



# The Cachalotter

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

## February in Fairhaven

*Winter Gathering Moves to a New Venue, Tries a Few New Tricks in 2015*

After several years in Westport, we're moving our Winter Gathering to a new location, shifting it a bit later in the winter, and mixing up the program a little bit to try and keep things interesting and hopefully make it possible for a few more people to make it to the event.

We hope that you'll be able to join us on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, beginning at 11:00AM at the Nemasket Group in Fairhaven for our 2015 Winter Gathering. We'll be starting the day as we always do, with the opportunity to join old friends for lunch, but with a little twist: in addition to having the usual fare of hot dogs and snacks, we're hoping you'll show off your own culinary skills by bringing out a pot luck dish for your fellow alums to sample and for a little friendly competition. Several



Checking out Cachalot memorabilia at a past Gathering

members of the Executive Committee plan to show off some of their own specialties, and attendees will be able to vote for their favorites, with a nice prize for the favorite dish.

After lunch, we'll have a brief update on upcoming Association activities, including final information on our big projects for 2015 and news from Cachalot (see the sidebar on page 7 for a preview of the contenders.) Gathering also marks the informal start to the nomination period for the 2015 Wall of Fame ballot, and we'll have nomination forms on-hand if you want to get started on nominating the people you remember making great contributions to Cachalot or the people who camp there.

Our History Committee will bring out our archive of film, photos, memorabilia, and historic documents for people to browse through, and maybe help us put some names to the faces in the pictures. They'll also have scanners with them to capture any photographs or documents you might bring with you.

Please do bring out your own memorabilia, especially your patch collections! Door prizes will be awarded in a few different categories for patch collections, so bring out your oldest, your rarest, your most complete sets, or even just your sentimental favorites to show off, and maybe take home a new addition.

We'll also have some Association merchandise for sale, including our polo shirts, numbered black and white photo prints of the Waterfront, and an assortment of color prints of Cachalot, with proceeds supporting our project fund, which provides direct support out at camp.

One thing that's not changing: the Winter Gathering is a free event, and is open to members and non-members alike, as well as interested members of the public. So, spread the word, and see you in February in Fairhaven! 🐋

### Winter Gathering 2015 Information

#### Where & When

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
11:00AM-3:00PM

Nemasket Group  
56 Bridge Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

#### Program

Potluck Lunch Cook-off

Association Annual Meeting

Check out the  
Association's Archives

Show Off Your Memorabilia

Prizes!

Bring your old camp photos  
to have them scanned

#### More Info

Free admission for members  
and non-members

Send email to  
[gathering2015@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:gathering2015@cachalotalumni.org)  
or visit  
[www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org)  
for additional information  
or to RSVP

## 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:

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## The Magee Foundation and Cachalot

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

Those of us that were lucky enough to attend summer camp and/or work on summer camp staff at Cachalot are familiar with the Magee Day events. I very fondly remember the unique and creative competitions devised by Dave Goldrick (the senior). I think that my favorite was the great catapult battles across Tom Cullen Field. There were cook-outs, iron man races, water bombardment tournaments, and the dreaded greased watermelon fights. It seemed like Magee Day was an excuse to have a great time. It was! But, it was also a day to honor the legacy of a man that has been giving to regional Scouting for 70 years.

George W. P. Magee was a theater agent and the manager of the famed Boston Opera House from the 1890's through 1916. Mr. Magee was active in the community and believed that Scouting was a powerful program that could positively impact the lives of many boys and young men. His confidence in Scouting was so strong that he created a trust that would provide funds to Massachusetts Scouts in perpetuity and included it in his will. George Magee died in 1939.

Tended carefully by its trustees, the Magee Fund grew over time. It took five years to reach a value of \$500,000, at which point it could make its minimum disbursement, as set by Mr. Magee in his will. In 1944 the Magee Fund distributed \$11,000 to Scout camps around Massachusetts. In return George Magee simply asked for the receiving councils to commemorate his birthday, (August 6<sup>th</sup>) with events, games, competitions, or exhibitions that will "be for the greatest benefit of said boys..." and that structures built with Magee Funds include a "proper inscription showing that said structure is erected and dedicated by this Fund."

