



# The Cachalotter

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

## **Congratulations to Our First-Ever Wall of Fame Inductees!**



**Full Wall of Fame Coverage • Winter Gathering 2011**

## The Cachalletter

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Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

The Cachalletter 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 Cachalletter can be sent via email to [cachalletter@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:cachalletter@cachalotalumni.org).

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## 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 Cachalletter, 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



## Greetings, Alumni!

Vic Sylvia, Association Chairman

I first attended Camp Cachalot in the summer of 1958 as a Scout with Troop 11 chartered to Our Lady of Mount Carmel RC in New Bedford and, with the exception of four years of military service in the late 60s, have been going back to camp every chance I can get. Like so many of you, Cachalot holds a very special place in my life. Whether it was the location where we could exercise our leadership or Scouting skills, or simply a place where we could get away from work or the city, walk the trails, do a little fishing, and breathe, Cachalot remains a home away from home.

To be certain that current and future Scouts have the opportunity to build friendships that last a lifetime and memories that stay with us forever, the Alumni Association is committed to preserving our past and building for the future. The key ingredient in doing this is *membership*. As our membership grows, so will our ability to provide support to Camp and to develop new and exciting programs for our members. This can only be accomplished with the help of our membership. Our membership committee continues to reach out to our communities to attract new members through press releases and informational advertisements, but the surest way to attract new members and increase our rolls is with one-on-one contact. I ask that you take a few minutes to reflect back on those special times shared with friends at Cachalot, and make an effort to contact them and invite them to join our Association. Together we can build up our membership and provide the needed assistance to the Narragansett Council in insuring that Camp Cachalot will be there for future generations.

Finally, I would like to thank Jeff Dumais, our outgoing chairman, for guiding us over the last three years. Jeff and the members of his executive committee have left a strong foundation for us to expand on, and with everyone's help our future looks promising.

Feel free to contact me at [chairman@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:chairman@cachalotalumni.org) to discuss how together we can improve our service to our members and to Cachalot, that special place that draws us all together. 🐾



## Looking Back

Jeffrey P. Dumais, Immediate Past Chairman

Holiday Greetings Alumni!

...and a fond farewell from your outgoing Chairman. As we look forward to a New Year and all the mystery each day brings, it is time to look back on successes and learn from missteps. Over the past three years we have seen success in membership retention through the offering of multi-year membership options, the increased opportunities for summer program staff retention through the offering of a second scholarship and the inception our Wall of Fame program, including the induction of our first class of honorees. We have also seen some missteps as we struggled to gain new members at the same time as retaining current ones, struggled to meet operating costs as the economy took its toll on investments and occasionally missed out on opportunities for publicity, programming and possibilities.

...it is now time to open  
our eyes to the rising  
sun of a new day.

Even more importantly, it is now time to open our eyes to the rising sun of a new day and walk briskly off into possibilities. I look forward to continuing to help the Association in whatever ways I can as we walk together into the future.

Please welcome your new Chairman, Vic Sylvia, and his newly slated Executive Committee. I know they will be seizing on every chance they get to make this a better Association for tomorrow, next week, next year, and on into the coming generations. All of it for the benefit of Cachalot Scout Reservation and the youth this wonderful place serves through the Scouting program.

Please feel free to drop a line through [cachalotalumni.org](http://cachalotalumni.org) to any of the Committee to lend your support to the Association.

Thanks to all you 'men of faith and courage!' 🐾

## District Updates

Peter W. Ashworth, Cachalot District Executive

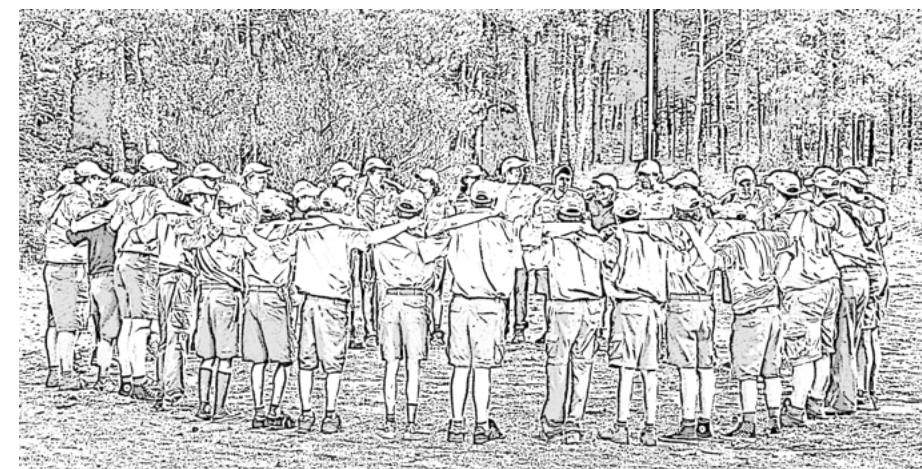


What's happening with Scouting in the districts, you ask? Plenty!! But instead of the usual report on the number of units and the amount of kids, here is something different. Last year, the Narragansett Council set a record with 278 Scouts attaining Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. Those Scouts and those they led gave over 33,000 hours of service to their communities.

