

Spring 2016



# *The* **Cachalotter**

*News, information, and memories by and for the members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association*

*Turtle Power!*

*Greetings from Cachalot's  
New Camp Director*

*Updates on Projects at Cachalot*

*Alan Novick and Victor Sylvia  
Named to the Wall of Fame*

**Join Us for Homecoming 2016 on July 9<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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Brian Bastarache  
Joe Livingston  
David Paulson

**On the cover:** Andy Novick checking out an Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) that put in an appearance Memorial Day Weekend at Cachalot.

## 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



## What We'll Do Tomorrow

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

In a few weeks, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, we will gather for the Cachalot Homecoming. We will talk with old friends, walk around camp, enjoy lunch, and honor those who have given generously to Cachalot. The annual Cachalot Wall of Fame induction is a wonderful day on which we recognize those who played an important role for the camp that we love. It is so important to know our history. It is also critical to know where we are now so that we can strategically plan our course for the future.

While recently reviewing old Association documents saved on my computer, I read my answers to a survey taken by all members of the Executive Committee. This was part of a strategic planning endeavor in 2011. When asked about our Association goals, I responded, "To build a Wall of Fame," and, "To reach 100 members." Our wall has been built and we have reached 100 registered members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the "where" we now are.

Our Wall of Fame has been built for several years. More than a dozen stainless steel plaques gleam from its timbers in the afternoon sunshine, each bearing the name of an honoree. Its circular terraces are adorned with gardens of native flowers. It is a wonderful and peaceful place to sit. I love watching the butterflies and bumblebees visit the blossoms and listening to the campers enjoying outdoor adventures. Building the Wall of Fame was a wonderful and meaningful goal, the other is no less important.

Not only have we reached 100 registered members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association, we recently set a new record. As of May 2016 our Association had 125 members. That means that 125 individuals have made an official declaration of their love and concern for Cachalot. We are growing. As we have grown so has our capacity to help Cachalot continue to deliver wonderful Scouting programs to the youth of Southeastern New England. We are now even in the position to help guide the formation of a new association—the Camp Norse Alumni Association.

The sincere, customer service-based attitude and diligent efforts of the Cachalot summer camp staff are reflected in the increasing trend in summer camp attendance over the last four years. Their efforts, and the support of the Narragansett Council, have sparked discussion of increasing the number of weeks in the Cachalot summer camp program. Increasing the length of the summer camp season would spark a positive feedback loop with potential to fuel further improvements.

Together we have come far. You can be part of the process. Join us at Homecoming. Call your old camp buddies. Bring them along. Too far away to attend? Donate to the Summer Camp Staff Scholarship or Project Fund. These funds contribute directly to the Cachalot program and facilities.

Soon we will begin planning our next chapter. I challenge you to help us reach 150 members. I challenge us to help create more improvements and such enthusiasm about Cachalot that the council increases the summer camp program from four to six weeks. We have done really well, but unlike those honored on the Cachalot Wall of Fame, we are about what we'll do tomorrow.



## Greetings!

Joe Livingston, Camp Director

Greetings from the new Camp Director! I would like to thank all of you who have given so much to Cachalot over the years. I am very excited to be stepping in as the Camp Director this summer. For those of you who haven't had a chance to meet and chat with me yet, I come from a solid tradition of Boy Scout Resident Camping and Outdoor Program. I worked at Goose Pond Scout Reservation for 12 summers, including positions of Outpost, COPE, Nature, Shooting, and Program Directors. Along the way I have taught at National Camp School 10 times, aiding with the Management, COPE, and Ecology sections. After college I spent 4 years as an Outdoor Educator working for Nature's Classroom and High Trails Outdoor Science School. I am also a Leave No Trace Master Educator.

We have made some changes to the camp schedule this year. First, we are creating a Patrol Programming time in place of the traditional Siesta. Second, we are reducing the number of merit badges that are traditionally offered, allowing us to create open programming time in the afternoon. These changes are based on two ideas: first, we should always have something happening at camp; and second, camp is more than just merit badges. Open program time will allow our staff and resident Senior Patrol Leaders council to be creative in what we offer week-to-week at camp. This open program time could still be utilized to work on requirements for badges, but also to swim, boat, fish, shoot, hike, play games, and bond further as a patrol, troop, and camp community.