It was George Magee's hope that what have been come to be known as Magee Day events would "impress upon [said boys] the nature of this Fund." I had a limited understanding of

**We must also be most thankful to George W. Magee for his enduring gift...**

the Magee Fund and its importance to Cachalot a summer camp staff member and even less understanding as a camper. Unfortunately, I believe few campers will remember (or pay attention to) such details of finance. Reading George Magee's will has led me to believe that he would not only forgive a camper's focus on the events of Magee Day rather than its history, but would be amazed and most proud of his ongoing and very significant legacy.

Today, the George W. Magee Trust now has a value of over \$7.1 million and is managed by the Bank of America. The fund has contributed more than \$6 million to hundreds of projects at Boy Scout camps across Massachusetts since 1944. Every year councils serving Massachusetts Scouts have the opportunity to submit a grant application to the George W. Magee Foundation. I recently had the pleasure of joining the Narragansett Council Magee Foundation presentation team.

The Magee Foundation committee meets annually with councils which have applied for Magee Foundation grants. Each council sends a team of representatives to present their merits of their proposal which was submitted several weeks prior to the meeting. Narragansett Council sent a large team led by Council Executive John Mosby. Rick Partridge, our association treasurer, and I were also on the team. The presentation is carefully choreographed as each team has only 30 minutes to state its case around a large table in a posh meeting room in nice hotel.

The committee members were very interested in Scouting and it was clear that many had a personal history in the program. It was wonderful to hear that several members have actually visited Cachalot. Our presentation flowed like a stream and all of the committee members seemed pleased by its conclusion. The committee commented that Narragansett Council has always been very prepared and organized in its Magee Fund presentations. Before I got home I received a phone call that Magee Fund committee had already granted our request!

Narragansett Council was awarded \$32,000 to replace the roofs on the Philips House, the Boat House, and the Maintenance Building. These projects are not fun. Kids won't notice the difference. Few adults will notice the difference. But, these are the projects that must occur to keep the camp operational. A camp cannot safely (or legally) operate without septic systems, electricity, and clean running water. Without appropriate and safe facilities and utilities the camp would close.

*Continued on page 3*



## Summer 2014 at Cachalot

Eric Oulette, Camp Director & Council Alumni Liason

Greetings!

The summer of 2014 was nothing short of amazing. We had an increase of 15% and our program was top notch. They KEY foundation was generous enough to donate use of sound equipment for the summer and also donated money to help buy some new tents. A HUGE thank you to all of you who helped support the funding of our brand new kayak fleet that allowed us to increase the amount of scouts who were able to take the kayaking merit badge. If it wasn't for all of your support and coming together as an alumni, none of this would be possible.

All good things come to an end, unfortunately; this was my final summer out at Cachalot. After 5 summers as your camp director I will be moving on with other council responsibilities. The past 5 years have been great and I was able to see some great changes in my tenure while at camp. I won't forget the nights out at Five Mile Pond or the days out at Tom Cullen Field. I will still be the liaison to the Cachalot Alumni Association and am willing to help all of you with anything as needed. I look forward to seeing you all along the camp trail sooner rather than later. Thanks for allowing me to serve as your camp director at Cachalot Scout Reservation! 🚣



## A Dollars and Sense Perspective

Rick Partridge, Association Treasurer

100% of your Alumni Dues are placed in a permanently restricted fund in the Council Endowment for the benefit of Camp Cachalot. These funds can never be spent, only the interest can be used to help support Camp Cachalot and its programs. 100% of donations to the Cachalot Staff Scholarship fund are also placed in a separate permanently restricted fund within the Council Endowment. These funds can never be spent, only the interest can be used to provide staff scholarships.

Since the original gifts and subsequent contributions to these two funds can never be spent, only the interest, they have created a permanent source of future revenue to support Camp Cachalot. This is a legacy of support that will exist for generations to come, long after we are all gone. Additional donations are always welcome and are an investment in the future of our Camp Cachalot.

Donations to the project fund are set aside in a separate fund in the Council's Capital Fund, and are only spent on projects at Camp Cachalot. These monies are not invested, but are spent on meaningful projects around Camp. For example, in 2014 the Council Endowment for the benefit of Camp Cachalot allocated \$700.00 for program improvements. The Cachalot Staff Scholarship endowment allocated \$750.00 for scholarships to Scouts on staff.

