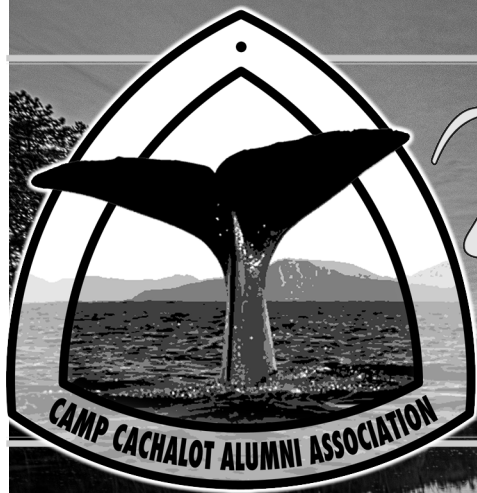


Fall and Winter 2019



The **Cachalotter**

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



Year in Review • Winter Gathering 2020 • Membership

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.

Editor

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

Contributors

Brian Bastarache
Daryl Sylvia

On the cover: A rowboat at rest on the waterfront of Five Mile Pond at an Alumni Family Weekend.

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:

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



The Good of Scouting

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

Scouting has been good to me. It has most likely been good to you as well. That's why you are reading this now. I was one of the lucky Scouts that had a great Scoutmaster, Al Hall. Our troop was active. We camped at least once each month. The summer was our slow time, but we always went to summer camp and occasionally had a big summer trip. Mr. Hall had high standards, especially about living the Scout Oath and Law (and knots, too). He was consistent. Most importantly, he modeled the behavior that he expected from us.

Unfortunately, the worst of the bad apples are a major focus on Scouting in the media. Anyone that has preyed on a child, or protected one that did, should be punished in accordance with our laws and clearly has no place in a youth organization. I am sure on this we all agree. But coverage of this disturbing topic is once again overshadowing all other news about the BSA, just as it has begun to modernize its own policies. The good has nearly completely obscured by the bad, even though the good is plentiful and the bad is both rare and something that Scouting goes to extraordinary lengths to guard against.

This may confuse some of you. This seems to be a Scouting issue quite unrelated to Cachalot. However, there is no such separation. Cachalot is a Scout reservation. Many of the wonderful and challenging times of my Scouting life occurred at Cachalot. Cachalot is such a special place because of the thousands of people who have had hundreds of thousands of similar experiences there. It was at Cachalot that a Scouter, slightly older than me, told me that "You are never even. No matter how much you give back, you will never give as much as

... you will never
give as much as
you have gotten.

you have gotten." That is why we are here. That is why you receive the *Cachaletter*. We are doing our best to square our debt, knowing we never will.

While we may be frustrated with the Scouting machine at times, it is important to remember that Cachalot cannot survive without Scouting. Cachalot needs Scouting to thrive in Southeastern Massachusetts if it is to thrive. For this reason I am sincerely thankful to

all those serving leadership roles in units around the region. It is for this reason that we must tell our stories of the wonderful things that Scouting has given us. We do not want to protect the despicable or whitewash a serious problem, but to highlight the productive, positive and good that Scouting has done and will do even better as it continues its path to modernity.

There were many people that helped me become the person that I am today. Important among them is my Scoutmaster, from whom I am still learning. I reflect on what I think he would say about challenges that I face today. Almost daily I think of the lessons and words of Al Hall. And I am better for them. Scouting has been good to me.

#WeAreCachalot. 🐟



Brian sharing his expertise on a recent weekend at Cachalot



Membership is Support

Daryl Sylvia, Membership Chairman

My name is Daryl Sylvia and as of our September meeting I have been voted in as the Alumni Membership Chairman.

Membership in the Cachalot Alumni Association has become very important since our summer camp was closed. We need every member's support to help us to be the Guardian of our camp. Support is shown not only by your dues payment, but also in the attendance of your units at all the functions that are held at Camp Cachalot and the utilisation of camp on weekends.

