionally froze), which was quickly replaced by a new frost-free line. Despite being over 25 years old, many Scouters of a certain age still refer to them as "the new cabins" ("New Cabins, 1980-81" is marked in the slab that surrounded the original well pump, still present on the site today).

In addition to serving as year-round cabins, Cabins 1 and 2 have also helped the summer camp program, serving several times as housing for senior staffers whose families stayed at camp with them, and most significantly as the "Horsemanship Center" during several seasons of summer camp in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This one-week program brought several horses into camp, in a corral framed by electric fences behind Cabin 1, with the cabin serving both as housing for the Horsemanship counselor and as the tack shed for the program. There's still a little remnant of the Horsemanship program on the building, in the form of two horseshoes nailed up above the kitchen door.

We've been trying to resolve a bit of a mystery related to these buildings. Multiple alumni remember that these buildings were to have been dedicated to John B. Humphries, a former president of the Cachalot Council, and to Frank Escobar, a long-time volunteer with Troop 16 in Swansea, but we've so far been unable to confirm this. The buildings do have plaques noting the contributions mentioned above, but we've found no written mention of Humphries or Escobar in our research. We'd encourage anyone who might be able to help settle this question once and for all to contact us at curator@cachalotalumni.org.

#### The Magee Fund

George W. P. Magee was a theatrical agent and the manager of the Boston Opera House from the 1890s through 1916. Mr. Magee was very supportive of the fledgling Scouting organization, and on his death in 1939 he willed a substantial portion of his estate to create the George Magee Memorial Trust Fund. This fund was to provide monies to support the camps of the Boy Scout councils located in Massachusetts. His will asks that camps that benefit from the fund conduct an evening of competitive games, drills, or exhibitions during the week of August 6th, his birthday, which gave rise to the "Magee Nights" conducted by most of the camps in Massachusetts.

By 2004, Mr. Magee's initial gift had grown to nearly \$7.3 million dollars, having already distributed \$6.3 million to projects in various camps. Cachalot has benefitted from his largesse on many occasions, and it is not difficult to find buildings with the name "Magee" attached to them somewhere.



Above: the slab of the of pump shed between the cabins

Below: Cabin 1 (left) and Cabin 2 (right), as seen from the road approaching both buildings (*Photo courtesy Dennis Wilkinson*)



#### **Winter Gathering**

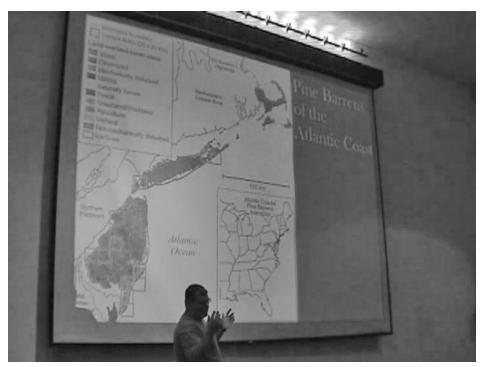
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work the Association has done in preserving Cachalot's history and traditions, and thanked the assembled alumni for the multiple service projects we've carried out at Cachalot. Dave, himself a former camp staffer, also expressed his appreciation of our Staff Scholarship program, which we're expanding this year (see the article on the back page). Kudos to Dave for following that up with an open Q&A session!

Fellow alumnus and Association memberat-large Brian Bastarache then treated us to a very informative (not to mention entertaining) presentation on the ecology of Camp Cachalot. His PowerPoint-fueled session cut a broad swath, covering pine barren forestry and the role of fire, kettle ponds, local flora and fauna, current problems with invasive species, even water table issues. As his talk was so topical and relevant to the kinds of things Scouts should be learning about the environment at Cachalot, we're looking for ways to make it available as a program resource.

Ourlastspeakerwas Cachalotand Noquochoke staffer and alumnus Mike Vieira, who spoke about his memories of Camp Noquochoke and the book he's writing on Noquochoke's history. It was clear from Mike's stories that wild antics are a common thread to summer camp staffs everywhere, from getting tangled up in Troop 50's pioneering projects while trying to navigate the camp at night sans flashlights, to don't-try-this-at-home stunts like conducting Order of the Arrow ceremonies in full regalia while trying to balance on top of a smoke-spewing chimney (which would require a harness and COPE certification at the very least these days!)