What did that mean more locally? Going by the numbers, between Cachalot and Massasoit, there were 30 Eagles scout representing 18 local troops giving more than 3200 service hours to their local communities. Projects included:

- Revitalization of courtyard garden and pond of Dartmouth Council on Aging Center
- Built four benches for Westport Watershed Alliance
- Fix sidewalk at Mattapoisett Congregational Church
- Organize Safety Awareness Day at Freetown State Park
- Built bat boxes for the Town of Marion
- Refurbish St. Patrick's Church hall
- Organized a blood drive in New Bedford
- Coordinate blood drive at St. John Neumann's Church
- Restore buildings at Pope Park in Acushnet
- Repair ledge at Acushnet Library
- Build parking area for new boat ramp for the Town of Dartmouth
- Build boat ramp for the Town of Dartmouth
- Construct historic marker for Judah Chase Sawmill
- Construct Osprey platforms on Westport River on Lloyd Center grounds
- Sippican Trails Maintenance
- Build owl boxes for Audubon Society
- Refurbish St. Patrick's Church Rectory deck
- Historic Rochester Animal Compound restoration
- Build dog park fence at Robinson Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany
- Clean Acushnet Community Center
- Hold food drive for animals in Somerset
- Clean camp site behind St. Louis de France church
- Clean historic cemetery in Swansea
- Create parking plan for transfer station in Westport
- Clean Quonset Air Museum
- Convert room to a school room at Holy Trinity Episcopal
- Fix and reseal tables at Wilbur and McMahan School
- Clean and refurbish O'Neil Field Complex
- Improve cosmetics of interior of Old Town Hall Somerset
- Refurbish St. Francis CCD Center

Maybe you have noticed these projects in your community. If you have, thank a scout. Even with all this done the greatest benefit to the community will be the leadership that these new Eagle Scouts will provide to our communities, states and nation in the years ahead. 🐾



On the cover: Wall of Fame inductee Al Hall (center) is flanked by the sons of fellow inductee L. Fred Prefontaine at our 2010 Wall of Fame induction ceremony.

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

January 15, 2011  
Cachalot Alumni at  
Klondike Derby  
Camp Cachalot, Plymouth, MA

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011  
11:00AM through 3:00PM  
Winter Gathering 2011  
Our Lady of Grace Church Hall  
Sanford Road, Westport, MA

May 27<sup>th</sup> through  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend  
Camp Cachalot, Plymouth, MA

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
End of 2010-2011 Membership Year

## Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

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Family Camping Information  
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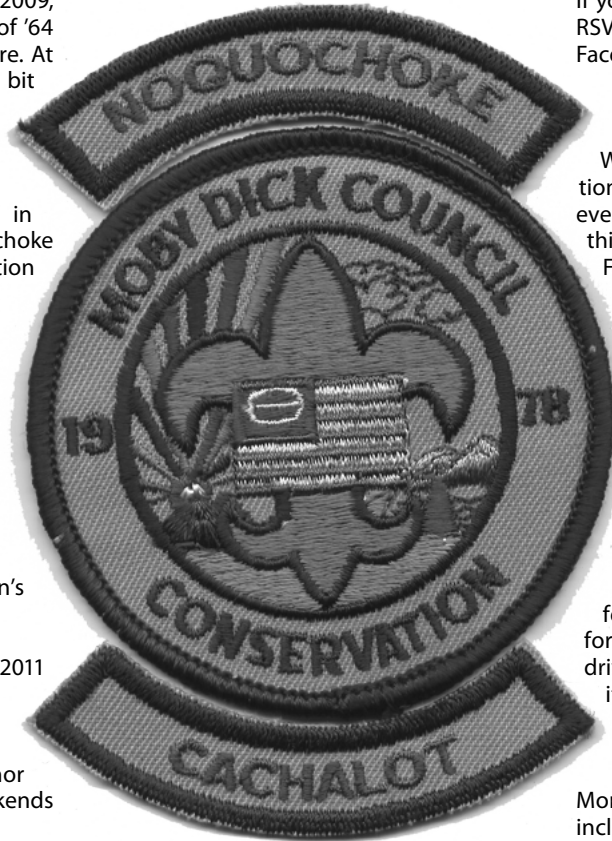
# Winter Gathering Returns in January

*After a Year Off in 2010, We're Rested and Ready for 2011!*

At our last Winter Gathering, back in 2009, we got together to discuss the big fire of '64 with some of the people who were there. At our Homecoming that year, we talked a bit about the immediate recovery from the fire. In 2011, we hope you'll drop in to join us (and our guest speaker) talk about the Restoration Committee, which conducted a series of events in the 1970s at both Cachalot and Noquochoke aimed at reforestation and conservation projects.

