



# *The* Cachaletter

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

*The Importance of Bats*  
*New Alumni Merchandise*  
*Summer 2016 Event Wrap-Up*

**Winter Gathering**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup>**



## 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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**On the cover:** The Milky Way over a beach campsite at Abner Pond, summer of 2016. Photo courtesy Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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



## On the Upward Trail

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

The 2016 Cachalot Summer Camp season was quite successful. Cachalot saw its fourth straight year of growth in summer camp attendance. It is so wonderful that there are data to show how well camp is doing. It's an honest to goodness statistical trend; Cachalot is on the upward trail.

Much of this success is due to the summer camp staff. Led by our new camp director, Joe Livingston, the staff once again provided outstanding camp experiences for the hundreds of campers who attended the "camp upon the lakeside." It is a herculean and exhausting effort to deliver a high quality camp program; however, there are few more enriching experiences as serving on summer camp staff. The 2016 Cachalot Camp Staff was outstanding, yet even they could not do it themselves.

Cachalot (generally and its summer camp program) receives support from the unit leaders that make possible the time Scouts spend at camp, our dedicated Ranger, the Magee Fund, and of course, Narragansett Council. You, the members of our Association, are also part of the cadre of camp supporters. Your support is significant to Cachalot and our Association's mission. Your membership is a formal declaration of support for Cachalot and your dues increase our endowment that allow our Association to operate.

Many of you have participated in work projects at camp. You have wired, hammered, painted, dug, raked, soldered, sewed, driven, and lugged. Your efforts have helped to improve campsites, program areas, and buildings, particularly the Dining Hall. You have built a waterfront tower and latrines. You have planted gardens and hung plaques to honor those who made Cachalot possible. You have donated patches, artifacts, and money. Because of you Cachalot is on the upward trail.

People still ask me how they can help. Here are a few ways.

### Help with Funding

- Be sure to keep you membership current. Your dues increase our endowment.
- Donate money to our scholarship and project funds. You could also donate to the endowment.
- Keep an eye on our projects. We may be in need of materials – paint, building supplies, program equipment, etc.

### Help with Your Time

- Join us at our annual Beaver Day at camp. Keep an eye on the Association's Facebook page.
- Write an article about Cachalot or Noquochoke for this newsletter. Any topic related to either or both camps is welcomed. Photographs of the camps, camp activities, and camp memorabilia are welcomed.

### Help by Participating

- Join us at our annual events: Homecoming and the Winter Gathering. Your attendance—another statement of support—does not go unnoticed.
- Follow the Association on social media. Subscribe to our YouTube channel. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram (both @cachalotalumni). Again, these numbers do not go unnoticed.
- Help us recruit new members. The larger we grow, the stronger we become and the more we can do. The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association is also dedicated to the memory and history of Camp Noquochoke and the Noquochoke Lodge. We are in the initial phase of a rather large project that will honor the Noquochoke legacy. Help from those with first-hand knowledge would be very helpful.

Those who love Cachalot can help. No matter where you live, there is a way that you can keep us moving along the upward trail. 🚶



## A Camp for Everyone

Joe Livingston, Camp Director

Greetings and welcome to my favorite time of the year! Snow starts to blow and my mind starts turning to next year's summer camp. We have a lot of exciting things we are looking to introduce to Cachalot next summer, from a more enhanced older Scout program to a possibility of extending the summer with the addition of a Sea Cadet program. We are also looking to offer a hike-in option for units, offering the Scouts the same option of telling their kids

### ...do you miss being at camp?

they hiked to camp uphill both ways! Just like in football there are certain bumps and dips to be expected when a change in head coach is made. Now with a year of Cachalot under my belt I'm very excited for what promises to be an excellent 2017. Through it all I continue to welcome any and all feedback. Cachalot is a camp for everyone and we need everyone pitching in. If you haven't been around Cachalot for a number of years feel free to reach out to me and schedule a visit during the 2017 summer season. Have an idea for Cachalot? Reach out to me and we will find time to sit and chat.