... camp is more than just merit badges.

As we move forward with Camp Cachalot we will need to continue to rely on dedicated alumni to help us maintain and showcase the gem that Camp Cachalot is. Feel free to email me at [Joe.Livingston@scouting.org](mailto:Joe.Livingston@scouting.org) with any insights and help that can be provided to make this happen.

I hope to see you all at Camp Cachalot at some point this summer or on the Scouting trail.

Thank you! 🍷



## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
11:00AM - 3:00PM  
Homecoming  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

September 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Labor Day Family Camping Weekend  
Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, MA

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## 2016 So Far...

Photos from the Winter Gathering, Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend, and Beaver Day

Alumni kids posing during Memorial Day Weekend



Alumni kids checking out their recovered time capsule during Memorial Day Weekend



Outgoing Narragansett Council President George Shuster speaking at our Winter Gathering



Drilling out anchor bolt holes at Beaver Day. Mike approves!

Bob Pomfret returning from a sunset fishing expedition with some of the alumni kids at Memorial Day



Scott Pomfret made a friend

## Wild Cachalot: Turtle Power!

The Northern Red-Bellied Cooter

BY DAVID PAULSON

Growing up in the 1980s, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles were a big part of my childhood. That, combined with a passion for the outdoors, led me to a career in wildlife biology; specifically, herpetology (study of reptiles and amphibians). How might this relate to Scouting and Camp Cachalot? By the end of this article you will understand the many connections between them.

We all know that Camp Cachalot is a special place. In past editions of *Wild Cachalot* I have written about the biodiversity of camp. There are not too many places in the United States, let alone in eastern Massachusetts where you can find numerous globally rare plants and animals in one location. In this edition of *Wild Cachalot* we will focus on the Northern Red-Bellied Cooter (*Pseudemys Rubriventris*).



Northern Red-Bellied Cooter, View of Plastron

The Northern Red-Bellied Cooter is a large basking turtle that is named for its reddish belly or plastron (bottom shell). The top shell or carapace can be olive to black in coloration, with black limbs and head. This species is listed as Endangered under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as well as the Federal Endangered Species Act. In New England it is only found in Plymouth County.

This species can reach over 13 inches in length and can weigh over 12 pounds. Second only to the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), this is one of the largest freshwater turtle species in the state. Its distribu-

tion within Plymouth County is also restricted. They are often associated with coastal plain ponds, although they have been documented in reservoirs, cranberry bogs, larger lakes and rivers. The greater Myles Standish Area, including observations at Camp Cachalot and Camp Norse, is center of this species' range in Massachusetts.

The Northern Red Bellied Cooter spends most of its time basking on logs, rocks, debris, floating vegetative mats, and man-made rafts. This species primarily eats aquatic vegetation, however, young have been documented eating crayfish and other invertebrates.

Along with a limited distribution, habitat loss and nest predation are the primary threats to this species. It takes 13-20 years for a single female to reach maturity and with limited nesting habitat, predators can key in on their nests for a quick meal. In an effort to restore and conserve this species, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife along with conservation partners (including the Bristol Agricultural High School) have protected nest sites with predator guards, and raise newly hatched turtles in warm/captive environments throughout the winter to increase their survivorship. Perhaps one day Five Mile Pond will be a restoration site for this globally rare species.

So what—we have a globally rare turtle at camp. How does this relate to the Scouting program? This species along with the others that make up the biodiversity of camp allows our Scouts an opportunity to explore the natural world around them and develop a greater appreciation for the place we love. The relationship to Scouting goes beyond the summer camp program.

A turtle is also the name and totem of the local Order of the Arrow organization, Tulpe Lodge, for the Narragansett Council. Tulpe translates to "turtle" in Lenape. Lenape is the Native American tribe that the Order of the Arrow's customs and traditions are based. The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's national honor society. Many of you are or have been

A Northern Red-Bellied Cooter eyeing the boathouse



involved in the Order. As the lodge adviser for Tulpe Lodge, I hope that you can continue to be an active member or consider joining us again. Camp is an important place for the Order of the Arrow and I hope that we can work together to support and improve Camp Cachalot as well as the other camps of the Narragansett Council.

