



The Cachalotter

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

Unveiling the Wall of Fame

Homecoming 2012 to Formally Dedicate the Wall of Fame and Honor Our Latest Inductees

Please join us at Camp Cachalot on Saturday, July 14th, 2012 as we formally unveil and dedicate the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame and the renovated Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field. Many of our members have given generously of their time and money to make it possible to complete the Wall in time for the summer, and we hope our members will turn out in force to help us dedicate it and welcome our latest honorees.

Homecoming will kick off at noon, at the picnic area by Tom Cullen Field, with a cookout lunch and a chance to socialize with camp friends old and new. After lunch, there will be a brief update on what the Association has been up to since we last met, and what we hope to do in the not-too-distant future. This will be followed by our Wall of Fame dedication and the 2012 induction ceremony, after which camp will remain open for you to explore until 5:00PM. As usual, Homecoming is a free event, although donations to help defray the cost of lunch are appreciated if you will be partaking (suggested donation is \$5). If you think you'll be joining us for lunch, you can RSVP via our web site so we have a good idea of how much food to buy.

Our honorees for 2012, as voted by our membership, are:

John "Jack" Byrne, known by all as a frequent Cadre Scoutmaster, the face of the Cub-o-Ree at Cachalot, and one of the strongest advocates for Cub Scouting and for getting Cubs to camp in the Moby Dick Council. Innumerable Cubs will remember Jack, either handing out blue ribbons to the winners of the days events or getting up at a campfire with a spirited presentation of "Herbert the Bear". An avid amateur videographer, Jack recorded many events for the Council and for the Scouts it served, which have provided valuable documentation to the Association's effort to record the history of the camp and Council.



Jack firmly believed that Cubs should spend time outdoors, at Cachalot, and his tireless efforts ensured that hundreds, if not thousands, of Cubs, did. He was also a frequent volunteer at camp, spending countless hours helping to maintain and repair the program materials and facilities for all of the Scouts who enjoyed the use of Cachalot.

Roland Deneault started his service to the council in October 1945, in the role of Assistant Council Executive under Richard Molby, after leaving the service. In this capacity, he was heavily involved in the search committee that located and acquired the land that would become Camp Cachalot and open for its first season mere months later.

Mr. Deneault would go on to serve as Cachalot's first-ever Camp Director, spending four years in that capacity. He and his staffs built the first summer camp programs at Cachalot, and he worked with many volunteers from multiple companies to build the facilities used by all those early campers. Almost as significantly, he left a brief history of his time in that role, as well as detailed camp reports, for future Scouts and Scouters to refer to for a record of those early years.

Mr. Deneault eventually left professional Scouting, returning to a career in military service. He currently resides in Falls Church, Virginia.

Armand Guilmette received his 20 year service award at the Cachalot Council's annual dinner on October 27th, 1967, at the age of sixty. While this made him a relative latecomer to Scouting, placing his first year in Scouting at the age of 40, those had been prolific years, and were just the lead-up for what was to come. In those first 20 years, Armand had been a Scoutmaster, had helped lead a crew of Scouts and Scouters to the National Jamboree at Valley Forge in 1950, to working with so many others on the resto-



ration of Camp Cachalot after 1964's devastating fire, and served on the Council's executive committee.

Armand's biggest mark on Cachalot began in 1969, when, soon after he and (previous Wall of Fame honoree) Fred Prefontaine completed the construction of the ranger's residence, he became Cachalot's first full-time, resident Camp Ranger. He was responsible for prodigious and varied work at camp during his tenure, ranging from building renovations to conservation projects. Armand retired as Ranger in 1975, but that wasn't the end of his Scouting career. He travelled cross-country for a number of years, volunteering at other Scout camps as he went.

The ranger's residence at Cachalot was dedicated to his memory in 2007. 🐾

Homecoming 2012 Details

July 14th, 2012
12:00PM through 5:00PM

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

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

Send email to
homecoming2012@cachalotalumni.org
or visit us online at
www.cachalotalumni.org
for more information.

The Cachaletter

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Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

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.

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Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

Contributors
Victor Sylvia

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



Past, Present, and Future

Vic Sylvia, Association Chairman

I hate writing articles, it's almost as bad as giving a speech. I usually have so much to say that I never finish a complete thought. So rather than ramble on, I'll get to the point[s].

Membership is at an all-time high, as of June we have 91 paid members. More and more of our members are taking advantage of multiyear renewals. It not only saves you money, it saves the Association money by not having to send out yearly reminders. Better yet a life-time membership makes life a whole lot easier for everyone. Like your yearly dues, a lifetime membership of \$500.00 goes directly into our endowment and the interest we draw from it goes into our operating budget, which allows us to provide better membership services and fund projects for Camp Cachalot. So if you haven't renewed yet, consider a multiyear or a life-time membership.