Last but not least, do you miss being at camp? Do you have some time in 2017 and have a special talent? Maybe it's documenting the underwater life of Five Mile Pond in video, or being a self-proclaimed stamp collecting expert. I would like to offer more special presentations during the afternoons and evenings at Camp this summer. Maybe it's a special merit badge that is offered one week or a unique topic that the scouts can participate in. If you have someone in mind that would be great at this let me know so we can get it into the Leader's Guide. 🚶



The 2016 Summer Camp Staff marching toward closing flag ceremony

## Come See Us at the Klondike!

As we've been doing for many years, members of the Alumni Association will be on-hand running the warming station for the 2017 Klondike Derby, in Noquochoke Lodge across from Tom Cullen Field at Cachalot. If you're out at the Klondike, please drop by, say hello, and warm up with some hot coffee, hot cocoa, or a bite to eat. We'll have our usual traveling road show of camp and Association history for you to browse through while getting the chill out of your system.

The Klondike this year takes place on Saturday January 21st. 🚶

## 2017 Cachalot Alumni Events

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
8:00AM - 5:00PM  
**Klondike Derby**  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
11:00AM - 3:00PM  
**Winter Gathering 2017**  
Fairhaven Council on Aging  
229 Huttleston Avenue  
Fairhaven, MA

May 26<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend**  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
8:00AM - 5:00PM  
**Beaver Work Day**  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
11:00AM - 5:00PM  
**Homecoming 2017**  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

September 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**Labor Day Family Camping Weekend**  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

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# Winter Gathering 2017

Join us on Saturday, February 25th, 2017 for our annual Winter Gathering! This year's Gathering is once again taking place at the Fairhaven Council on Aging on Huttleston Avenue (Route 6). Doors open at 11:00AM with the first hour dedicated for you to socialize with other alumni, and have a look at some of the photos and videos that our History committee has been collecting over the years.

We'll be doing lunch pot-luck style as we've done for the last few years. If you'd like to bring a dish to share (or to show off with), that's always welcome.

After lunch, we'll hold a brief meeting to update you on what the Association has been up to over the last year, and give you some information on what's coming up for us in 2017, including:

- our 2017 project(s) for Cachalot
- upcoming Association events including family camping, our Beaver volunteer work day, and Homecoming
- nominations for the 2017 Wall of Fame ballot

Once we're done with our updates, we'll take a tour through some of the video, photographic, and documentation the Association has archived over the years (along with a few things produced by the Association or

its members.) Maybe you'll spot yourself, or maybe you'll be able to help us identify people you recognize.

We'll also have our new alumni merchandise available (see below) for sale, along with a large number of old troop summer camp photos, Scouting-related coffee mugs, and Cachalot photo prints.

We're still adding more program to this event, so keep an eye on your email and on our Facebook, Google+, and Twitter feeds in January for more information as it becomes available.

Admission is free, as always, and open to members and non-members alike. Please spread the word to other alums you're still in touch with who may not yet be members of our Association.



Alumni at last year's Winter Gathering

## Gathering 2017 Information

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
11:00AM-3:00PM

Fairhaven Council on Aging  
229 Huttleston Ave  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Free admission for members  
and non-members

Visit  
[www.cachalotalumni.org](http://www.cachalotalumni.org)  
for additional information  
or to RSVP

# Scenes from Summer 2017

Homecoming 2017 and Labor Day Weekend Family Camping



Wall of Fame Honoree Vic Sylvia



Wall of Fame Honoree Alan Novick (right) and his son, Andy, embrace after Alan's induction



The crowd of Alumni and family in attendance at Homecoming 2017

## You're Gonna Need a Bigger Closet...

We're very pleased to announce that, at long last, we've expanded our available Alumni Association merchandise available for purchase. For years all we've had to offer has been the maroon embroidered Association logo polo shirts, but we now have several other items that will be available at our events.

Last year at the Winter Gathering, we introduced new silk-screened T-shirts and hoodies featuring a design by Bill Belmore (who also prints the shirts himself!) These will continue to be available at our events at a cost of \$10 per T-shirt and \$25 per hoodie.



We also unveiled a new "Jaws-ish" Moby Dick-inspired design featuring a whale about to strike up at the swimmer's raft on Five Mile Pond as a decal, to replace our aging euro decal that we've long included with membership renewals. Many folks in our Facebook group chimed in requesting the design on a T-shirt as well, so we've also had it printed on navy blue T-shirts. You'll continue to receive a decal with your membership, but additional decals are available for \$2 each, and the new full-color T-shirts will be available for sale starting at the Winter Gathering (see above) for \$20 each. We'll even throw in a decal with a purchase of one of these shirts. The embroidered polos are still available at \$25 each.

