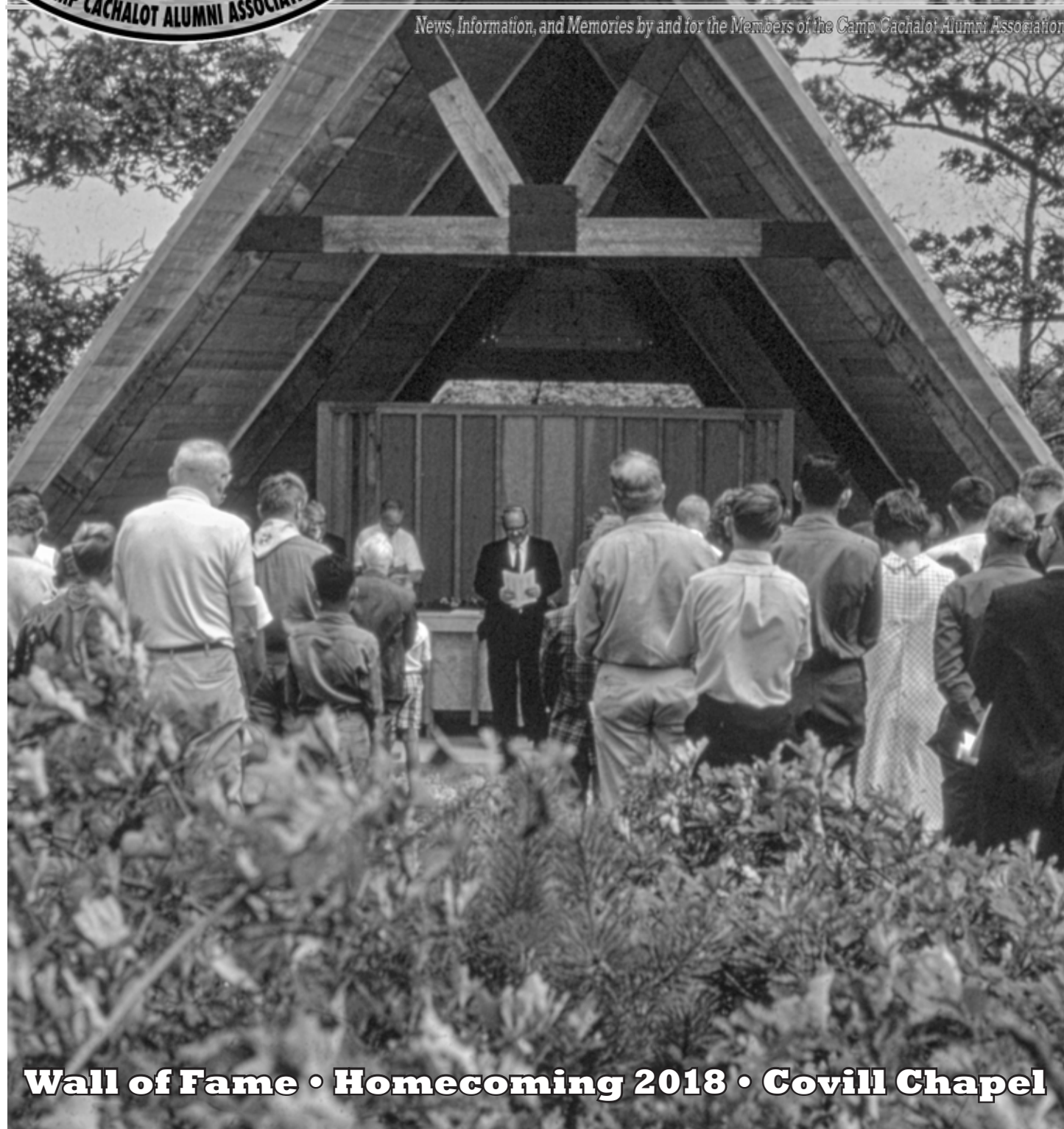


Spring 2018



The Cachaletter

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



Wall of Fame • Homecoming 2018 • Covill Chapel

The Cachaletter

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The Cachaletter is the newsletter of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association. It is published twice annually: once in the spring and once in the fall, by the Communications Committee.

Questions or other feedback related to *The Cachaletter* can be sent via email to cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org.