The 2011 Winter Gathering will take place on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011, from 11:00am through 3:00pm at Our Lady of Grace Church in Westport, Massachusetts. Along with our guest speaker, we'll be doing a few other important things at the Gathering, including:

- Updating you on what the Association's been up to over the last year
- Kicking off the nominations for our 2011 Wall of Fame inductions
- Giving a preview of some new upcoming events (and some minor changes to our Family Camping weekends that we think you'll like)
- Displaying collections of Camp Cachalot, Camp Noquochoke, and Scouting memorabilia both from the alumni's collection and from the personal collections of several of our members



- Showing off the Association's archive of photos and video of Cachalot

We'll have food and drink available for lunch. This year's event is free, although we'd appreciate a small donation if you join us for lunch, to help cover costs, if you're able.

If you do plan on joining us for lunch, please RSVP either on the event page on our Facebook group, or by visiting our web site at:

<http://cachalotalumni.org/gathering>

While we kick off our Wall of Fame nomination process this year, we also hope to give everyone an update on what our current thinking is on the actual, permanent Wall of Fame itself. We're always interested in your ideas, too, so if you have any suggestions for the Wall, or are willing to help with the planning or construction, be sure to stop by the Gathering and chime in.

As with previous Gatherings, our History committee will be on-hand to scan in photos and slides and photograph memorabilia that you bring with you. Our ability to scan things in will be limited by the time we have available, so if you are able to scan things in yourself, feel free to bring them along in electronic form (CD- or DVD-recordable, USB or Firewire drive—contact [curator@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:curator@cachalotalumni.org) if you have any questions about the formats we can cope with.) The higher the resolution, the better.

More information about the Gathering, including any late-breaking news, will be on the web site. If you have any questions about the Gathering, please drop us an email message at [gathering2011@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:gathering2011@cachalotalumni.org).

The more alumni we have at the Gathering, the more fun we seem to have, so we hope you'll stop by and pay everyone a visit!

# Letters from Camp

*George Ramos, Summer Camp Program Director*



Greetings from "CSR", Alumni members! This year was nothing short of a groovy experience for campers, staff, and Scouters alike, as Cachalot entered its 65th season of summer camp operation. Understandably, it is always a challenge keeping the numbers up during a National Jamboree year, not to mention when it's Scouting's 100th anniversary. Nonetheless, approximately 390 campers came to camp to enjoy our several new programs: Ca.P.S. II, an expanded paintball course, a state-of-the-art "water rocket", geocaching, tie-dying, and much more.

As our anniversary season ended, Cachalot bid "farewell!" to Camp Director Mike Brown, as he moves on to other responsibilities. Mike came to us during a chaotic period of transition, having to tackle budgeting and staffing issues. After three years directing Cachalot, Mike has managed to bring us up to par and on the fast track to success. Camp has seen quite a few improvements, to say the least, these past few years and the results are self-evident. The 2010 Camp Staff would like to thank Mike for all he has taught us and all the hard work he invested in Cachalot. Mike will continue to play a vital role in our Scouting community as Narragansett Council's Program Director.

With one leader exiting, another comes on board. Eric Oulette has signed on as Cachalot's new Reservation Director. He comes to us from Camp Three Point at Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rhode Island. Eric actually joined us last minute this year as our Waterfront Director. He is also the District Executive for Netop. Eric was a longtime staffman at Yawgoog, having worked on the Waterfront as a lifeguard, assisted in the CIT Corps program, and went on to become the Assistant Camp Director and later the Camp Director. His experience at the 'goog promises to bring fun and new ideas that will continue to make the place we know so well grow beyond our expectations. In just over 4 weeks, Eric captured the respect and admiration of the entire camp staff. We are very proud and honored to welcome him to the Cachalot family.

We would also like to wish two of our Senior Staffers the best in their futures as they head off to serve our country: Brady Hill, our Kitchen Manager, has enlisted in the National Guard; and Chad Lubertowicz, our X-Treme Scouting Director has taken a post in the Air Force.

# 2010 Staff Scholarship Winners

We are again pleased to announce the winners of our two Staff scholarships to members of the 2010 Cachalot Scout Reservation summer camp staff. Award checks were presented to our scholarship recipients at the end of summer camp.

The \$500 Thomas P. Whelan Chairman's Scholarship was presented to Cachalot's Assistant Business Manager, Sean W. Tolland of Swansea, Massachusetts. In addition to serving on summer camp staff, Sean is a member of Troop 24 in Swansea. He attends the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Our \$250 scholarship award was presented to Stephen A. Mantia, of Carver, Massachusetts. Stephen was a Camp Commissioner during summer camp, and is a member of Troop 48 in Carver. He is a student at the New England Institute of Technology.