We as alumni are trying very hard to help the council maintain our camp by adding new items to the buildings and the camp in general, and maintaining the ones we have at camp. We also have members who help support the camp Ranger with tasks that need to be done. We can always use more volunteers. Yes! Membership is so much more than just paying your dues.

But... in order to continue all the good things that the Alumni is doing, dues are important. Let's all be mindful in paying our yearly dues on time, unless you're a lifetime member, then you're all set.

The membership committee will be contacting lapsed members of the Association to ask them catch up on their dues and continue to be an Alumni member in good standing, so if you know you are past due, why not drop a check in the mail, or go to our web site at www.cachalotalumni.org/membership where you can renew by credit or debit card today? If you are mailing a check, please note that it is for Cachalot Alumni dues in the memo, and please also include a completed membership form so we have all of the right contact information and know what type of membership the check is for. You can download and print a form from our web site at www.cachalotalumni.org/membershipform.

Last, we are also looking for a few good volunteers to help on the membership committee.

Thank you. 🐾

***Daryl Sylvia** is the new membership chairman for the Alumni Association. An active member of the local Kiwanis and a long-time Scouter, he has previously served in many roles in local Scouting, including as the Lodge Lay Adviser of Neemat Lodge and as the business manager and the program director at Camp Cachalot.*



Alumni at Klondike XL

Members of the Association will once again be manning the warming station at Noquochoke Lodge and be out and about shooting photos and videos at this year's 40th annual Klondike Derby out at Cachalot, scheduled for January 18th 2020. If you'll be out at the Klondike with a unit or on staff yourself, feel free to stop in, say hello, and grab a cup of hot coffee or hot cocoa and a snack. We'll have some pieces of Klondike history out with us, along with information on joining the Association for folks in attendance who aren't yet members.

If you're an actively registered Scout or Scouter and would like to lend a hand in the warming station, drop us an email at info@cachalotalumni.org. 🐾

2020 Cachalot Alumni Events

February 29th, 2020
11:00AM - 3:00PM

Winter Gathering 2020

Holy Name of the
Sacred Heart Church Hall
121 Mount Pleasant Street,
New Bedford, MA

May 22nd through 25th, 2020

Memorial Day

Family Camping Weekend
Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

July 11th, 2020 (Tentative)

11:00AM - 3:00PM

Homecoming 2020

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

September 4th through 7th, 2020

Labor Day

Family Camping Weekend
Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

Brian A. Bastarache
Association Chairman
chairman@cachalotalumni.org

Timothy A. Connick
Vice-Chairman
vicechairman@cachalotalumni.org

Richard F. Partridge
Treasurer
treasurer@cachalotalumni.org

William Begin
Secretary
secretary@cachalotalumni.org

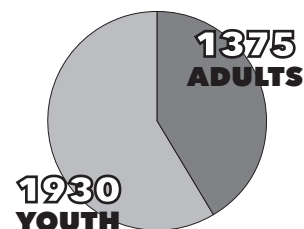
Victor Sylvia
Immediate Past Chairman
pastchairman@cachalotalumni.org

Daryl Sylvia
Membership Chairman
membershipchair@cachalotalumni.org

Joe Livingston
Council Liaison
Joe.Livingston@scouting.org

Other Inquiries
info@cachalotalumni.org

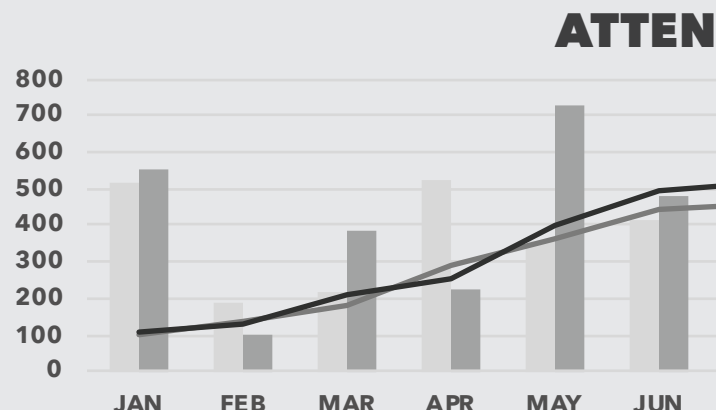
3305
PEOPLE
↓362



Klondike XXXIX - 451
Highland Games - 435
Tulpe Lodge Ordeal - 94
Council Klondike Championship - 93
NYLT - 80