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On the cover: A scene from the dedication of the Raymond F. Covill Memorial Chapel, July 28, 1968. (Archive Photo)

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



We Are Cachalot

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

This is the first time that I have ever felt that summer was a sad season. 2018 is the first summer without summer camp at Cachalot. We have sustained a tremendous blow, but we (Association members and all who love Cachalot) are picking ourselves up, dusting ourselves off and heeding the call to action. Cachalot has been abuzz for several months.

2018 began with an outstanding Klondike Derby. It was great to see an event that included shooting sports and tomahawk throwing. These exciting events take tremendous time and patience, as safety is always paramount. The event staff was on the ball and seemingly tireless. The Klondike Derby was well-attended and very well run. A derby of champions is now in the works for 2019 at Cachalot. Our thanks go out to Paul Dupont, his event staff, and to Troop 24 of New Bedford for acting as his service unit.

**We are picking
ourselves up,
dusting ourselves
off, and heeding
the call to action.**

Cachalot heralded spring with the 2018 Highland Games. More than 300 Scouts and Scouters, many clad in kilts, participated in more than a dozen Highland-inspired events. The events included caber tossing, a haggis hunt, Cachalot golf, and sheep hoisting. (See "Boy Scouts and Bagpipes" on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/E3m6ftz2jAM> for some additional coverage.) The 2019 Cachalot Highland Games is already in the works. Our Highland Chieftain, Kilted Kevin Thompson, plans to include catapults next year. Of course, FULL-SIZED catapults! This is Cachalot. (No sheep were harmed during this event.)

Another new Cachalot event is coming this summer – the Summer Event at Cachalot (SEAC) 2018., which will take place August 17 through 19. This weekend event will include many of the best parts of a week of summer camp—shooting sports, meals in the dining hall, live animals, and the waterfront will be open. See the Summer Event at Cachalot event on the Narragansett Council calendar to register before all spaces are filled! Don't miss out on a little of that good ol' summer camp experience.

Cachalot is now available to units for summer weekend camping. Now your unit can spend a summer weekend on the shores of the crystal-clear Cachalot ponds. That's ready-made program and bliss. Contact the council office for more information about summer weekend reservations at Cachalot.

continued on next page



Cachalot Campmaster (and Association Chairman) Brian Bastarache shows Scouts an Eastern Box Turtle during a live turtle program as part of the Campmaster weekend program pilot in May



Heart of the Campsite

Joe Livingston, Alumni Council Liaison

The first week of June has been the same for me for the past ten years: head down to National Camp School and help train a new batch of Scouts to become either COPE Directors or Program Directors, depending on the year. This year was twenty-six new Program Directors and two Program Directors being re-certified. One of the presentations is entitled "The Heart of the Campsite." It goes into depth on how the tent and the Scouts' troop is the true heartbeat of any camp. Throughout this winter and spring seeing the Klondike Derby, Highland Games, countless weekend camp-outs, and as we look forward to our summer event, the heart of the campsite is beating strong at Cachalot. Scouts and leaders are enjoying the programs that are offered, whether it is caber tossing during the Highland Games, or watching the stars dance over Five Mile during a troop camp-out. With Homecoming just around the corner it will be an opportunity for us as Alumni to enjoy that same heartbeat of camp. I look forward to seeing many of you around Five Mile again soon. Thank you for your continued support of Scouting. 🐾



Colum Cille perform at the 2018 Cachalot Highland Games closing campfire (Photo courtesy the Southeast Service Area)

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Cachalot weekends have been busy. Nearly 200 people were in camp on my recent Campmaster weekend. The Cachalot Campmaster Corps have begun piloting Saturday programs for camping units. The early efforts have been quite well-received. The Alumni Association is working closely with the Cachalot Campmaster Corps and Ranger Karrie to track the number of Scouts and Scouters using Cachalot each weekend.

This usage data, and those from large program events, such as SEAC, the Klondike Derby and Highland Games, are vital in order to illustrate the value of Cachalot as a BSA program facility. We are on track to have more than 2,000 Scouts and Scouters using Cachalot in 2018. Cachalot will remain vital and relevant as long as high interest and use are maintained. This is shaping up to be a great first year—well, as great as it can be without summer camp—but this effort must be sustained.

This is about the survival of Cachalot. We should be proud and encourage by what we have accomplished this year. However, we cannot ever give up. We can never become complacent. We must be creative. We must each do our part. We are Cachalot. 🐾

Cachalot without a summer camp is unacceptable. We are working to bring about its return. Join us for the 2018 Cachalot Homecoming to learn about and (hopefully) participate in our newest summer camp restoration effort.