We established our staff scholarship program in 2005, with a single \$500 award and a goal to fully endow the scholarship. We added a second scholarship in 2008. Since its inception we have presented 9 scholarships totaling nearly \$4000 to members of our summer camp staff, in the hopes of helping to retain our skilled senior staffers from year-to-year as they cope with the costs of higher education. While we have endowed one scholarship completely, we still have a way to go towards an endowment that will enable the second award to pay for itself going forward. If you'd like to make a donation towards our scholarship fund, or have questions about the program, please email our Scholarship Committee at [scholarship@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:scholarship@cachalotalumni.org).

# Cachalot Wish List

*Some Requests from Our Ranger*

Cachalot's Ranger, Karrie Dumais, passed along this wish list of items they're looking for at camp. Some of the items would be for program use, some are projects she'd like assistance with, and others are general maintenance items.

- Refrigerator (we could even use the little dorm size)
- Tow chain and hooks
- Exterior doors (preferably out swinging), insulated windows (with casement)
- Washing machine/ dryer (propane)
- Water heater (electric or propane)
- Carving blanks—large pine logs (24" diameter or bigger?)
- Nature items—taxidermy, wasp nest, wild animal bones, antlers, a new "tree ring demo", new identification boards (leaf, track, sign...)
- Spars
- New insulation (batting, foam board)
- Reflective vinyl adhesive (for car decals, signs)
- Lime
- Grass seed
- Loam, gravel, stone...(sand?... no thank you)
- Help with maintaining equipment
- Help maintaining trails

If there's anything on the list that you might be able to help with, please drop Karrie an email message at her email address, [kdumais@narragansettbsa.org](mailto:kdumais@narragansettbsa.org).

# Alumni at the Klondike Derby

Members of the Alumni Association's executive committee will be heading out to Cachalot on January 15th, 2011 to man the warming house for the annual Klondike Derby. We'll have the coffee on, and we'll be handing out snacks and hot chocolate while providing a place for Scouts and Scouters to get out of the cold and warm up for a spell.

If you'll be out at Cachalot for the day yourself, stop in and say hello!



## About Our Guest Speaker

Everett Graviel is an Eagle Scout and long-time Scouter, having served both as a volunteer and as a Scouting professional. Included among Everett's long list of Scouting accomplishments is his leadership of the Restoration Committee of Moby Dick Council through its entire existence, from 1972 through 1978. Boy-run for all but 1 of those years, the Restoration Committee organized over 60 units participating in multiple conservation-oriented events at Cachalot. Its work earned a number of awards from the National Council of the BSA. Everett will be regaling us with stories and sharing some pictures from the days of the Restoration Committee with us at the Gathering.

## Winter Gathering 2011 Details

Saturday, January 22nd, 2011  
11:00AM through 3:00PM  
Free

Lunch available  
(\$5 suggested donation)

Our Lady of Grace Church  
569 Sanford Road  
Westport, MA 02790

Email questions to  
[gathering2011@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:gathering2011@cachalotalumni.org)

Register online at:  
<http://cachalotalumni.org/gathering>

# Cornerstones of Our Wall of Fame

*Our First Four Inductees Helped in Very Different Ways to Make Cachalot What It Is Today*

July 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 was a bright, beautiful day at Camp Cachalot—and the weather was pretty good, too. Over fifty alumni came out to Cachalot that day to help us celebrate the induction of the first four members of the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame, while grabbing a few burgers and enjoying the camaraderie of their fellow alumni.

One of the primary goals of our Alumni Association is to record and preserve the history and traditions of Camp Cachalot. Knowing when the buildings were built and the dates of major events is really only a small part of Cachalot's history. A Scout camp isn't just a place filled with trees, ponds, and buildings, it's a place filled with Scouts and Scouters. It's the people that build the buildings, and keep them in good condition. It's the people who plan, run, and enjoy the events. It's the people who swim in, fish in, and go boating on the ponds, and who care for the trees. It's the people who do the things that become the very traditions we're trying to preserve.

The history of Cachalot is the history of the people of Cachalot.

Buildings and trees can last lifetimes. Ponds and landscapes can last millennia. People, however, last only as long as we remember them. That's what the Wall of Fame is all about: remembering those people who have helped shape Cachalot's landscape, those who have helped build and preserve our buildings,



Vic Sylvia (standing) presents L. Fred Prefontaine's Wall of Fame plaque to Mr. Prefontaine's son, Dennis.

those who carry the traditions forward, those who have done so much to make everyone in Cachalot's family have so many wonderful memories in our decades of history. You may not have known who they were when they were doing these things; many of those with the biggest impacts on Cachalot have worked quietly. We hope with their inclusion on the Wall of Fame, *everyone* will know who they are or were, and what they did to make Cachalot what it is, for as long as there is a Cachalot family to remember them. With 2010 being the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Scouting in the United States, it's an excellent time to start populating our Wall.