Sharing stories and memories with old friends was a good enough reason to get together for the day, and being entertained by our guest speakers was icing on the cake. For those who couldn't attend this year, feel free to check out some of the old Noquochoke photos we added to our archive on our image gallery at our web site, www.cachalotalumni.org, and we hope to see you at Homecoming in July!



Brian Bastarache discusses pine barrens with the audience



Above: Vic Sylvia and Mike Vieira (both '76 Cachalot staffers) catch up Below: some of the plaques on display



# AT A POPULATION OF THE POPULAT

(L-R) Past and present professional Scouters Everett Graviel, Dave Anderson, and Art Caesar chatting at the Gathering

Left: Peter Ashworth (on the left) and Tom Whelan (on the right) handling lunch duty Right: Narragansett Council Scout Exec Dave Anderson fielding a question from

the audience

# Memorial Day and Labor Day Alumni Family Camping

It's almost Memorial Day, and that means that it's just about time for more family camping at Cachalot!

Over Memorial Day weekend (May 23rd through May 26th) and Labor Day weekend (August 29th through September 1st), the Narragansett Council is turning over use of Cachalot to the members of the Alumni Association and their families. We have exclusive use of the camp, including the waterfront, on these weekends, and there is no cost to attend.

To thank the Council for their generosity, we usually will spend a few hours on Saturday and a few more on Sunday tackling some small- to medium-sized service projects around camp. This Memorial Day, we'll be helping shore up some erosion issues on the hill beneath the Dining Hall, so if you can lend a hand, bringing appropriate clothing including gloves would be a good idea. The Labor Day project is still to be determined, but keep an eye on our website, www.cachalotalumni.org, as we get into late July.

During the project times, we'll have some children's activities planned to keep the kids occupied, and there's usually an impromptu campfire or three at night. All of the scheduled activities, including the service project, and purely voluntary, but we hope you'll join in!

For both weekends, you may arrive beginning at 4:00pm on the Friday, and should plan to depart by 11:00am on Monday. Only tent sites are available, as Cachalot isn't permitted or equipped for trailers. Water, bathroom, and shower facilities are available to everyone. Families are responsible for their own meals. All sites are first-come, first-serve, and we ask that sites be quiet after 10:00pm each night as a courtesy to the other families camping, many of whom have young children. All of the usual camp rules apply.

If you do plan to attend, we'd appreciate it if you send us an email at familycamping@cachalotalumni.org to let us know how many you expect to be bringing, and whether or not you plan to lend a hand with our service projects.

We hope to see everyone (and their families) there!

# **Staff Scholarship Changes**

With One Scholarship Fully and Permanently Funded, We Add a Second Award

Our Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we will once again be awarding a Summer Camp Staff Scholarship to a deserving member of the 2008 staff this coming summer. We're even more exited to announce that this summer, we will be presenting a second scholarship as well! Our first \$500 scholarship is now fully-endowed, but we've decided to continue with our fund raising towards a second fully-endowed scholarship. This year, a second award for \$250 will also be available.

Summer camp staffers can make or break a Scout's experience at summer camp, so Cachalot has always strived to hire the best staff it can. Many staff members are collegeaged, and those choosing to work at Cachalot often make less money during the summer

than they could elsewhere. College costs aren't getting any cheaper, so we hope that our scholarships help Cachalot retain those vital, experienced staffers from year to year.

Applications for the \$500 Thomas P. Whelan Chairman's Scholarship as well as the \$250 Cachalot Alumni scholarship will be made available to all interested, eligible staff members at the beginning of the summer camp season. To be eligible, staffers must serve on staff for the 2008 Summer Camp season and be enrolled in some variety of post-secondary education in the Fall of 2008. Award letters are presented during the closing ceremony of the last week of summer camp. Staffers should request applications from and return completed applications to the Camp Director.

We are able to award these scholarships only through the generous donations of our membership. Our Scholarship Fund currently provides about \$600 of the award annually, with the remainder coming from our members. If you are interested in making a contribution, you can do so at any event, or online by visiting:

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

Contributions are tax-deductible.

If you are an eligible staffer with questions, an alumnus/ae interested in participating on the Scholarship Committee, or have other questions about the Scholarship Fund, please contact us via e-mail at scholarship@cachalotalumni.org.

#### **Camp Cachalot Alumni Association**

c/o Narragansett Council, BSA P. O. Box 14777 East Providence, RI 02914