2018 Cachalot Alumni Events

July 7th, 2018

12:00PM - 5:00PM

Homecoming 2018

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

August 31st through September 3rd, 2018

Labor Day

Family Camping Weekend

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

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Scenes from



m Cachalot



It was a busy (and well-attended) first half of 2018 out at Cachalot, with the Klondike Derby, Cachalot's first Highland Games camporee, and our annual Memorial Day Family Camping Weekend. The Association and our members were on-hand at all of these events, both helping to run the events (and in the case of many of our youth members, as participants and competitors.) We also did a quick service project at our Memorial Day event, helping to take sailboats and rowboats out of winter storage for use at August's Summer Event at Cachalot (SEAC).

On these pages you'll find a selection of photographs from all of those events. Clockwise from top left: smoke curls up from the fireboard as two Scouts work to light a fire by friction with a bow drill at the Klondike Derby in January; Governor Paul Dupont in his Klondike garb; Scouts at the Highland Games ham it up for the camera; alumni kid Bret and

Andy Novick watch Andy's water fire get going at our Memorial Day Family Camping event; alumni kids Quinn and Sebastian help transport rowboats from the Boathouse to the waterfront at our Memorial Day event; our Association Vice-Chair Tim Connick models his kilt at the Highland Games camporee in March; Scot Pomfret serves as a landing zone for a wounded butterfly at our Memorial Day Weekend event; Mike Joseph and alumni kid Theo take in some kayaking on Five Mile Pond over Memorial Day Weekend; and the members of Venture Crew 24 of New Bedford show off their tartan and their clan flag at the Highland Games camporee.

Photos from the Klondike Derby and our Memorial Day Weekend family camping are all courtesy Dennis Wilkinson; the photos from the Highland Games are courtesy Cachalot's Ranger, Karrie Dumais. 🐾



Homecoming '18: Recognizing and Rededicating

Join us as we welcome our newest Wall-of-Famer and mark the 50th year of the Covill Memorial Chapel

Homecoming will take place on Saturday, July 7th, 2018, from noon until 5:00PM. As always, we'll begin the day with a cookout down by the pine grove across from Tom Cullen Field. 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 since we last met, and give you some updates on our 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 to welcome our honoree.

This year, immediately after the Wall of Fame induction ceremony, we will be marking the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Raymond Covill Memorial Chapel, at the chapel itself. The Covill Chapel was completed in 1968, and dedicated in memory of Raymond F. Covill, a long-time Scouter who was instrumental in the early days of Camp Cachalot. We will be joined by Fr. Michael Racine and Rev. Barbara Jean, who will help us to rededicate the chapel and kick off its next 50 years. For more information on Mr. Covill and the Covill Chapel, please see this issue's *A Brief History Of...* column on the adjacent page.

We will coordinate transportation to the chapel for any attendee who isn't capable of walking the route. If you think you might require a ride yourself, please make a note of it in your RSVP.

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 2018 Honoree

Our sole honoree in our ninth class of Wall of Fame inductees is an organization whose faculty and students have provided years of service on many fronts at Camp Cachalot.

Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and its students have been a quiet service partner of Camp Cachalot for many years, going back at least as far as the restoration period following "The Fire" in 1964.

In the first few years after the fire, students and instructors at the school assisted in the construction of the "storage building" (the Maintenance Shed), the cook's cabin, and on kitchen equipment, doors, and miscellaneous other building parts, along with 80 tent cradles and 24 platform sections for use in campsites. They also have a connection

to the Covill Chapel, having produced the plan copies that were made available to contractors bidding on that project. Letters from Scout Executive Ken Liberty in 1969 thank the school for assistance building the prefab trusses for the ranger cabin, 10 tables with benches for the dining hall, and many other good turns performed for Scouting over the years.

The school also did the pre-cutting for, and partial prefabrication of the new Adirondacks in 1970, constructed many picnic tables in the early 1980s and again after the Trading Post burned down taking a lot of picnic tables with it in 1987. They did work on the Health Lodge expansion in the late 1980s, and built new tables for use in the 21 Club in the same time frame.

More recently, students at the school have helped repair the "Ammo Carrier" (camp's long-serving and recently retired military surplus M715 truck) and have been doing the cutting and engraving of the steel plaques for the Wall of Fame itself.

With this long history of service, the school, representing its faculty and students, has been recognized by our members with a spot on the Wall of Fame.