Those selected for the Wall of Fame are nominated by anyone in the Cachalot family, and elected by the membership of our Association. Our inaugural class of honorees sets the bar very high for future nominees, representing over one hundred years of service to Cachalot, whether it be for programs for Scouts, physical labor to keep the facility running, contributions by professional Scouters above and beyond the ordinary, or financial contributions explicitly for the

betterment of Cachalot and the programs that take place here.

Our plans for a permanent Wall of Fame are still ongoing, and we will be sharing our thoughts with you over the months to come, starting at our Winter Gathering in January. Until we establish our permanent Wall, our memorials to our honorees will be displayed prominently year-round here at Camp, and, going forward, the Wall of Fame will also be available "virtually" in a form that can travel to our events with us, and for the world to see on our web site.

Nominations are open right now for the 2011 Wall of Fame induction, which will be held at Homecoming in July. Information on eligibility and a printable nomination form can be found on our web site at:

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

The more complete the nomination, the better your nominee's chances are for getting onto the ballot in 2011, as the Wall of Fame committee has only limited time to research and vet nominated individuals. Nominations must be submitted before March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Ballots will be made available very soon after March 15<sup>th</sup>, and voting will run until

Honoree Al Hall (right) during his induction to the Wall of Fame.

Presenter Brian Bastarache embraces Al Hall (his Scoutmaster) after inducting Mr. Hall onto the Wall of Fame.



*Additional photos of the Wall of Fame Induction and Homecoming 2010 on page 11*

## Albert "Al" Hall



Albert "Al" Hall, a veteran of four Scout units in the New Bedford area, and a highly-decorated Scouter (recipient of the Silver Beaver, the Pelican Award, Scouters Key, St. George Award, Wood Badge, and a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow), has been a fixture at Cachalot from the late 1960s to the present time. He

has served on the staff of many district and council events at Cachalot, and as both a unit leader and a commissioner during the summer Al was a tireless volunteer at camp. Along with serving as a member of the Restoration Committee in the 1970s, Al was always on hand at "Beaver Weekends" tackling service projects, and spent a good deal of his own time to help with plumbing projects out at camp, whether it was replacing toilets or completely redoing the hot water system at the shower house. He even came out to help the ranger shut down the seasonal water system at the close of summer camp through much of the 1980s.

Mr. Hall also provided instruction and leadership to a large number of young men during his Scouting career. Many of Cachalot's summer camp staffers counted Mr. Hall among their unit leaders, thanks to his involvement with several units, and many Scouts built their first hobo stoves or got their first taste of dutch oven cookery under his tutelage.

## L. Fred Prefontaine



L. Fred Prefontaine, member and sometime Scoutmaster of Troop 1 New Bedford, began his long service to Cachalot in 1958, and made many contributions to camp, right up until his death in 2001. He was a recipient of many of Scouting's highest awards, and his service to Cachalot and

its people was varied: helping to evacuate units and fight the fire of 1964, running the small resident program at Cachalot in 1964 and 1965 whose sole purpose was to clear debris from camp after the fire, serving many years on various committees, being an active adviser to Agawam and Neemat Lodge, and serving as Cachalot's summer camp director from 1971 until 1975. He was a frequent participant at Beaver Weekends, and once led the Council's contingent to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, helping provide local Scouts with a backcountry adventure.

His skills as a carpenter and cabinetmaker also served Cachalot well. He coordinated the construction of the Trading Post, designed the current kitchen area for the camp's Dining Hall, and, leveraging his role as an instructor with New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, helped keep the camp supplied with tent platforms, picnic tables, and other carpentry projects with the help of his students.

## Sumner H. Morse



Sumner H. Morse served two separate stints of his career as a professional Scouter at Camp Cachalot, with very different impact each time.

His first service to Cachalot came as a professional in the Cachalot Council, in the early 1960s. Sumner was employed by the Council at the

time of the 1964 fire that destroyed much of the forest canopy over Camp Cachalot. As the fire occurred mere months before the opening of summer camp, something had to be done to ensure that a summer program took place for the Scouts in the Cachalot Council. This took the form of a joint operation of the Cachalot and Squanto councils at Camp Squanto, and Sumner was very involved in operating this joint program, as its assistant director in 1964 and as its director in 1965.

He returned to the newly-formed Moby Dick Council as Scout Executive in the late 1970s, right at the height of the "Save Our Camps" campaign, with protestors on the lawn of the council's offices on his first day on the job! He helped to defuse that situation and helped prevent the sale of Cachalot, and in his decade-long tenure, his efforts helped to transform the Moby Dick Council and Camp Cachalot from nearly-broke entities to financially-sound ones. He retired, leaving a legacy of a substantial permanent endowment to help finance Cachalot into its future.

