

Spring 2015



# *The* **Cachalotter**

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

*A Brief History of...  
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For the Waterfront*

*Homecoming 2015  
July 11<sup>th</sup> at Cachalot*

**Pomfret, Rogers, and Seguer  
Are Your Wall of Fame Class of 2015**

## 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](mailto:cachaletter@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 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



## Our Home Away From Home

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

We are all members of Camp Cachalot Alumni Association because we love Cachalot. During a recent campmaster weekend Dennis Wilkinson, Bobby Pomfret, and I were walking around Cachalot, taking advantage of a gorgeous day to visit some of our favorite haunts. We made a stop at a picnic table in the Pine Grove to enjoy the spring weather and take in all of the sights, sounds, and smells of camp. After a few minutes I asked, "How is it that some people can spend time here and then just go away?" We were all at a loss. All three of us had been lucky enough to spend years of our lives at Cachalot. The sand is now in our blood and we just keep coming back. There is something calming about being there. Something like getting home after a long trip or going to grandma's house, your old neighborhood, or church – maybe all of those combined.

Cachalot is beautiful and unique and it is easy to walk its trails, swim in its lakes, and photograph sunsets over Five Mile Pond over and over again. However, the spell it holds over us is in large part generated by the memories of the fun we've had, the lessons we've learned, the friends made during weekends, Klondike derbies, camporees, and summer camp. The spell of Cachalot is in the many mentors to many young men (and now young women, too) over the decades. It is in the sweat of all of those who quietly toiled in the background so that Scouts and Scouters may enjoy, relax, laugh, learn, and grow. It is those extraordinary people, and organizations, that we honor on the Cachalot Wall of Fame. (I would have preferred it be called Wall of Honor, but it doesn't roll off the tongue as smoothly.)

There are many deserving individuals and organizations that should be included on the Wall of Fame. We look to you, the association membership, to submit Wall of Fame nominations

... like getting home  
after a long trip or  
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or church

annually. These nominations need to include ample information about the nominee's dedication to Cachalot to pass the association's vetting process and inform the members and garner him or her enough votes to earn a place on the wall. This is particularly important for those nominees that may have been away from camp for a while.

We have received many nominations over the years which lacked adequate evidence of contributions to camp, but which contained lots of information about contributions to Scouting or the community in general. While contributions to Scouting and the community are wonderful things, they aren't what

the Wall of Fame is intended to recognize, since there are plenty of awards for those things already, including the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, and the Order of the Arrow's Founders Award. Instead, the Wall of Fame is intended to honor people specifically for the difference they made at Cachalot and to the people that went there.

It is extremely important that deserving people who have made these contributions to Cachalot be recognized on the Wall of Fame. It is through their efforts that we have been able to have the experiences that we treasure so dearly and that Scouts and Scouters will continue to do so into the future. Do you have a deserving nominee? Please review the nomination tips posted on the Camp Cachalot Association web site at:

[http://www.cachalotalumni.org/about/wall\\_of\\_fame/](http://www.cachalotalumni.org/about/wall_of_fame/)

This information will help you produce a nomination with a greater probability of success (although no specific outcome can be guaranteed.)

I hope that you can attend the 2015 Cachalot Homecoming on July 11<sup>th</sup> to visit with old friends and join in honoring this year's inductees. 🍷

## Projects and Paddleboards to Benefit the Waterfront

As we hope all of our members are aware, the Association maintains both an endowment built on our annual member dues and whose proceeds fund our annual Staff Scholarships, and our annual operating budget; and a dedicated project fund which is used for our various projects at Cachalot. This project fund money comes from specific donations from you, our members, and in many years any proceeds from the endowment in excess of our small annual operating expenses go directly into the project fund as well. The principal of the endowment is never touched, making it a permanent legacy for Cachalot (for more information, have a look at "A Dollars and Sense Perspective" by our treasurer, Rick Partridge, in the Fall 2014 issue of The Cachaletter.)