Registration

Homecoming is, as always, free to attend and open to members and non-members alike. We do ask that if you RSVP if you plan to join us for lunch so that we can have enough food on-hand. A \$5 donation to help cover the cost of lunch is optional but greatly appreciated. You may arrive any time after 11:00AM, and lunch and our program will both begin at 12:00PM. Please RSVP via our web site or via the event in the Association's Facebook group. We hope to see you all out at "the place we know so well!" 🐾

Homecoming 2018 Information

Where & When

July 7th, 2018
12:00PM-5:00PM

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, Massachusetts

More Info

Free Admission for members
and non-members

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

Agenda Includes

Cookout Lunch
(\$5 donation suggested)

Alumni Association
Semiannual Meeting

2018 Wall of Fame
Induction Ceremony

Rededication of the
Raymond F. Covill
Memorial Chapel



A Brief History Of...

The Raymond F. Covill All-Faiths Memorial Chapel

The story of the Covill Chapel begins with "The Fire."

Prior to the fire of 1964, Cachalot had no dedicated chapel. As the Scouting community came to grips with the damage to camp and began to plot its course forward, a Restoration Committee was formed and tasked with the recovery of camp. Led by future Wall-of-Famer John Humphreys, this committee coordinated both reconstruction and replanting after the fire. Their first building plan, in August of 1964, called for multiple new structures—but no chapel. Apparently, that decision did not sit well with the members of the committee, who in March of 1965 "emphatically requested that some modest arrangements be made for a chapel", adding a \$1,000 line item to the building plan.

As the council conducted its capital campaign to raise the funds for reconstruction, a "Restore Camp Cachalot" flyer went out circa 1966. Several buildings were listed with donation amounts to secure memorial naming for those buildings (although the flyer was clear that the amounts did not represent the cost of construction.) A chapel was one of the buildings on that list, with \$2,000 requested for the privilege of naming the building. On the map that accompanied the flyer, the site for the chapel was shown as the northern end of Tom Cullen Field, where the archery pavilion stands today.

The committee gave approval in January of 1966 to request the council allocate funds for architects fees for several structures, including the chapel. The results of this request were not recorded in the minutes we have available, but by September 1966, Ray Covill and his sister Blenda had come forward to donate funds in their father's memory to support the construction. He, Mr. Humphreys, and the Council President Alex Stewart met to discuss the chapel plan and siting. Several locations were considered, on both sides of Five Mile Pond. The former "Nob Hill" Site 1 was selected for having the least required site preparation, easy access to construction equipment, and a location that was simultaneously near to the dining hall while being away from other major activity centers.

The initial plans for the chapel were completed at New Bedford Vocational School, with Scouter and local builder Ronald Loranger calculating a rough estimate of \$6,000 to build the structure, thinking that using a non-union contractor might reduce the cost to \$5,000. The plans were also shown to three members of the local religious community: Fr. O'Connell of St. Lawrence Church, Rev. Adams of the Interchurch Council, and Rabbi Glick of Tifereth Israel Synagogue for their comments. The minutes note that there was some question about the congregation facing

east to make the facility suitable for those of the Jewish faith, and while no resolution to the question is recorded, the actual site does face predominantly eastward. The committee directed Chairman Humphreys to request a \$5,000 allocation from the Executive Committee for construction, but not seating or landscaping, which was approved.

The first finished plans were sent out to bid in August of 1967 with ads in four local newspapers. Six contractors submitted bids, but unfortunately all of them came in significantly over the \$5,000 budget for the project and were rejected. To proceed, Chairman Humphreys spoke to the three low bidders for their suggestions on how to bring the project in under budget. Two new variants of the plan were drawn up. "Plan 2" was very close to the original plan, but scaled down slightly and incorporating more economic material choices. "Plan 3" simplified the project even further, changing the roof to one of constant height. The committee felt that "Plan 3" was too stark and too far removed from the plan that the Covills had agreed to, so a decision was made to seek bids on "Plan 2." The contract was won by Ralph A. Sampson of Hanson, with a bid of \$3,934.77. The contract was executed on March 18, 1968, with Mr. Sampson to begin construction as soon as the main road to camp became passable, expected to be April 15. One of the factors in Mr. Sampson's low bid was a provision for him to be able to stay in camp during construction, and he was allowed the use of the Phillips House until June 22 (although he would be on

the hook for any long-distance calls and was not to have "any wild parties" while using the facilities.)