## The George W. P. Magee Fund



The George W. Magee Memorial Trust Fund was established upon the death in 1939 of George W. P. Magee, the former manager of the Boston Opera House, who left a substantial portion of his estate to establish this permanent trust fund in his name, to "distribute the balance of the net income of the said Trust Fund to such of the

councils of the BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA as are located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as, in the opinion of said Trustees, are performing the most efficient service, the said net income to be used, so far as possible, for the purchase and maintenance of summer camps or training camps in New England for the use of Boy Scouts." Through the fund's contributions, Mr. Magee's name appears on buildings at Cachalot and other camps, and on "Magee Night" competitions held during summer camp.

Since its establishment, the Magee Fund has contributed more money towards the ongoing maintenance, program, and expansion of Camp Cachalot than any other single entity, and it continues to make contributions today. This money has enabled the construction and repair of many of the buildings at camp, has purchased program equipment, bought and repaired vehicles, and has recently helped enable the replacement of the camp's main power line in from Wareham.

# Family Camping for the “Other Parent”

...or, “the Great Outdoors is Not the Space Between the Car and the Mall”

BY SARAH WHELAN

How about a merit badge for Moms who go camping, even though they are terrified of the great outdoors? I may be a wimp, but I can't stand bugs, pine needles on the floor, dirt everywhere, and no electricity. The truth is... I hate camping!

That said, you will find me at Camp Cachalot on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends for the Alumni Association's Family Camping events. I camp because my husband (an Eagle Scout, Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, and past Chairman of the Alumni Association) and my children absolutely love it. More importantly - and I remind myself of this repeatedly during camping trips - camping is a family-strengthening activity that provides the opportunity for us to spend truly quality time together.

Somehow, I survive these family camping trips, although I have made my share of embarrassing mistakes and learned some hard-won lessons along the way. I would like to think that my suffering has not been in vain. By sharing my stories with other parents, I hope to encourage them to give camping a try. Here are my tips on how to survive a family camping trip when you would much rather stay home:

## Positive Attitude

For me, it is difficult to have a positive attitude about a family camping weekend. When our campsite is finally set-up and I look around at our third-world-style accommodations, I have to fight the urge to run for the car and attempt an escape.

What works for me is to “make it about the kids.” I don't enjoy camping, so I remind myself that this is not why I am there. I focus on making sure that my children and husband have a great time and that we spend time together as a family.

My advice to other parents is to view camping

as an opportunity to do the things you always wanted to do with your children, if you only had the time. This is your chance to make a fun craft together, go on a hike, organize a scavenger hunt, play hide and seek, fly a kite, go fishing, tell stories, sing songs, and make s'mores. Use the time at camp to enjoy simply being with your children.

## Camping and Cleanliness

Take my word for it. Within fifteen minutes of arriving at camp, your children will be filthy. I tell you this so that you won't be surprised or distressed (like I was) when you find that your normally spotless children look as if they haven't bathed in weeks.

My children dig and play in the dirt of the Camp Cachalot pine forest, and they love every minute of it. While playing with friends they see only twice a year, their faces are soon covered with not only dirt, but also smiles from ear to ear. I have the pictures to prove it!

You must resign yourself to the reality that your children are going to get dirty at camp. To get through this, assure yourself, as I do, that you will only be there for a few days. By all means, wash them up before eating and before bed, but that's about all you can do. The dirt won't hurt them, and you can make them soak in a hot bath the second you get home.

## Bathroom Time

There are functioning bathrooms for you to use at Camp Cachalot. Be aware, however, that these facilities will not be as clean or well stocked as your bathroom at home. Always bring your own toilet paper with you to camp - and remember to take it with you every time you go!

Another challenge for a Mom is the middle-of-the-night bathroom trip. I know I am not alone on this one. No matter what I do, I have to get up at least once during the night to go to the

bathroom. It is no fun to leave the warmth of the tent and walk in the dark, by myself all the way to the bathroom. But what other option do I have? I once thought I had the perfect solution, but boy was I wrong! At the time, I had just finished potty training my two toddlers, and I had the kind of portable potty chair that allows you to pour out its contents later on. I thought I could stay inside the tent, use this potty chair throughout the night, and simply get rid of the evidence in the morning. Unfortunately, these chairs are designed to hold a toddler-sized bathroom visit, and apparently Mom's bladder is somewhat larger than that. Needless to say, the potty chair overflowed, and I had an embarrassing clean-up job the next morning. Moms, do not try this one out for yourselves.

If you, like me, cannot avoid a middle-of-the-night bathroom visit, there is something you can do. Before you go to bed, get together everything you need for a nighttime bathroom trip, including a flashlight, jacket, flip-flops, and toilet paper. This will make it easier for you to get to the bathroom and back in your warm sleeping bag as quickly and painlessly as possible.