The next time you are enjoying the ponds of camp, keep an eye out for this rare and unique turtle. Perhaps you will now have a greater appreciation for this species and what it means to camp and the Order of the Arrow. Personally, the 1980s and current day me are pretty excited! 🐢



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.

### Additional Information

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Data Sheet for the Northern Red-Bellied Cooter can be found at:

<http://goo.gl/d6jR4K>

Article photos are of a Northern Red-Bellied Cooter found in Five Mile Pond in spring of 2014, and are courtesy of Brian Bastarache.

Editor's Note: for those who weren't aware, the Narragansett Council recently merged with the former Annawon Council, which also resulted in the merger of Narragansett's Abnaki Lodge 102 (itself the end result of the mergers of Noquochoke, Agawam, Neemat, and Wincheck Lodges) and Annawon's Tulpe Lodge 245 into a new Lodge that retained Tulpe's name and Abnaki's number, with the turtle as its totem. Tulpe Lodge can be found online at [www.tulpelodge.com](http://www.tulpelodge.com), @tulpelodge on both Twitter and Instagram, on Facebook as "Tulpe Lodge 102", and can be reached via electronic mail at:

[tulpelodge@gmail.com](mailto:tulpelodge@gmail.com)



# There's No Place Like Homecoming

Our Annual Event and Seventh Wall of Fame Induction Takes Place on July 9<sup>th</sup>

Is there anything better than a summer day out at camp with friends? We certainly don't think so! We hope all our friends will be able to join us on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for our annual Alumni Homecoming out at Cachalot, where we'll be sharing some food and some memories, talking about where the Association's been and where it's going, and honoring two Cachalot Scouters as we induct our seventh class of Wall of Fame members.

As usual, we will start our day with a cookout by Noquochoke Lodge across from Tom Cullen Field. We'd encourage you to pop into the building and check out some of the signs salvaged from Camp Noquochoke, which were recently installed as part of cleaning up the space for more year-round use, while you grab a burger and chat with old camp friends. We'll conduct a bit of Alumni business while we're at it, and give everyone an update on what the Association has been up to since we last met, get an update from our new Camp Director on this year's summer camp season, and talk a bit about our plans for the 2016-2017 year.

At about 1:30PM, we'll move the festivities over to the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field, the site of the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame, to induct our newest honorees, Alan Novick and Victor Sylvia. Alan and Vic both have long histories at Cachalot, with many contributions between them, both bringing new programs to camp and in providing service in a variety of ways. A big part of our purpose as an Association is to remember Cachalot's history, and the history of Cachalot is shaped by people like Alan and

Victor—we hope you'll help us honor their contributions, and congratulate them along with us.

While we'll have seating set up by the Wall for our honorees and their families, if you'd like to be able to sit down during the ceremony we strongly suggest bringing along a camp chair for yourself. The ceremony typically runs between thirty minutes and an hour. Camp will remain open after the induction ceremony until 5:00PM. If you'd like to have a look around but don't quite remember the way, members of the Alumni Association will be on-hand to help you find your old haunts.

If you do plan to join us for lunch, we'd appreciate an RSVP letting us know how many will be partaking, either via our web site, email, or on the event's page in our Facebook group, so we can plan amounts accordingly. In addition, we'll also have a selection of Alumni Association merchandise available for sale, including polo shirts, T-shirts, and photo prints, and the camp's Trading Post will likely also be open for some portion of the day.

Please spread the word! Like all of our other events, Homecoming is open to members and non-members alike, and we'd love to see other old friends who haven't yet found the time to join our Association!

## About This Year's Honorees



**Alan Novick** started in Scouting at the age of 11 as a member of Troop 8 in New Bedford, where he earned his Eagle Scout award with one bronze palm. He attended National Camp School at Schiff, served as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 24 in Fall River, and for a troop in Cambridge, MA while a college student.

Alan has loved Cachalot since he was a kid, and was one of the Scouts at its first summer camp in 1946. Cachalot is in his blood. He went from camper to Waterfront Director, and eventually a member of the Council Executive Board, serving for a time as its president.

While serving as Waterfront Director, Alan brought in the Red Cross system of swimming achievement awards, and also ran an American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor program. He served as a merit badge counselor for the Waterfront-related merit badges, the Citizenship merit badges, and for Fishing merit badge for many decades after.