2018 -
YEAR-ON

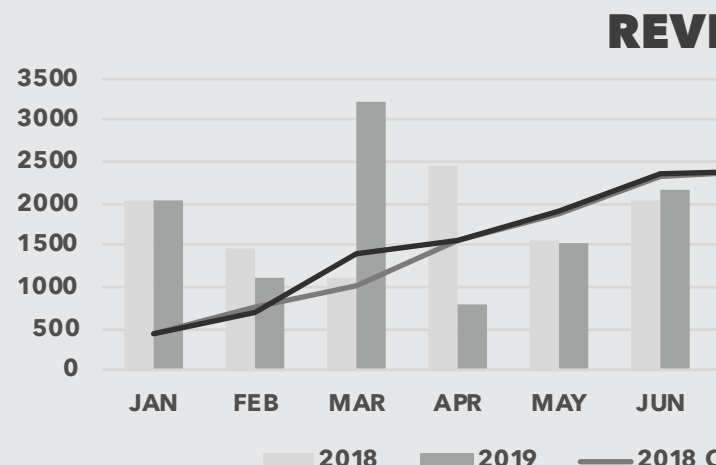


MOST POPULAR



BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE

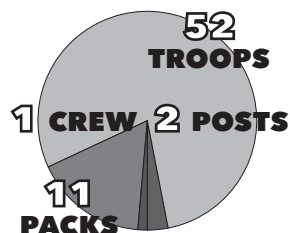
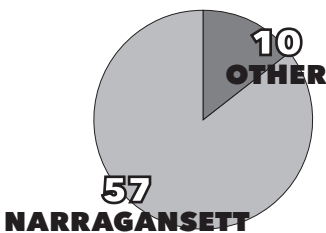
Cabin 1	14	Pine Grove	318
Cabin 2	12	Cabin 1	247
Pine Grove	12	Cabin 2	202
21 Club	9	Magee Village	201
Magee Village	8	21 Club	126



2019 REVENUE WAS TRACKING 2018 REVENUE ALMOST EXACTLY THROUGH SEPTEMBER. 2019 ATTENDANCE WAS AHEAD OF 2018 ATTENDANCE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. DUE TO THE CANCELED AND CAMP CLOSED TO OVERNIGHT ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE YEAR, CACHALOT WOULD HAVE FINISHED 2019 AHEAD OF 2018 ON OCTOBER 1ST. THE APPARENT DIP IN APRIL AND PEAK IN MAY IS EXPLAINED BY THE

This data was collected in collaboration with the Cachalot Campmaster Corps—many thanks go to Tom Bednarz and his dedicated cadre of Campmaster was no Campmaster on duty. We have opted to be conservative and use the minimum number of attendees for that missing unit.) Cachalot was closed from the EEE virus from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The rental income number should be considered an estimate. While it is as accurate as possible, it is still an estimate.