## Sleeping Strategies

There is nothing like sleeping in a tent with your entire family. On my first camping trip, between my husband's snoring and the sounds of the great outdoors, I thought I would never fall asleep. Falling asleep and staying asleep while camping come easily to some, but they are more difficult for others (like me). If you are not used to sleeping outside, earplugs are an absolute necessity. Using earplugs will block out the sounds of the forest and the other campers and help you get some rest.

## Be prepared

The Boy Scout motto definitely applies to Family Camping Weekends. Much to my husband's chagrin, I pack enough stuff to



sustain my family for weeks. But I have found that it is better to have too much than to find out that you are missing something. My advice for parents is to bring everything you think you *might* need for your camping trip. Here are a few items you simply must not forget for your next camping trip:

- Several pairs of shoes for each person. Kids' shoes tend to get wet, dirty, and/or lost during camping trips.
- Two or three outfits for each day. Pack for both warm and cold weather, as outdoor temperatures can vary greatly - even in the summer months.
- Bathing suits, towels, and sand toys. Even if it is too cold for Mom to go swimming, the kids will still enjoy playing at Camp Cachalot's beach. Plus, the sand toys can also be used to play in the dirt at the campsite!
- Towels and face cloths - one per person per day.
- Plastic bags to store dirty laundry and wet clothes.
- Entertainment for yourself and your children. I usually bring books, sports equipment (balls, hula hoops, jump ropes, baseball bat, etc), and art supplies to keep everyone busy and happy.
- Folding camping chairs, so you can be comfortable while sitting by the campfire, reading by yourself, or sitting and socializing with friends.
- Band aids for the inevitable bumps and scrapes.
- Bug spray and sunscreen for the adults and the kids.

# Family Camping Changes in 2011

More Time for Family at Family Weekends

We've been holding Family Camping weekends, free to our members and their families, since our very first year of operation. These weekends are usually well-attended, and we always have a good time sharing Cachalot with friends old and new. We'd love to see even more people come out and enjoy camp, and we've been listening to feedback from our attendees in the hope of making these weekends even more enjoyable for everyone. One thing we've heard over and over is that, even though people are interested in giving back to camp by helping with our optional service projects, the projects we've been doing have taken a lot of time away from spending a family weekend, with, well, your families.

Beginning with our upcoming Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend in 2011, we'll no longer be conducting our organized service projects as part of our family weekends (if people want to volunteer to do something while they're at camp, that's wonderful, but not required). The weekends will be unchanged otherwise: open to all of our currently-registered members and the members of their household, free of charge, with sites going first-come, first-served. We hope that the extra time will allow you to take a longer hike with your kids, play another game of Frisbee in Tom Cullen Field, launch a few extra water-bottle rockets, or catch an extra fish or two.

What about giving back? It's clear that our members want to do that, too, so our service projects aren't going away, we're just moving them to a different weekend. We're still working out all of the details (which will be made available on our web site and in the spring *Cachaletter*) but we're currently looking at a service project day at Cachalot, before the start of camp, like the old “Beaver Weekends” of the 1980s. We'll pick a project, and the plan is to provide lunch for everyone who comes out to work. There are still a few things to work out (will it be a single day or will camping be made available, what the project will be, *et cetera*) but look for more information at the Winter Gathering and on the web site in late Winter. Note that attendance at Family weekends and the service day are completely unrelated: members are welcome to attend just the Family weekend, just the service day, or both.

We think this is the best of both worlds: more family time on Family weekends, and an extra day to spend out at Cachalot giving just a little back to the “place we know so well”. We hope you'll agree! 🐸

Information on Family Camping can always be found on our web site at:

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



The photos accompanying the article are a few scenes from our 2010 Memorial Day Family Camping weekend.

# Wild Cachalot

## Nature Caught in the Act

During our last Memorial Day Family Camping weekend, a few of the kids spotted a painted turtle digging in the sand in the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field, and came running over to inform Brian Bastarache, who coincidentally had recently contributed a *Wild Cachalot* column talking about the types of turtles at camp. The turtle was in the process of burying her just-laid eggs in the sand. She wasn't the only one, either, as more eggs were spotted being buried in the sand on the shotgun range. Since the turtle would then leave the eggs to hatch out on their own, and the location of the two clutches presenting significant risks not only from natural egg predators like skunks but also the trampling feet

of Scouts and shotgun blasts, Brian collected the eggs to incubate away from camp (Brian is the director of the Natural Resources Management program at Bristol County Agricultural School and is well-versed in such matters).

A number of these eggs have hatched out young turtles already, which Brian is "head-starting". In other words, by incubating, hatching, and starting to let the turtles mature a bit in a safe environment, we'll be able to release these turtles back into the wild environs of Cachalot a little better protected from predation and more likely to survive to adulthood.