This year, we've once again decided to focus our project fund spending on improvements to the Waterfront area at Cachalot. Last year's kayak fleet, made possible through the largesse of the Sylvania family, was put to excellent use by the Scouts attending summer camp, and we want to further enhance the aquatics program before we start looking at other areas of the summer camp program to tackle.

To that end, it was obvious after an especially-harsh New England winter that the fencing around the waterfront was in poor repair, with many sections either already broken by the weight of the snow or in several spots just reaching the end of their useful lifetime. The waterfront at Five Mile is clearly the crown jewel of Cachalot, so we set aside our Beaver Day in June to make these much-needed repairs and replace a large portion of the waterfront fence to polish it up for the summer. Having the swim area clearly fenced off is a requirement for operating the area during summer camp, so making sure this was done before camp opened was a top priority.



Chairman Brian Bastarache and Vic Sylvania drilling post-holes with a power auger at Beaver Day 2015

In addition, the Council had expressed a concern to us early in the year that the camp's water system was going to need extensive and expensive repairs in order to be ready for the demands of summer camp, and this was going to severely limit available funds for making program improvements this year. Since having clean water is a health and safety issue for Cachalot, it makes perfect sense that that's the best way for them to allocate money, so we're stepping up to help on the program front. The program director wanted to expand the waterfront program to include paddleboarding this year, so we've decided to contribute \$1,600 from the project fund towards the purchase of paddleboards and related equipment. This should be more than sufficient to cover the three paddleboards they wanted to add, possibly more. You'll be able to check out the new paddleboards at Homecoming. This is exactly the kind of project we like to be able to focus our spending on: programs or improvements that are desirable for our Scouts in camp, but which don't fit in the camp's budget.

Remember, it's you, and your contributions, that make our project fund and the work it does possible. Donations to the project fund are always welcome; either by adding on a little more to your dues at membership renewal time, throwing a few dollars into the can at our events, or expressly via our web site. Thank you for making this new fencing and new paddleboards a reality! 🍷

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 12:00PM - 5:00PM  
Homecoming 2015 and  
Wall of Fame Induction  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

September 4<sup>th</sup> - September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
CCAA Family Camping Weekend  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

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# Scenes Since We Last Met

Photographs From Our Family Camping Weekends, Winter Gathering, and Other Association Activities



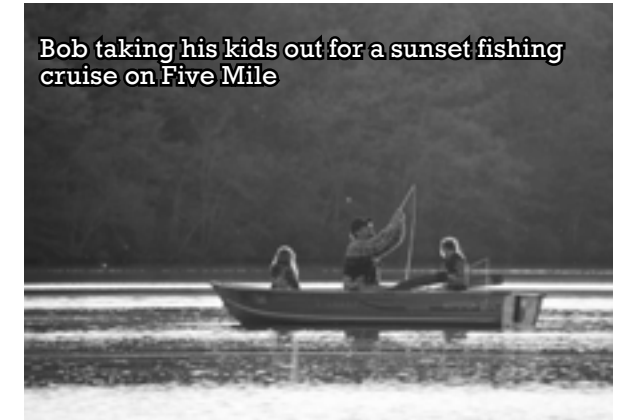
Several generations of Cachalot Alumni in attendance at Gathering 2015



Alumni kids on the waterfront over Memorial Day Weekend



Memorial Day Weekend marshmallow roasting



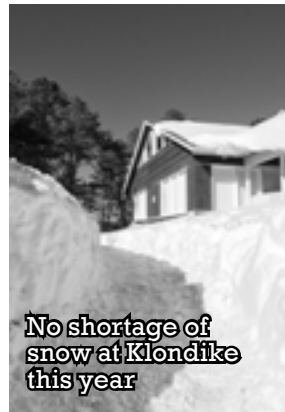
Bob taking his kids out for a sunset fishing cruise on Five Mile



Melissa and Brian doing some maintenance on the Wall of Fame native gardens



Vic and Dave have a minor fishing disagreement



No shortage of snow at Klondike this year



Sledding down Dining Hall Hill at Klondike



Darryl and grandson fishing the lagoon at sunset over Memorial Day Weekend



One of the many patrols competing in this year's Klondike Derby



A sled speeds through the course of The Great Race at the Klondike Derby



Andy showing a painted turtle to one of our newest alumni

# Your Wall of Fame Class of 2015

Homecoming 2015 and Wall of Fame Induction to Take Place July 11<sup>th</sup> at Cachalot

Homecoming this year will kick off our second decade as an Association, and pay tribute to our 6th class of Wall of Fame honorees.