The Sylvia family made a contribution to the project fund in memory of their son, Scouter Jeffrey Sylvia who loved the waterfront. That contribution went towards the purchase of six kayaks for the waterfront. The kayaks were a welcome program addition and were well used; we even had Scouts and staff take them on a trip down the Agawam River for the first time in recent memory. 🚣

*The Magee Foundation and Cachalot, continued from page 2*

It was extremely interesting to see the final steps in a process about which I have heard stories since I was ten years old. It was also very encouraging to see so many council professionals pulling together and dedicating such time and effort to acquiring funds for Cachalot. I wish to thank Tom Sission and Marc Cardin for preparing the Magee Trust Application package and to John Mosby for his artful leadership and presentation skills. We must also be most thankful to George W. Magee for his enduring gift, and for this reason the Magee Foundation was one of the first honorees on the Cachalot Wall of Fame. 🚣

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, 8:00AM - 5:00PM  
Klondike Derby 2015  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 11:00AM - 3:00PM  
Gathering 2015  
Nemasket Group  
56 Bridge Street  
Fairhaven, MA

May 22<sup>nd</sup> - May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
CCAA Family Camping Weekend  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

## Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

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# Scenes from the Season

Photographs from our Family Camping Weekends, Homecoming, and our Wall of Fame Presentations

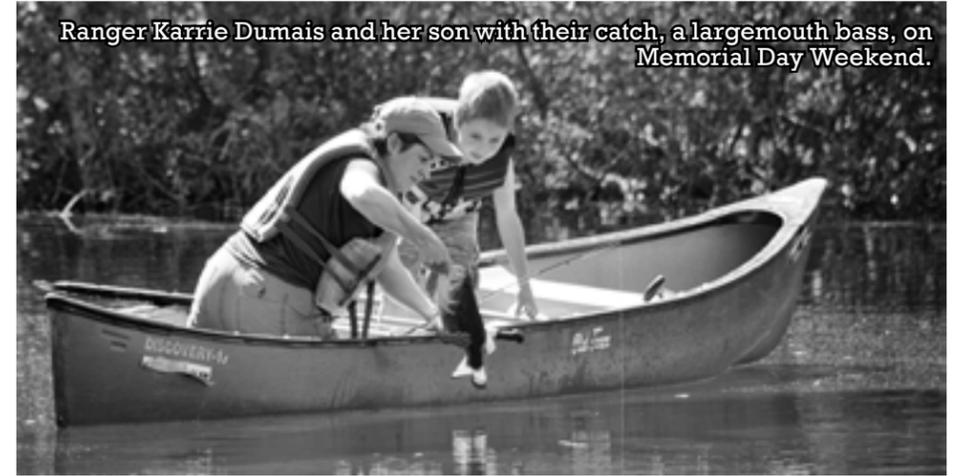
Rocketry at Labor Day Weekend



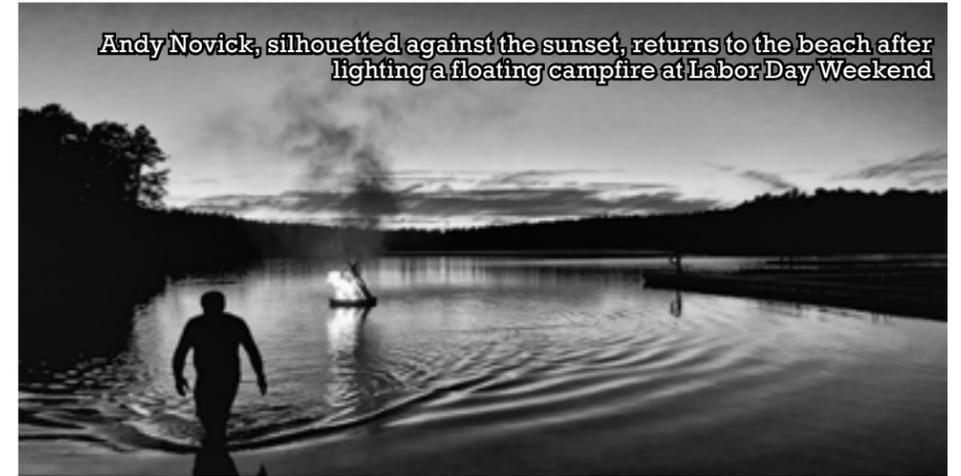
(L-R, back row) Chairman Brian Bastarache, Vic Sylvia, Norm Chartier, Larry Harney, Ed Tavares, Dennis Prefontaine, and Joe "Zack" Souza after presenting a Wall of Fame plaque to honoree Ed Spencer (seated).