Brian plans to bring these turtles back out to camp to be released during this coming year's Memorial Day Family Camping weekend, and will take the opportunity to explain to the alumni kids (and interested alumni) a bit more about the process. In the meantime, he's passed along a photo (below) of one of the eggs during incubation.

*Remember, Brian is a trained professional with experience doing exactly this. It is illegal to possess many wild turtle species in Massachusetts without a permit. Be a citizen scientist. Report turtle sightings at [www.turtleatlas.org](http://www.turtleatlas.org)*

Turtle eggs in moist sand, soon after collecting the eggs from the location where they were laid. The eggs were kept in a container surrounded by moist sand to keep the temperature warm enough and to prevent the shells from drying out.

(Photo courtesy Dennis Wilkinson)



One of the collected turtle eggs in late June 2010, lit from behind to show the developing turtle inside the shell.

(Photo courtesy Brian Bastarache)

# More Scenes from Homecoming 2011

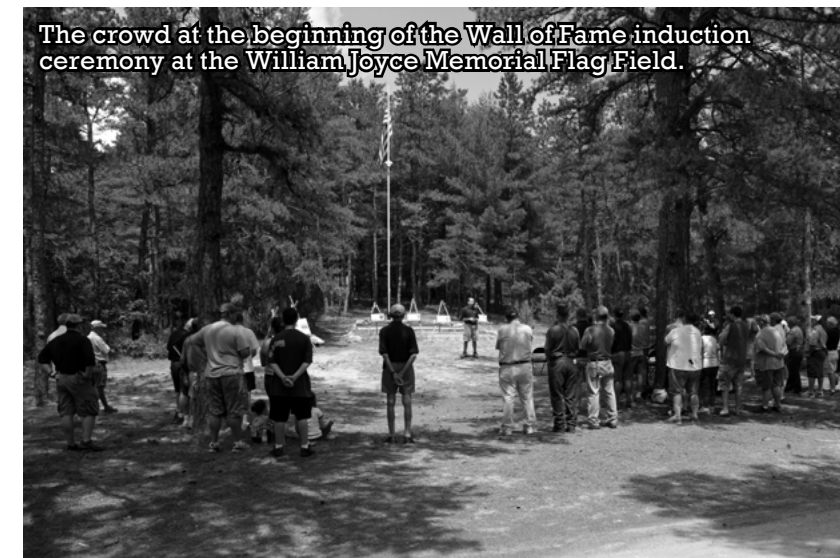
## Celebrating Our First Class of Inductees on the Cachalot Wall of Fame



Honoree Al Hall talking with other alumni after his induction onto the Wall of Fame



Some of the alumni in attendance listening to the semi-annual Association update



The crowd at the beginning of the Wall of Fame induction ceremony at the William Joyce Memorial Flag Field.



Dennis Wilkinson (L) and Ed Tavares (R) during the Wall of Fame Induction, showing one of the award plaques to the audience



Members of L. Fred Prefontaine's family (seated) listen in during Mr. Prefontaine's induction onto the Wall of Fame

All of our Homecoming and Wall of Fame photos come courtesy of Cachalot alumni John Woolley. Check out his photography online at <http://www.johnwoolleyphotography.com/>

# Share this Newsletter!

*Know Other Cachalot Alumni? Help Us Make Sure They Know About the Association!*

We know they're out there—fellow Cachalot alumni who don't know about the Alumni Association just yet. We might even know who they are. We just don't know how to get in touch with them.

But some of our members just might.

Many of our goals as an association depend on us finding all those other alumni: the ones who may not be involved with Scouting any more; the ones who have moved out of the area; the ones who don't hear us on the radio or who haven't found us on the Internet. We need people who remember the people who should be on our Wall of Fame. We need people to share the traditions they celebrated

when they went to summer camp, whether it was the 1940s, 1960s, or the 2000s, to tell their history. We need those people who packed into the 21 Club on cold January weekends, braving the cold for another weekend at Cachalot.

So, if you know another alumni who isn't already a member, what can you do?

Simple: once you're done reading it, share this newsletter with them.

Coming out to one of our events? Invite them along! Nearly all of our events are free, so filling the spare seats in your car with friends will make the ride out more fun (plus, you can

call it "going green"—we hear that's all the rage these days).

If you're really feeling generous, give them their own membership in the Association as a gift for their birthday or some other occasion.

For you super-ambitious types out there, we're always looking for extra people to help out on our Membership committee. For anything related to membership in the Association, whether it's to update your own information, pass along the name of another interested alumnus, or volunteering to help out the Membership committee, you can drop us an email at [membership@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:membership@cachalotalumni.org).



## **Camp Cachalot Alumni Association**

c/o Narragansett Council, BSA

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