If you aren't local, but you're interested in purchasing a decal, T-shirt, or hoodie, please drop us a line at [merchandise@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:merchandise@cachalotalumni.org), and we'll try to make arrangements.

Do you like the photo on the cover of this issue? The photographer, Dennis Wilkinson, has set up an online store with many of his Cachalot photographs, including our cover shot, and will contribute his proceeds from the sale of any of the photos in his Camp Cachalot gallery to the Alumni

Association. The store (based on Fine Art America, used by many photographers to sell their work online) allows you to buy prints and a few other products at a variety of sizes, mounted and/or framed if you desire. Browse the available photographs at <https://goo.gl/YpwQGI> and keep an eye out for new photographs to be added.

We hope to be adding other items in the very near future—keep an eye on our Facebook group, Instagram feed, or Twitter feed for details.



Alumni kids checking out a painted turtle at the waterfront on Five Mile



Alumni kid showing off the frog she captured in Five Mile Pond

# Wild Cachalot: The Importance of Bats

*Bats Aren't Scary, They're Important Pollinators and Pest Predators—and They're Threatened*

BY DAVID PAULSON

The Earth without bats would be a very different and much poorer place. More than 1,300 species of bats around the world are playing ecological roles that are vital to the health of natural ecosystems and human economies.

Many of the more than 1,300 bat species consume vast amounts of insects, including some of the most damaging agricultural pests. Others pollinate many valuable plants, ensuring the production of fruits that support local economies, as well as diverse animal populations. Fruit-eating bats in the tropics disperse seeds that are critical to restoring cleared or damaged rainforests. Even bat droppings (called guano) are valuable as a rich natural fertilizer. Guano is a major natural resource worldwide, and, when mined responsibly with bats in mind, it can provide significant economic benefits for landowners and local communities.

Bats are often considered “keystone species” that are essential to some tropical and desert ecosystems. Without bats’ pollination and seed-dispersing services, local ecosystems could gradually collapse as plants fail to provide food and cover for wildlife species near the base of the food chain. Consider the great baobab tree of the East African savannah. It is so critical to the survival of so many wild species that it is often called the “African Tree of Life,” yet it depends almost exclusively on bats for pollination. Without bats, the Tree of Life could die out, threatening one of our planet’s richest ecosystems.

Insectivorous bats are primary predators of night-flying insects, and many very damaging

pests are on their menu. Pregnant or nursing mothers of some bat species will consume up to their body weight in insects each night.

## The Decline of Bats in Massachusetts

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is the descriptive term given to a condition first observed in bats hibernating in a cave near Albany, NY in February 2006. The term comes from the fact that some of the bats with this condition look like they dipped their faces in powdered sugar. The white powdery substance on their faces is a fungus. On closer examination, this white fungus can also be seen on the bare skin of their ears and wings. In 2009, this fungus was described as a newly discovered species and named *Geomyces destructans* to highlight the harm that it is causing to North American bats.

At caves and mines with WNS, some of the bats hibernating over the winter run out of body fat by early February and can be seen flying outside around in the daytime in a desperate attempt to find something to eat. Hibernating bats should have enough fat to last them through the winter so that when they come out in late April and May, there will already be insects to eat. Unfortunately, any bat that runs out of body fat too early or leaves its hibernation site when night-time temperatures are still falling below freezing, is doomed. At the largest Massachusetts bat hibernation site in a mine in Chester, there were about 10,000 bats in early winter 2007/08, but by the end of winter 2008/09 nearly every bat had been killed by WNS; only 14 bats were left.

White-nose Syndrome has spread rapidly and has caused the catastrophic mortality of bats that spend the winter in New England caves

and mines. By 2009, nearly half a million bats had died from WNS in the northeastern states from Vermont south to Virginia. By 2013, over 2 million bats had died at sites from eastern Canada, south to Alabama, and west to Oklahoma. At this point, no one knows how to stop or even slow the continuing spread of WNS, and no one can predict just how far it will eventually go and how many bats will die in the process.