Ranger Karrie Dumais and her son with their catch, a largemouth bass, on Memorial Day Weekend.



Andy Novick, silhouetted against the sunset, returns to the beach after lighting a floating campfire at Labor Day Weekend



(L-R) Dave Goldrick, George Boucher, Daryl Sylvia, Vic Sylvia, and Bill Ashworth at Homecoming 2014



Most of the alumni in attendance at Homecoming 2014



# Wild Cachalot: The Call of the Whip-poor-will

By DAVID PAULSON

The woodlands of Camp Cachalot are classified as a pitch pine/scrub oak community. To a young Scout, it was an impenetrable landscape of thick brush and hills of sand. As a camper I remember hiking through the backlands of camp and building a primitive shelter in order to earn my wilderness survival merit badge. Once we hiked off the fire road, we had to bushwhack through thickets of scrub in order to establish camp. That night I was amazed how beautiful the woodlands of Cachalot could really be.

Years later, as an aspiring wildlife biologist, I learned just how important the woodlands of camp are to the biodiversity of Massachusetts. The vegetation and topography of camp are a direct result of glaciers and its outwash in the coastal plain. As a result, the soils are well-drained, acidic, nutrient poor, and drought prone. So what could possibly survive, let alone thrive, in this harsh landscape? The answer is a rich and specialized group of plants and animals (including globally rare moths).

One species of animal found at camp that even a tenderfoot scout can never forget is the Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous*). This species is best known and aptly named for its unmistakable call; a three-note phrase "Whip-poor-will". On that clear, moonlit night that I spent in my survival

shelter, it seemed like I was completely surrounded by this nocturnal bird species.

The Eastern Whip-poor-will is a medium-sized bird with a large, rounded head and a stout chest that tapers to a long tail and wings, giving them a distinctly front-heavy look. For you military buffs, they look eerily similar to the nighthawk stealth fighter jets. Their bill is bordered by long bristles used for capturing food items in flight. Their movement is slow and silent like the rare moths that call camp home. They hover and fly erratically in pursuit of insects.

Whip-poor-wills begin to arrive back from their wintering grounds (Gulf of Mexico south to Central America) to Massachusetts in April. Breeding pairs begin to form soon after and typically lay 2 eggs on the forest floor by mid-May. They are thought to be monogamous through at least one breeding season and each take turns tending to the eggs through the three week incubation period. After three weeks the chicks are ready to leave the nest and are able to feed themselves. Families will stay together until their autumn migration.

The distribution of this amazing species is closely correlated to fire-adapted landscapes such as pitch pine/scrub oak barrens, power line corridors, and abandoned sand/gravel operations. In Massachusetts, there are only 6 locations that provide enough habitat for

20 or more pairs. In fact, the Camp Cachalot-Myles Standish complex is one of the most critical areas in the Commonwealth for this species.

Since the late 1960s there has been a dramatic retraction in their range due to habitat loss, destruction, fragmentation, and succession. As a result of this decline, the Eastern Whip-poor-will was placed on the Massachusetts Endangered Species List and classified as a Species of Special Concern in 2011.

The next time you hike through camp, think about how much it means not only to you, but also to the future generations of campers and the flora/fauna that needs it to survive.



David Paulson is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor Member, and Silver Beaver recipient from the Annawon Council. Professionally, he is an endangered species biologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He resides in Wrentham with his wife Lisa, enjoys exploring the natural history of the Commonwealth, and is an avid outdoorsman. David currently serves as the Area 1 conservation advocate and associate section adviser for Section NE-1 of the Order of the Arrow. This is his first column for the Cachalotter.



An Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous*)

Photo ©2012 by Laura Gooch, used under a Creative Commons BY-NC-SA-2.0 license. Original at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lgooch/6991539788>

# A Celebratory and Solemn Homecoming

The sun shone brightly over Cachalot for our tenth annual Homecoming in July, with more than 80 alumni on-hand to help us celebrate our fifth class of Wall of Fame inductees and dedicate a new fleet of kayaks to the memory of alumnus Jeff Sylvia.