Communications are continually being updated through the *Cachaletter*, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr and Facebook. Dennis Wilkinson is hard at work updating our various media outlets to keep our membership up-to-date on past, current, and future developments. Join us on any of our information sites to share your past experiences and future visions of Camp Cachalot.

I can't say enough about Duane Houghton's leadership in chairing our Wall of Fame project. Duane along with the many volunteer members that have donated their valuable time and money to see the Wall of Fame become a focal point at Camp deserve our thanks. I would be amiss if I didn't mention the many Troops camping at Cachalot over the winter season that performed service projects that assisted in its construction. And a big thank you has to go out to our Ranger Karrie Dumais for breaking from her busy schedule to assist us with this project. I hope to see you all at the 2012 Homecoming on July 14th when we dedicate the completed Wall of Fame.

Membership is at an all-time high

The executive committee is looking into future projects that will benefit Camp Cachalot and its programs. We are currently discussing the completion of the Welcome Center at the Boat House, but are also looking for suggestions from our members on what projects will add to the Cachalot experience. Bill Whelan has agreed to chair our Fundraising Committee and is planning a Gala to take place in October of this year at Sandpiper Air. Stay tuned to our web site and Facebook on how you can attend and help in our fund raising efforts.

I hope each of you have the opportunity to visit Cachalot over the summer season to see the improvements taking place. Please make an attempt to join us at Homecoming July 14th and Labor Day Family camping weekend August 31st through September 3rd. 🐸



Some of the alumni and families in attendance at our Memorial Day family camping weekend, around the campfire

Membership Options Changing

Family Membership Option Being Dropped in 2012

The Association's executive committee, working with Membership Chairman Rene Dupont, spent some time going over our membership options earlier this year, and we have some minor changes to announce.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 member year, the Association will be dropping our Family membership options. When the Association was founded and our initial membership options laid out, our events were not free, but were discounted for our members. The Family membership option extended those discounts to the household of the paid member as well, so it provided extra value to those who chose it. Over the last few years we have moved exclusively to free events, which has boosted our event attendance but has also eliminated this extra value at the same time. It's important to note that our Family camping weekends have always been free to any registered member, not just those with Family registrations. Finally, the Family options were our least popular membership type, with only a handful of you selecting it. Taking all of that into account, it doesn't make sense to continue offering the current Family membership options.

For those of you who have been Family members in the past, thank you! We do still have a very small number of people with valid Family memberships; those members will receive information directly about how those memberships will be converted into individual memberships, and we'll make sure they get the same value for their membership fee as those who paid equivalent individual member rates.

Our member year ends on June 30th each year; people with memberships expiring this year should see renewal information via US Mail during the summer months. Most of our membership has been taking advantage of our multi-year memberships, which benefit both the member and the Association, so please consider a 2- or a 3-year membership, or even Lifetime, when your renewal comes around. A full table of the membership options for 2012 and onward is below. Thank you to all of our members! If you have any questions, the membership committee can be reached via email at membership@cachalotalumni.org.

2012-2013 Membership Options

Type	One Year	Two Years	Three Years
Individual	\$25	\$45	\$65
Youth (under 21)	\$10	\$18	\$25
Senior (65+)	\$10	\$18	\$25
Lifetime			\$500

(a discounted 1-year membership rate of \$5 is also available to youth members of Cachalot's Summer Camp staff)

Come Camping!

Labor Day Family Camping Open to Registered Association Members

Don't forget that Association members and their families are invited to come out and camp at Cachalot every Labor Day and Memorial Day Weekends! Our next family camping weekend will be August 31st through September 3rd, 2012. Only tent camping is allowed, and sites are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Family camping weekends are free to registered members, and complete details can be found on our web site at <http://www.cachalotalumni.org/events/familycamping>.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

July 14th, 2012

Homecoming and Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Camp Cachalot

August 31st to September 3rd, 2012

Alumni Family Camping
Camp Cachalot

Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

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Staff Scholarship Information

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Homecoming 2012 Information

homecoming2012@cachalotalumni.org

Family Camping Information

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To Submit Historical Information

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Other Inquiries

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A Family (Can)

Swimming, Snakes, Reunions, and Rocketry Highl

Alumni kid Ash snorkeling in Five Mile Pond



Brian Bastarache showing the markings on a Northern Water Snake that made an appearance at the Waterfront