As a result of the devastating mortality that has resulted from WNS in Massachusetts, all four of our bat species that spend the winters in caves or mines have been listed as Endangered. This includes the Little Brown Bat, which used to be the most abundant species of bat in the Commonwealth. The other species are the Northern Long-eared Bat, Small-footed Bat, and Tri-colored Bat (formerly known as the Eastern Pipistrelle). The Indiana Bat was already listed as Endangered as a result of impacts from the pesticide DDT, and was last seen in our mine in Chester in 1939. The only two Massachusetts bats that have summer colonies in houses are the Little Brown Bat and the Big Brown Bat. Most of the Little Brown Bat colonies are now gone, but Big Brown Bats have not been seriously affected because most hibernate in cold, dry attics where the WNS fungus does not grow. The few Big Brown Bats that did hibernate in cold, wet caves and mines have already died. There are also three species of “tree bats” in Massachusetts that migrate south for the winter. These bats, the Red Bat, Hoary Bat, and Silver-haired Bat, are not exposed to the WNS fungus.

## 10 Ways You Can Help!

**1. Be a bat ambassador!**—Learn more about bats, and share what you learn with family or friends. Bats get a bad rap and we need your help dispelling myths about bats and helping people learn about these fascinating and beneficial animals. Spread the word... bats aren't scary!

**2. Reduce pesticides**—All of the bats that live in Massachusetts eat insects - a single bat can eat up to 3,000 insects in a night! Bats are primary predators of night-flying insects, including many pest species. Feed a hungry bat by minimizing the use of pesticides in your lawn and garden.

**3. Promote natural bat habitat**—Around your home leave dead and dying trees where they don't create a hazard ... these are favored roosting sites for bats.

**4. Protect water quality**—Protect streams and wetlands to provide clean water sources and good foraging areas for bats.

**5. Put up a bat house**—Instructions can be found on Bat Conservation International's website at <http://www.batcon.org/resources/getting-involved/bat-houses>

**6. Be a citizen scientist**—To help us better understand WNS, please report observations of bats flying in the winter, (January-March) and let us know if you have a summer colony of bats. If you have a summer colony, please report where it is, what kind of place it is in, and about how many bats are in the colony. Your help is greatly appreciated. You can contact me at [david.paulson@state.ma.us](mailto:david.paulson@state.ma.us).

**7. Avoid disturbing bats**—Stay out of caves and mines where bats are hibernating in winter. If a bat is disturbed during hibernation, it may arouse and become active. This increased activity can lead to starvation if the bat's fat reserves are used up before winter is over.

**8. Safely remove or exclude bats**—If a bat accidentally flies into your home, try to remove

it safely without harming the bat. If bats take up residence in your home, use humane methods to exclude the bats. If you contact a professional to help with bat exclusion, be sure to ask them if they use humane methods. Safe removal methods can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/fish-wildlife-plants/mammals/bats-generic.html>

**9. Help out**—Join an organization that focuses on bat conservation.

<http://www.batcon.org/>

**10. Find out more**—Congratulations, you just completed this by reading this article! 🦇

## Additional Information

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife informational page on the Northern Long-eared Bat can be found at:

<https://goo.gl/o2a5mC>



David Paulson is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor Member, and Silver Beaver Recipient. 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 lodge adviser for Narragansett Council's Tulpe Lodge 102 of the Order of the Arrow.

Bat photo by the US Fish & Wildlife Service

# OK, OK, We're Up! We're Up!

*Memories of Jack Byrne From His Grandson*

BY MIKE JOSEPH

I am the grandson of Jack Byrne, whose amateur videos of Camp activities have been recently posted to the Alumni Association's YouTube account and Facebook page. Since he has been fresh on people's minds, I thought I would share one of my fondest memories of him.

Besides being the unofficial camp videographer and official Cub-o-Ree chairman for many years, another thing he is best remembered for is his time spent as the Cadre Unit leader at Camp. During my brief stint as a Scout leader in Troop 46, I decided to revive his rather unique style of waking up his Scouts at summer camp. Since then, several former and current Staff have asked me how his wake-up call went. This is how I remember it, from my point of view as a young teenager staying an extra week at Camp (thanks Mom and Dad!)