After completing law school, he went on to join the Council Executive Board. One of his most significant actions during his tenure

on the board occurred in 1977, when a cash-strapped, recently-merged Moby Dick Council put forth a plan to sell Camp Cachalot. Alan was the principal supporter on the board of the "Save Our Camps" committee, and was responsible for organizing fund-raising drives and the establishment of an Irrevocable Trust to bring the council out of the red and prevent the sale. He was instrumental in persuading philanthropist Gratia "Topsy" Montgomery of Round Hill in Dartmouth to donate \$100,000 to that Trust, an amount which ultimately prevented the sale of Cachalot. He went on to become the President of the Council, and his term was one of fiscal responsibility.

Alan is part of a proud tradition of Scouting in the Novick family. His father, Joe, and father-in-law, Raphael Mutterperl, were among the first campers at Cachalot; his sons and grandsons were involved in Scouting as well, with his son Andy following in his footsteps as Waterfront Director and son Jimmy serving as Nature Director.



**Vic Sylvia's** first visit to camp was as a Scout in Troop 11 New Bedford, in 1958—an activity at which he helped clear brush from an area by the lagoon that is now home to a bench bearing his name. With the exception of time away

mostly spent in the service of his country, he's been a constant source of support to Cachalot and a mentor, inspiration, and "Pa" to many of the young (and now not-so-young) men and women who think of Cachalot as their home away from home. He continues to this day as a frequent volunteer out at Cachalot, helping with many projects around camp, and as an advocate for Cachalot as a founding member and past chairman of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association.

In his 58 years of involvement with camp, Vic has served in a wide variety of roles, providing both new programs enjoyed by hundreds if not thousands of Scouts over the years, and service as a leader of multiple district and council level committees and as a volunteer getting things done at camp. His dedication to his Scouts and Scouting, both at the unit level and elsewhere, is all the more impressive given that he was also a dedicated family man with three daughters, and no children in Boy Scouting himself, with the only reward sought being the chance to cast a line into Five Mile at the end of the day.

As a unit leader, he's helped guide nearly a dozen Scouts to their Eagle Award, and Scouts who had benefited from his time as Scoutmaster were well-represented as senior members of Cachalot's Summer Camp staff

for nearly two decades, and in leadership roles in Neemat Lodge, including two Lodge Chiefs. A substantial number of the founding committee of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association were also Vic's Scouts.

In 1981, Vic originated the Klondike Derby with Wall of Famer Bill Joyce. This popular event continues to this day. He's served as chair or co-chair of the Klondike 8 times since its founding (meaning that as of Klondike XXXVI this past January, he's been the chair or co-chair of 1/5<sup>th</sup> of all Klondike Derbies—and he's still out there most years helping the Alumni Association run the warming station.) The following year, he chaired the first of three "Catch-a-Lot" Fishing Derbies out at Cachalot (and followed that up by chairing the other two as well, in 1992 and 2002.) He's chaired or served on staff of numerous other District and Council camporees at camp. One of the frequent themes of a Vic-organized event is that it's not just a weekend, it's a program that gives units enough material that they could plan several months worth of troop program to prepare for the event.

He's also been an active adviser to the Order of the Arrow, earning his Vigil Honor as an adult. His involvement with the Lodge included stints as the co-adviser to the Ceremonies Committee, and one of the co-advisers of the original Spring Into Scouting event for Webelos. Spring Into Scouting grew out of the

combination of Vic's interest in the "Webelos Woods" program and the Lodge leadership's interest in helping bridge Webelos into Boy Scouting.

Beyond his work at the unit level and in helping provide program at Cachalot, Vic has been a long-time member of many District and Council committees, including the Executive Boards of both Moby Dick and Narragansett Councils. Much of that time has been spent on or chairing the Cachalot and Wamsutta District Committee, Activities Committee, and especially the Camping and Properties Committee. He was also a founding member and Boy Scout Camping Chair for the Southeastern Massachusetts Camping Association (SEMCA), which brought Annawon and Cape & Islands Council Scouts to Cachalot for Boy Scout summer camp.