Construction was completed on time, with future Wall-of-Famer Ed Spencer taking on the responsibility of landscaping the area before the dedication ceremony, which was held on July 28. William Rogers, the Chairman of the Camping and Activities Committee, acted as master of ceremonies. A formal rededication of the camp itself was part of the program, with John Humphreys speaking about the history of the camp and conducting the rededication. Francis Quinn, who had worked with Raymond F. Covill to acquire Cachalot, dedicated the chapel in Mr. Covill's memory and unveiled the plaque. Rabbi Glick, Reverend Adams, and Father Levesque contributed the prayers for the service. We have several photos of the dedication in our archive, and it was a standing room only affair.

Shortly after the dedication, the camp had a visit from Deputy Regional Scout Executive Roger Sproul, who liked the new chapel enough that he recommended the plans be contributed to the National Engineering Service to share with other councils and camps.

In the years since, the chapel has undergone repairs several times, but is fundamentally unchanged. It's currently in excellent condition, and we hope to see it's rededication at Homecoming be a standing-room-only event once again! 🐼

Dedicated to...

Raymond Francis Covill (1901-1958) was a founding partner of Humphrey, Covill, and Coleman Insurance in New Bedford. The chapel was donated to camp in his memory by his children, Raymond A. and Blenda Covill, with a plaque calling him "a pioneer in the founding and development of Camp Cachalot". This is a perfect description.

Mr. Covill served as a member of the Cachalot Council's executive board, and (along with Francis Quinn, Raph Mutterperl, William O'Rourke, and Roger Titus) was one of the men who located the property that would become Camp Cachalot and negotiated its purchase from the Five Mile Corporation. In the years after Cachalot was purchased, he was one of the many volunteers who helped establish the early facilities of the camp.

In addition to his work with local Scouting, he was involved in local town government, serving on the Civilian Defense committee



in Fairhaven during the Second World War, and was a member of the George H. Taber Masonic Lodge.

He is pictured here (on the right) with his business partner, Ernest Humphrey.

In Memoriam



Morel "Moe" Menard was a long-time Scoutmaster in Fall River going back to Camp Noquochoke, and an adviser with both Noquochoke Lodge and Neemat Lodge.

Mr. Menard was the adviser to the Neemat Lodge dance team and ceremonies team for most of the 1980s, and he had a powerful interest in the history and culture of Native Americans, always stressing the importance of being accurate, respectful to that culture, and avoiding using parts of the culture and symbology that were religious in nature. He guided youth in putting together regalia and learning dances and songs. He was also involved with the American Indianist Society and the Laconia Indian Historical Association, and often hosted members of the dance and ceremonies teams at their annual Pow-Wow events in Spencer, MA and Laconia, NH.

He is survived by his wife Anita; six children: Susan Parker and her husband Henry, Morel Jr., Michelle Wray, Phillip and his wife Barbara, Paul, and Nicole Lipeles and her husband Brett, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



Charlie Prefontaine was a staffer in the mid-1960s who, along with his brother Dennis and his father Fred, was an active participant in the cleanup and restoration of Cachalot after the fire of 1964. He was the first

Trading Post manager of the trading post built after the fire (which stood where Noquochoke Lodge stands today.)

He is survived by his wife Nancy, his brother Dennis and his wife Kathy, his former wife Linda and their four children Douglas, Timothy and his wife Almy, Christopher, and Nicole O'Leary and her husband Pat, ten grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.



Conrad Rousseau was a long-time leader and Scoutmaster with Troop 16 Swansea, a Silver Beaver recipient, an adviser to the Order of the Arrow, and a charter member of our Association. His donations

of over 450 slides and numerous documents really helped to kick-start our Association's

archives in our early years, and many of our members knew Conrad through Wood Badge, summer camp, Ranger camp, Neemat Lodge, and Scouting in general.

He is survived by his wife Karen, his daughter Lynn, his sons Marc and Craig, five grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.



Edwin Spencer was a local Scout and Scouter involved with both Camp Noquochoke and Camp Cachalot, and was recognized in 2014 for his work on the Conservation and Restoration committees,

along with many other contributions to Cachalot, with a spot on the Wall of Fame. He was responsible for significant replanting at Cachalot after "The Fire", as well as developing campsite rotation plans and educating Scouts about fire safety in their tents sites. This work led to the Council receiving a Conservation Award from the USDA. 🐿️

If you learn of the passing of a member of Cachalot's extended family, please let us know via email at info@cachalotalumni.org

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