Early in the morning, as you lay there soundly slumbering, your eyes would suddenly shoot wide open as you heard a booming voice exclaim from the center of the site, "When I get up, EVERYBODY gets up! I want to see X (variable number of campers) bright and SMILEY faces in front of the flagpole in FIVE minutes! Panic would rip through you, because you knew what was coming.

Once those five minutes were up, if you were one of the unfortunate individuals who was slow to wake and get dressed, you would be treated to a personal serenade of the song

"Good Morning to You" sung in the worst way possible. Very loudly, and out of tune. It resembled something closer to screeching and hollering than singing.

He would do this at each tent, one by one, until everyone was up and out of their tent. Now, if you were a smart person who had the plea-

coming! Hurry!". Shuffling around the tent, rummaging through my foot locker. "Shoot where is my belt?" Trying to peer out the crack in the tent flap to try to see who was already out there, as the singing grew louder and closer. "Dave, hurry! He's getting closer! I think he's at Randy's tent! Chris and Tom are already out there, that means we're next!"



Cadre, Week 3, 1990. Jack Byrne is in the upper right, and his grandson Michael is in front of him.

And without fail, as my fingers raced to tie my boot laces, my grandfather's grinning face would poke through the tent flap like Jack Nicholson in "The Shining" and I would hear, loudly, "GOOOOOD morrrrrrNIIIIING to YOUUUUUU!!! GOOOOOD morrrrrrNIIIIING to YOUUUUUU!!! We're all in our PLACES with bright shiny FACES! GOOOOOD morrrrrrNIIIIING to YOUUUUUU!!!"

David and I would have our hands covering our ears "OK, OK! We're up! We're up! Please stop for the love of God!". But he wouldn't stop. He would keep on singing until you burst out of the tent and went running to line up with the rest of the campers at the flagpole in the site.

I can't say it was a pleasurable way to wake up in the morning, but it definitely got the blood pumping and it made for some fond memories.

If you have your own memories of this or any other experience with my grandfather, I would love to hear about them. Please leave a comment in the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association Facebook Group. 🦇



Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

*Continued on next page*

## In Memoriam

We've lost several members of the Cachalot family in 2016. Our thoughts go out to their families and friends, including those who knew them best from their times at Cachalot.



**Ronald LeBlanc**, 77, passed away on January 31. Mr. LeBlanc was a Cachalot staffer in the early 1950s, and went on to serve in the Army during the Korean War then to a career as a technician with the DoD. He is survived by his companion,

his sister, three children and their spouses, six grandchildren, and three nieces.



**Roland Deneault**, 95, passed away on May 12. Mr. Deneault was Cachalot's first Camp Director in 1946. A 30-year veteran of the US Air Force, he served in both WWII and the Korean War, then went on to a Pentagon career, retiring as a

Lt. Colonel in 1967. He is survived by five children and nine grandchildren.



**Allan Stiles**, 87, passed away on July 2. A veteran of the US Army and the Korean War, he had a 40 year career with FM Global. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America, and was the Scoutmaster of Troop 26 in Swansea for many years. He

was a member of the Narragansett Council Executive Board, the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association, and a Fellow in the James E. West Society. He received several awards including the Silver Beaver in 1982. He is survived by his wife, three children and their spouses, a sister, three grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

**Bob Burbank**, 82, passed away on October 1 after a brief illness. A veteran of the US Army and the Korean War, Mr. Burbank was active as a Scout and Scouter, and was one of the first campers at Cachalot in the summer of 1946. He had a long career as an electrical engineer with Commonwealth Electric. His survivors include his son, a sister and her husband, and several nieces and nephews.



**Anthony Ferreira**, 60, passed away unexpectedly on October 8. An Eagle Scout, and a Cachalot staffer in the 1970s, Anthony was known as "Hambone" or "Bear" to his friends. He had a long career as a screenprinter. He is survived

by three sisters, a nephew, a great nephew, several cousins, and many friends.



**Douglas Pfeninger**, 81, passed away on November 6. Mr. Pfeninger, an Eagle Scout, was an early camp staffer at Cachalot and a Scouting volunteer, and was well-known locally as an educator and coach in the Dartmouth

Public Schools and as a long-time chairman and member of the Dartmouth Recreation Commission. He is survived by his wife, a son and daughter-in-law, a daughter and son-in-law, and a grandson. ■■■■

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