During his tenure as the chairman of the Camping and Properties Committee, he helped secure funds from the Magee Foundation for: 40 tents with platforms & cradles; a large storage expansion for the kitchen at Prescott Hall; an open air seating area at Prescott Hall; handicap access to the old shower house, health lodge, and campsites; new showers in sites 5 and 8 and at Noquochoke Lodge; re-roofing the Cook's Cabin; winterizing the duplex; 25 mountain bikes; 9 canoes; 6 rowboats; 4 sailboats; 4 kayaks; a basketball court; lighting

for Tom Cullen Field; expanding the waterfront including a new tower and the current Follansbee docking system; and the staff cabins of Magee Village. He also worked with multiple local organizations including Mass Maritime, Mass Junior Conservation Camp, Wareham Public Schools, Plymouth Bay Girl Scouts, and New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical School to bring other revenue into Cachalot, increasing the money from rentals at camp by outside organizations from \$600 to \$10,000.

He also served on the committee that secured Cachalot's protection from development with a Conservation Restriction, an action that added \$1M to Cachalot's endowment, prevents the sale of the camp for any purpose other than to be used as a youth summer camp, and brings much-needed forestry management of parts of the property from state agencies.

Beyond all his program and committee contributions, he's also not afraid to swing a hammer or sling a paintbrush. The projects he's volunteered on have included renovations to many of the buildings at camp including the 21 Club, Phillips House, Dining Hall, and Magee Village. Since his retirement several years ago, he also heads out to camp several times a month doing numerous small projects, many of which involve a fresh coat of paint wherever one is needed. 🪵