Homecoming will take place on Saturday, July 11th, 2015, from noon until 5:00PM. We'll begin with a cookout down by the pine grove across from Tom Cullen Field. As usual, you'll have some time to catch up with old friends and swap some camp stories over lunch. At around 1:00PM, after you've had a chance to eat, we'll have a quick update on what's been going on with the Association and some plans for the future. At 1:30PM, we'll move over to the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field for this year's Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony, where we'll welcome our three newest honorees. Once the program for the day has concluded, Cachalot will remain open until 5:00PM, to give you more time to catch up with other alums, get in a little fishing, check out the newly-completed renovation of the dining hall, or pay a visit to one of your favorite spots in camp.

## Our 2015 Honorees



For the last 36 years, **Brenda Pomfret** has served Cachalot in multiple roles, most notably as the long-time Program Director of Cachalot's Cub Scout Day Camp program (from 1979 through 1996),

the Field Sports/Rifle Range Director for Boy Scout Summer Camp for over a decade, the frequent assistant chairman of the Cub-o-Ree program run by Wall-of-Famer Jack Byrne, and Rifle Range "Mayor" on more than 10 Klondike Derby staffs. She was a founding member of Cachalot's Campmaster Corps, and remains involved as a Campmaster today. Her sons were also prominent in local Scouting, at her side at Cachalot from pre-Cubbing age right up to today.

The recipient of many Scouting honors, including the Silver Beaver, the District Award of Merit, Wood Badge, and various training awards, Brenda has been a fixture at Cachalot. Under her leadership, and through her constant promotion, Cub Day Camp participation grew and grew, with over 120 Cubs attending camp each week over a 4 week Day Camp season, with many Cubs attending multiple weeks to enjoy Cachalot and the weekly themed program Brenda planned and operated with her staff of loyal volunteers and Scouts.

In her role as Rifle Range Director, Brenda introduced many youth to the shooting sports and the paramount importance of firearm safety. In 1983, she introduced the National

Rifle Association's Youth Shooting Program to Cachalot, which allowed Scouts and Scouters to pursue and qualify for NRA medals, patches, and certificates. She also introduced many Scouts to silhouettes and Lucky Target shoots during evening activities. Safety was always Brenda's biggest message: she wanted everyone to know that while shooting was a fun sport, firearms are a serious pastime and she stressed the importance of being safe above all else.

A licensed nurse, Brenda has served as the backup camp nurse for many camp programs and events.

Brenda has also made many contributions to the upkeep of Cachalot over the years, from being a frequent participant in Beaver Weekends to her work as a Campmaster. She always helped with whatever projects she could, from painting and staining, to planting trees, to running the Trading Post, even cleaning rest rooms.

Outside of camp, Brenda was involved at the unit level with Pack 55 in Fairhaven, in various Commissioner roles at the district level, and on Council training staff and a 5-year stint as the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby chairman. She's also been a long-time volunteer and staff member for the Relay for Life program.

With her long involvement at Cub Scout Day Camp and Boy Scout Summer Camp, there are many former youth staffers that think of her as "Camp Mom." Especially during Day Camp, she made sure her youth staffers stayed fed, stayed safe, had fun, and knew their contributions were important. Many of these staffers now have families of their own, and can be spotted at Alumni Association family weekends introducing their own children to, and reminiscing with, Brenda.