After our traditional cookout over by Noquochoke Lodge, and some news on the current state of the Association and goings-on at Cachalot for the summer, the festivities moved over to the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field for our Wall of Fame induction. Members of both Dura Higgins' family and Charley Humphreys' family were in attendance for the ceremony, and a number of alumni stood up to share their own memories of all of the inductees.

The days' program was capped with a Blessing of the Boats down by the waterfront, where Camp Chaplain the Reverend Barbara Jean held a stirring and solemn ceremony to

formally dedicate seven new kayaks in the memory of Jeffery Sylvia of Dartmouth, who many in the Association knew well. Jeff's dad, Daryl, who along with other members of his family made these boats possible, spoke of Jeff's love of camp, his time on staff, and especially his fondness for the waterfront, which both challenged and rewarded Jeff, and that Jeff would be extremely proud to know that these boats will be used to teach Scouts small watercraft skills. Other members of the Association shared their memories of Jeff as well, before the formal blessing of the boats, and "Taps" being blown. Our program for the day concluded, many folks stayed in camp for a while longer to enjoy the beautiful day.

That wasn't the end of our Wall of Fame presentations for the summer, though. Honoree Ed Spencer, who resides in Fairhaven, wasn't able to attend Homecoming due to his health, so we brought the Wall of Fame induction to him. In early August, members

of the Association who knew Ed from his Scouting days visited Ed at his nursing home, presenting him with his Wall of Fame plaque and showing him a recording of the ceremony on DVD. Among those presenting the plaque was Joe "Zack" Souza, who had been one of Mr. Spencer's Cub Scouts back when he had been Cubmaster.

In addition to the photos here and on pages 4 and 5, more photos from Homecoming can be found on our Facebook and Google+ pages, and video of both the Wall of Fame ceremony and the kayak dedication can be found on our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/cachalotalumni](http://youtube.com/cachalotalumni).

Thank you to everyone who came out for the day—our honorees, their families, and the Sylvia family all appreciated so many folks being on hand to recognize the achievements and dedication of our honorees, and to share their own love of Cachalot.

## Our 2015 Project

Thanks to the generosity of the Sylvia family, we were able to meet our goal of providing kayaks to help improve the summer camp program last year. We know that we still have to finish the kayak project by constructing racks to properly store and protect the kayak fleet when they're out during the summer, and we have the funds to complete that work, from further donations from the Sylvia family and other association members.

We're in the process of working with the Council to identify other areas where we can continue to make improvements for the Scouts who will attend camp this year and in the future.

Our current leading contender is to further improve the waterfront program by adding a set of paddleboards, which have been extremely popular at other Scout camps. There is a possibility, however, that the money may be better spent on other program materials, as the Council may have limited money for program supplies due to a large unexpected expense of having to replace the camp's main water tank, which is vital to camp being able to open at all. We will share our final project plan with our members via our various Internet outlets and at Gathering in February, once we know where our help will do the most good for the program and the Scouts.

As always, we rely on, and are thankful for the support of our members for funding of these projects. Donations to the project fund are always needed, and can be made at our web site or any event.



Rev. Barbara Jean dedicating the kayak fleet



Daryl Sylvia sharing memories of his son, Jeffrey

Our 2014 Staff Scholarship winners, Nathan Peacock (left) and James Belbin (center) with Association Chairman Brian Bastarache



## 2014 Staff Scholarships

Our 2014 Staff Scholarships were awarded at the closing flag ceremony of the Summer Camp season.

The recipient of the Thomas P. Whelan Chairman's Scholarship was Archery Director James Belbin. James, an Eagle Scout, is a junior at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, studying Marine Engineering. He is a member of Troop 48 in Carver. 2014 was James' seventh year on Cachalot's summer camp staff.

The second Association Staff Scholarship was presented to Nathan Peacock, the Ecology Director. Nathan is entering his sophomore year at Embry Aeronautical University, where he studies Global Security and Arabic. He is an Eagle Scout with Troop 7277 in the U. S. Virgin Islands, and is also marking his seventh summer on Cachalot's staff.

Nathan and James were both outstanding staffers this past summer, and their awards are well-deserved. It's a pleasure and an honor for our Association to be able to help make it possible for these young men fo further their educations, and we hope to see them back at camp in the future. 🏹

**Camp Cachalot Alumni Association**  
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