## Homecoming 2016 Information

### Where & When

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
12:00PM-5:00PM

Cachalot Scout Reservation  
Plymouth, Massachusetts

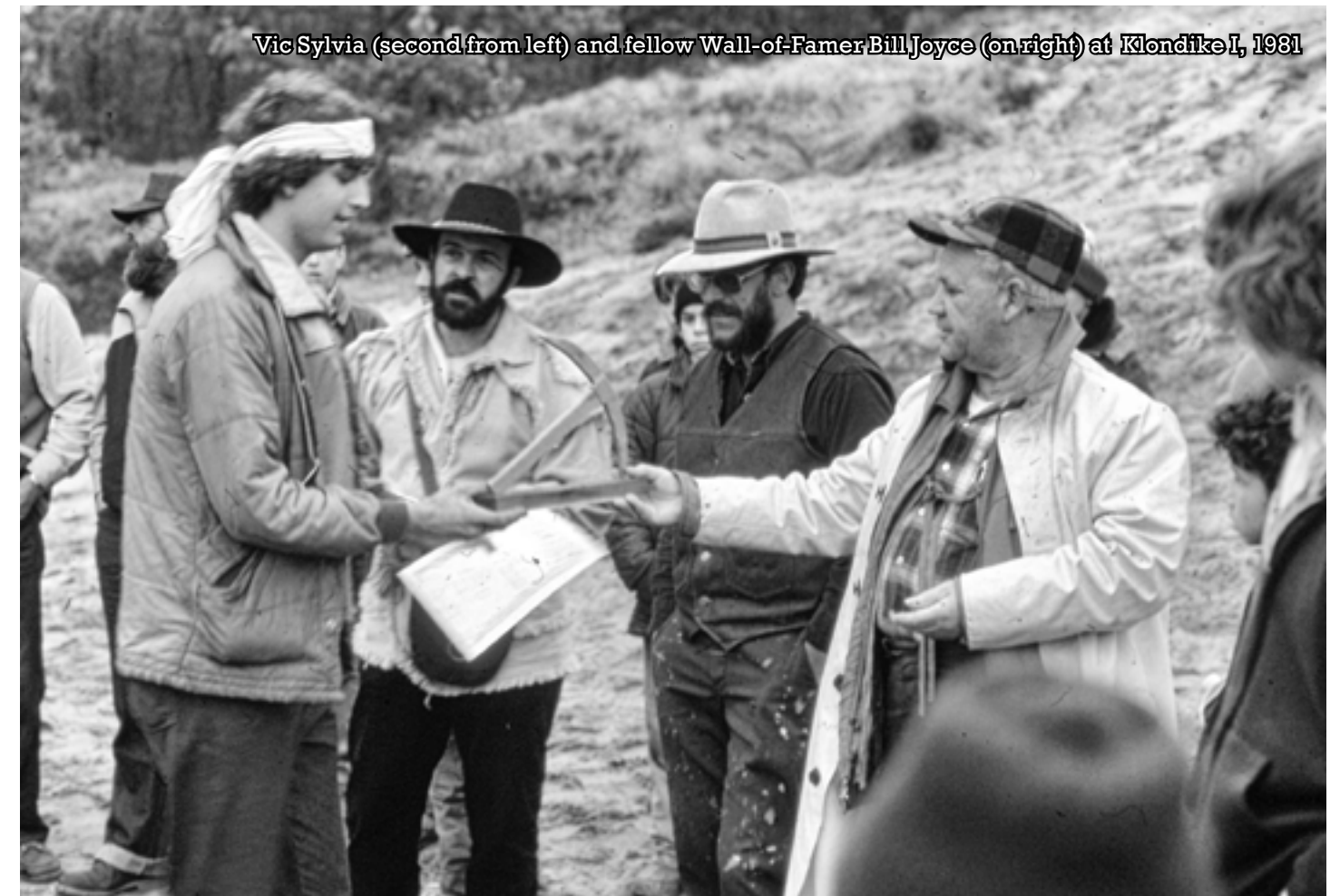
### More Info

Free admission for members  
and non-members

\$5 suggested donation for lunch

Send email to  
homecoming@cachalotalumni.org  
or visit  
www.cachalotalumni.org  
for additional information  
or to RSVP

Vic Sylvia (second from left) and fellow Wall-of-Famer Bill Joyce (on right) at Klondike I, 1981



# Making a Difference at Cachalot

As we've been doing for several years now, the Association has tried to help out the Summer Camp program with program and supply purchases. We coordinate with the council to see what their needs are for camp in a given summer, and although our usual emphasis is on providing program supplies, this year, the Council's biggest need was help replacing some of the aging supply of tents. Since we all know how important a decent tent is to a good night's sleep at camp, we opted to pitch in for five brand-new canvas tents for camp, matching the five that the Council purchased for the summer. The canvas tents we use at Cachalot don't come cheap, at approximately \$550 each, but if well cared for will see many summers of use.

The monies for these tents comes out of the Association's Project Fund, which comes from donations from our members. Many thanks to those of you have contributed to the fund. For anyone interested in making a donation themselves, donations can be made at any Association event, or via our web site at:

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/projectfund>

Individuals making donations of \$100 or more are eligible to receive a limited-edition numbered print of Cachalot's waterfront circa 1992, featuring the old Andrew Jackson waterfront tower, while supplies last.

In addition to our annual Project, volunteers from the Association have been working on several projects out at Cachalot over the past year, under the direction of our Projects chairman, Fred Barreiros. As of our Beaver Day weekend, our members have cut and cleared dead trees adjacent to the Dining Hall, re-decked many tent platforms, cleared and prepped the basketball court for line painting, prefabricated the walls and roof trusses to replace the outhouses behind Cabins 1 & 2, and have assembled the exterior structure and roof framing of one of those outhouses on-site. More work is planned over the next few weeks to complete the outhouses so they'll be ready for year-round use beginning in the fall.

There's still a lot on our docket for the year, and if you're able to lend a hand, the full list of projects can be found on our web site at:

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/projects>

Some examples from the current list:

- Dining Hall—Replace gutter with seamless gutter. Materials already on-hand.
- Noquochoke Lodge—Repair the front and rear fascia. Sand and paint posts. Patch light holes on fascia above showers. Remove louvered door from Handicraft side of

utility room and put it on the hallway side.

- Council Ring—Brace and repaint stage wall. Re-plumb and re-align bench posts. Replace some benches.
- Old Well House—Replace top plate sections. Re-shingle. Replace some trim. Materials already on-hand.
- Adirondacks Latrine (Baden-Powell)—put up siding on gables
- Latrine near Chapel—put up siding on gables
- Welcome Center—Finish south side wall exterior. Some wiring will need to be rerouted first. Materials already on-hand.
- Noquochoke Lodge Exterior—redo two exterior shadow boxes

If you'd like to help out, you can always coordinate with Fred via email at [projects@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:projects@cachalotalumni.org) (he'll help coordinate with our Ranger, so that you don't arrive to a locked gate at camp and so that materials are available when you are.) Many of the folks who have been helping out so far have been coordinating online via our Facebook group as well, and you should feel free to join in those discussions, too. 🚧

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