**Paul A. Seguer's** name was synonymous with service for much of the 1970s and early 1980s at Cachalot.

Paul was a long-term member of the Camping Committee of the Cachalot and Moby Dick Councils. A contractor and carpenter, he applied his skills to many projects at camp, leading the construction of Cabins 1 and 2, along with many Beaver Day work weekends, where he was a constant presence, leading many work projects and assisting in many others. As Camp Noquochoke was still a going concern at this point in time, he also put in work there, leading the construction of a new Ranger's residence. He was a man who was always willing to help, whether he was swinging a

hammer or setting bricks, and was a continual help to the rangers at Cachalot for his entire Scouting career.

It is hard to overstate just how much work he put in at Cachalot: when the Neemat Lodge established their annual service award, to be presented to the Arrowman who had contributed the most to Camp Cachalot, they named the award in Paul's honor, and the "Paul Seguer Service Award" was presented for many years.

He served the Scouts of Cachalot and Moby Dick Council in other ways as well, serving on many training committees (including Woodbadge), the Restoration Committee, the Cranberry Festival Committee, the Cachalot District Committee, as Cubmaster and Scoutmaster of Pack and Troop 74 in South Dartmouth, and as an adviser to Neemat Lodge. During his Scouting career he was awarded the Scouter's Key, the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, Woodbadge beads, and the Vigil Honor.

**Ray Rogers** was a virtual, unofficial Assistant Ranger at Cachalot from the early 1950s through the late 1960s, always on hand to help with projects out at Cachalot. A Scouter with Pack 54 in Fairhaven, Ray spent more time at Cachalot tackling projects than nearly any other person for a 15+ year span of time, even stepping in as acting Ranger when needed.

## Homecoming 2015 Information

### Where & When

July 11th, 2015  
12:00PM-5:00PM

Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, Massachusetts

### More Info

Free admission for members  
and non-members

Send email to  
[homecoming2015@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:homecoming2015@cachalotalumni.org)  
or visit  
[www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org)  
for additional information  
or to RSVP

# A Brief History Of... The Boathouse

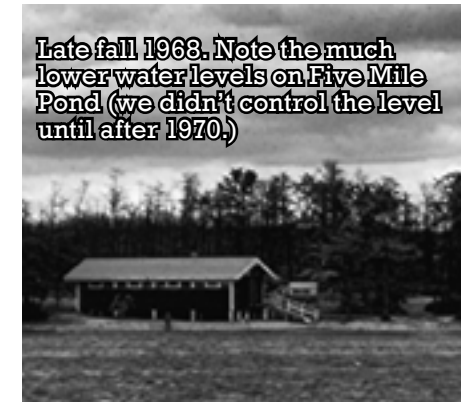
Built for Boats, but Used for so Much More

Not long ago in one of our online forums, someone who had recently visited camp for the first time in a bunch of years asked "When did the Nature Center become a boathouse?"

Of course, the real question is "When did the Boathouse become the Nature Center?"

In 1959, plans were afoot in the Cachalot Council to raise money for many improvements, including new buildings, at camp. Among the things being planned were a centralized water system, a new cook's cabin, a shower house, a new Trading Post, program shelter/storage buildings in all unit sites, a 64-person cabin, several Adirondack shelters, and a boathouse.

Plans were completed for at least the cook's cabin, shower house, and the boathouse, and were sent out for bids in May of 1960. While we have documentation that the bid for the first two buildings was won by George Silva of Dartmouth, we have no contract, only a bid from Olson & Appleby, Inc., also of Dartmouth, for the boathouse. Regardless of who actually performed the construction, ground was broken during September of 1960, with the foundation being complete in early November and the remainder of the building finished by January of 1961 (the minutes of the Camping and Properties Committee showed "one week of work left" on December 14th, 1960, heading into the holidays.)



Late fall 1968. Note the much lower water levels on Five Mile Pond (we didn't control the level until after 1970.)