Tom Bednarz and Mason
Tom Cullen Field

Camping) Album

Light our Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend



watch one of the model rockets take off in



Tom Bednarz explains rocket motors to alumni kids Ashley and Lilah



Tom Bednarz and several alumni kids launch another rocket skyward

Winter Memories

Klondike Derbies Remembered at our 2012 Winter Gathering

Mild winter weather presented no obstacles on January 28th, 2012, as the Association met once again at Our Lady of Grace parish hall in Westport for our annual Winter Gathering. This year's Gathering focused on the history of the Klondike Derby, from the first of the current series of Klondikes in the winter of 1981 right up to the Klondike of 2012, which was just a few weeks prior to the Gathering. Vic Sylvia, who co-chaired that first Klondike along with Wall-of-Famer Bill Joyce, shared with us some tidbits about the inspiration for the event, and regaled us with stories of happenings at those first few Klondikes. He also spoke of those Klondikes run in the public eye, on the grounds of Buttonwood Park in New Bedford, to take the best of what Scouting does and do it somewhere other than "hidden in the woods". Later, he was joined by Jeff Dumais, himself the chairman of several Klondikes, to recap the full history of the event, sharing more stories, and even to ponder a bit on what future Klondikes might bring.

Our host unit, Troop 100, had one of their Klondike sleds on hand for people to check out, along with a large display of Klondike ephemera brought by Vic, Jeff, and others. This included patches, program guides, sled plans, a few "gold" nuggets, photos, and even some video from Klondikes past (shot by new Wall-of-Famer Jack Byrne.) We've presented a few photos of the event here, and there is an album with more linked from our Facebook group page.

Attendees also got an update on the progress on the Wall of Fame project, which led to the other big announcement at the Gathering. Elliot Gault, one of the youth leaders of Abnaki Lodge Order of the Arrow, along with Jonathan Widmark, one of the lodge's advisers, had stopped by to see what we were up to and to talk about their own project documenting local OA history. They were impressed enough by what we've been doing with the Wall of Fame to spontaneously reach out to the leadership of the Lodge, and announced a \$500 donation to the Wall of Fame construction fund to help us wrap the project up in time for summer camp, right there at the Gathering! (See the article on p. 8 for more information on the Wall of Fame construction.)

We hope everyone who came out for Gathering had a good time. If you have ideas on what you'd like to see at future Gatherings, please drop them to us in an email or catch a member of the executive committee in person at one of our other events. 🐻



Vic Sylvia regales the crowd with Klondike tales



The flag on one of our host troop's Klondike Sleds



Pioneering in Miniature



Klondike paraphernalia

A Brief History Of...

What's in a Name? Origins and Use of the Name "Cachalot" in Local Scouting

cachalot (kăsh•ă•lŏt') - *n.* - From the French or Portuguese *cachalote* (big head), a very large toothed whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), having a head of enormous size. The upper jaw is destitute of teeth. In the upper part of the head, above the skull, there is a large cavity, or case, filled with oil and spermaceti. This whale sometimes grows to the length of more than eighty feet. It is found in the warmer parts of all the oceans. More commonly called the **sperm whale**.

That's the dictionary definition, anyway. But, how did we come to use "Cachalot" as the name for our camp, and for various other entities in local Scouting? To answer that, we have to go back to the original Scouting council in the area, the Fairhaven-New Bedford Council, which received its first charter in 1916. Boy Scout troops had existed in the area prior to 1916, and councils followed later.

By the 1930s, the Council's area had expanded to cover Dartmouth, New Bedford, and points east to Wareham, including Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the other Elizabethan islands (the islands would be transferred to Cape Cod Council two decades later.) In that year, changes to Massachusetts law required that the council re-form under new articles of incorporation, and a name for the reformed council was sought.

The proposal to name the council for the sperm whale came from Joe Allen. Mr. Allen, a one-time New Bedford newspaper reporter, had become established as a writer, editorialist, reporter, and spinner of tales for the [Martha's] *Vineyard Gazette*, the leading newspaper on that island. Sometimes referred to as "The Wheelhouse Loafer", he wrote the weekly "With the Fishermen" yarn and answered questions in his "Sayings of the Oracle" column. His suggestion came to the Council in a letter dated January 3rd, 1933 from Henry Beetle Hough, the editor of the *Vineyard Gazette*, to William O. Cook, then Scout Executive of the council.



Illustration of the *Cachalot*, from Bullen's novel

We don't have any record of how widely accepted his proposal was, but it was accepted, and on May 13th, 1935, the Cachalot Council was born. Eleven years later, when the council purchased a new property in Plymouth, including three lovely "white ponds", the name Camp Cachalot was a perfect fit.