The exterior of the building remained largely the same until the late 1980s, when the boat ramp that led from the edge of Five Mile to the large sliding door on the pond-facing gable end was removed from the building. The next major changes to the building were a bit more involved, and took place in 2003, when the two folding garage doors on the road-facing gable were removed, an awning was added, and those garage bays were converted into the camp's Welcome Center, Camp Director's office, and a meeting area/conference room for use by Scoutmasters and staff. Most recently, this area is where the camp's WiFi hotspot was installed for

use by unit leaders during the summer camp season. The buildings location right on Five Mile has meant for a number of maintenance hassles over the years, as pond water freezing around the building's concrete foundation piers occasionally causes damage; the base of the building has been sandbagged off in an attempt to help control this for many years.



In use as the Nature Area, 1982.

From the time the building opened, its major year-round usage has been storage: for the camp's armada of boats, of course, but at various times it's been used to store the camp's tents (hung from the rafters, with toilet paper strewn below, in the hopes that the paper would make a more attractive target to the camp's rodent population than the canvas would; the full supply of folding metal cots; mountain bikes; and various equipment that had been donated to camp, including all the refrigerators and coolers that ended up doing temporary duty in the Geedunk when the camp's Trading Post burned down in 1987.

The first use of the building during the summer as a program area may actually have been its use as a Nature Area. The first photos the Association has of the building being used that way are from 1982, although it's



The boathouse today.



The boathouse in winter, 1968, showing the original boat ramp.

possible the building was used as a program area before that, either full-time or on rainy days. Since the early 1980s, the building has been used as the Nature area, the Handicrafts area, the garaging area for the summer camp mountain bike program, as the Staff lounge, and even (during one particularly crowded week in 1985, when the CITs had to yield their tents to incoming campers) the CIT bunkhouse. Over the last few summers, the pond-facing side of the building has been the Nature Center, with the rest of the building being used as Welcome Center and administrative offices during summer camp. The Welcome Center is utilized year-round, both at district and council events, and as a check-in station where the camp's Campmasters meet and greet the leadership of units in camp for weekend camping during the so-called "off season."

And, of course, we still house the boats there. In 55 years of evolving use, that, at least, hasn't changed.

# 100 Years of the Order of the Arrow

# In Memoriam

The Order of the Arrow celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year, and the Abnaki Lodge has been working to document its predecessors, including Noquochoke, Agawam, and Neemat Lodges. As part of this effort, alumni Arrowmen were invited out to this year's Conclave, which was hosted by Abnaki Lodge at Camp Yawgoog. As part of this event, Lodge

Lay Adviser Emeritus Bob LeComte was recognized as the longest-serving Arrowman in the area, having been a founding member of Noquochoke Lodge, becoming an Arrowman at its first Ordeal in 1938. There were a few Noquochoke, Agawam, and Neemat alums on-hand to congratulate Bob and thank him for all he's done over the years. 🙏

Former Noquochoke secretary Mike Vieira, Lay Adviser Emeritus Bob LeComte, and former chiefs Ken Rodrigues and Gerry Coulet



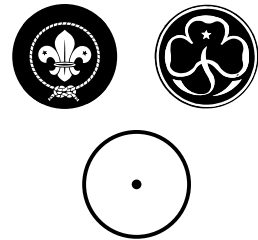
Noquochoke alums Mike Vieira and Ken Rodrigues check out memorabilia



Neemat & Agawam alum Vic Sylvia, and former Neemat Lodge Chiefs George Stike, Anthony Ferreira, and Dennis Wilkinson

We've lost several members of the extended Cachalot family over the first half of 2015. Long-time local Scouter and WW2 veteran **Normand O. Chartier** of Troop 5 New Bedford passed on January 5; **Antonette "Toni" Byrne**, widow of Wall-of-Famer Jack Byrne passed away on January 8; **Robert Brightman**, an alumnus of both Noquochoke and Cachalot and a member of Troop 24 Fall River passed away on January 10; **Ovila "Sunny" Lizotte** of Troop 50 Fall River and a Noquochoke alum passed on January 30; and **Palmeda "Pal" Daggett**, widow of prominent Rochester Scouter Calvin Daggett and part of the Moby Dick Council office staff for many years passed away on February 5.

Many of us in the Alumni Association hold these folks in fond memory, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families. 🙏



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