After the merger of the Cachalot and Massasoit Councils in 1972, for a long time Camp Cachalot was the only entity using the name. For most of the 1980s, there were three districts in the council: the Wampanoag District (Fairhaven and towns to the east; the name had previously been associated with a district in the Massasoit Council), Wamsutta District (New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Freetown, and Westport), and the Massasoit District. A shrinking number of units in the area by the end of the 1980s caused the restructuring of those districts, with most of the town of Westport joining the Massasoit district and the Wampanoag and Wamsutta districts merging into a new district that once again got the name Cachalot. Those districts would exist largely unchanged, through the merger with Narragansett Council, until the recent reorganization of the council into "service areas". This shuffling of districts isn't really a new thing; at times, the Cachalot Council had had as few as two and as many as seven districts, although the number was consistently smaller after the 1972 merger. "Service areas" are an experiment unique to the Narragansett Council.

The name Cachalot has also been used outside of local Scouting, in some pretty odd places:

- Frank T. Bullen wrote a novel, published in 1897, called "The Cruise of the *Cachalot*", which concerned a New Bedford whaling ship called *Cachalot* and its pursuit of whales in the South Pacific, told from the point-of-view of one of the seamen on board. It's hard to imagine that this story didn't influence Mr. Allen's suggestion. If you'd like to read it yourself, it is in the public domain, and available in multiple formats from Project Gutenberg's web site at www.gutenberg.org.
- Two submarines of the United States Navy have been named the USS *Cachalot*. The first, SS-33, was renamed the *K-2* prior to her launch; the second, SS-170, was commissioned on December 1st, 1933, and operated out of Pearl Harbor during the second World War, finally decommissioned on October 17, 1945. This USS *Cachalot* was the first of the *Cachalot*-class submarines, of which one other, the USS *Cuttlefish* (SS-171), was built.
- Alan Dean Foster's 1980 science fiction novel "Cachalot" tells the story of a planet

called Cachalot, an ocean world where all of Earth's whales (which were found to be intelligent) were relocated.

- There was a New York City-based record label in the 1980s called "Cachalot Records" ("a division of Whale Productions Inc.") that released several dozen albums by independent artists.

Joe Allen's proposed name, of course, remains, as the name of that "place we know so well." Camp Cachalot is, by far, the thing longest and strongest associated with it. Whether it will make a return to name other local Scouting entities in the future is anyone's guess. 🐋

Staff Scholarships for 2012

This summer, the Association will once again be offering two scholarships to members of our summer camp staff who will be pursuing post-secondary education in the fall. The \$500 Thomas P. Whelan Chairman's Scholarship and the \$250 Camp Cachalot Alumni Association award are presented to the applicants who best exemplify what it means to be an outstanding Scout and summer camp staffer. This scholarship is one of the ways we as an Association work to preserve the traditions of Cachalot from summer to summer, by hopefully enabling staffers to be able to afford to return to camp for another season.

Since we began awarding our Staff Scholarships in 2005, we have presented awards totaling \$4500 to 11 staffers. The Whelan scholarship is fully-funded by its endowment, while the second scholarship is partially funded by the endowment and partially by contributions from our members. We hope to fully fund the second scholarship, and to raise the value of the second award in the future. Individuals who wish to make tax-deductible donations to our Scholarship Fund can do so via our web site, with their membership renewals, or at our events.

Applications are made available to summer camp staff members at the beginning of the season (and are available year-round at our website), along with some information on what we're looking for when we review completed applications. Completed applications are reviewed by the Scholarship committee, and awards are announced at the end of the last week of summer camp. If you have questions or feedback concerning the scholarship, the Scholarship committee can be reached by email at scholarship@cachalotalumni.org. 🐋

The renovated Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field, with the Wall of Fame visible on the right.



The Wall

Thanks to the diligent work of a core crew of volunteers, with some help from a few Scout troops out at Cachalot, the Wall of Fame is ready for its unveiling at Homecoming in July. The last touches, including re-covering all the disturbed areas with pine needles to hold down the sand a bit when Scouts use it as a parade ground, are substantially complete, and we're just waiting to take delivery of the name plaques for all our honorees.

The picture to the left is a panoramic shot of the entire revamped Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field, including the Wall of Fame on the right, taken in April. Pine needles have since been spread on the large circular areas. Many people have come out for at least one work day to lend a hand building the Wall, and many more contributed funds or supplies to the effort. Many thanks to everyone who contributed!

Our ongoing work will be to continue to identify those people and organizations who should be honored with a spot on the Wall of Fame, and for that we need your help. Nomination forms are available year-round from our web site. It takes some time to put together a great nomination, and the more detailed the nomination, the better they've done in past voting. Grab a form and tell us about your best candidates today. 🖋️

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