: BY THE NUMBERS

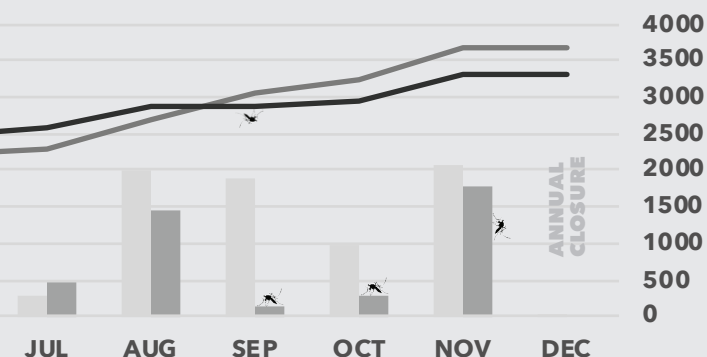


\$13425
INCOME
↓\$1325

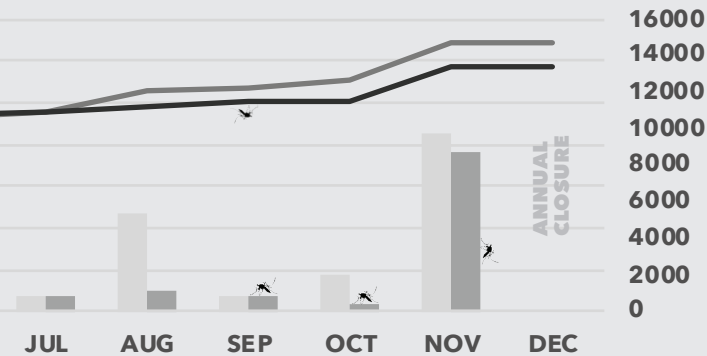


— 2019
OVER-YEAR

DANCE

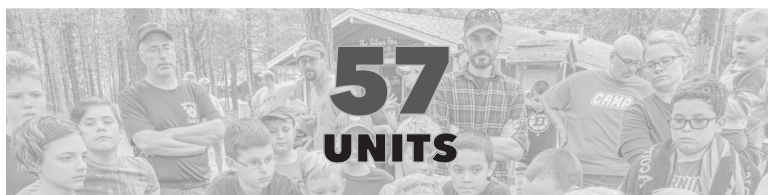


REVENUE



CUMULATIVE — 2019 CUMULATIVE

THROUGH JULY, WITH AUGUST BEHIND BECAUSE SEAC 2.0 WAS MOVED INTO THROUGH AUGUST. IN SEPTEMBER, THE MOSQUITOS CAME. SEAC WAS THE THREAT OF EEE. BASED ON THE TRENDS FROM THE EARLIER PART OF IN BOTH MEASURES IF NOT FOR THIS TEMPORARY OVERNIGHT CLOSURE. THE HIGHLAND GAMES MOVING FROM APRIL IN 2018 TO MAY IN 2019.



57
UNITS

MOST ACTIVE UNITS (WEEKENDS OF CAMPING EXCLUDING EVENTS)

T74 Dartmouth - 6
T52 Fairhaven- 6
T45 Dighton - 4

P52 Fairhaven, T11 Acushnet, T26 Lakeville, and T303 Swansea all had 3 weekends each

1 IN 5 UNITS CAMPED AT CACHALOT 2 OR MORE TIMES



37
WEEKENDS
OF OVERNIGHT CAMPING

BUSIEST MONTHS (WEEKEND CAMPING EXCLUDING EVENTS)

June 388 people
March 290 people
November 274 people

CACHALOT WAS CLOSED TO OVERNIGHT ACTIVITIES FOR 9 WEEKENDS DUE TO THE EEE VIRUS THREAT. 5 OF THOSE WEEKENDS SAW UNITS COME OUT TO USE CAMP FOR DAYTIME ACTIVITIES

sters for sending in weekend reports. These numbers reflect the entirety of 2019, with missing data for only a single unit (a midweek rental, so there d to rentals for 6 weekends in 2019, along with an additional 9 weekends where it was closed for overnight camping because of warnings of danger curate as we can make it based on the information we have available, it is likely to differ somewhat from the Council's actual accounting.

"Years ago, in the dim ages..."

Tulpe Lodge Joins Us at Winter Gathering 2020 to Discuss the History of the Order of the Arrow in the Area

Our 2020 Winter Gathering is shaping up to be a great event. We're co-hosting this year with our local Order of the Arrow lodge, Tulpe Lodge 102, and the event is open not only to our members but also to local Scouts and Arrowmen as well. We'll cover recent alumni happenings, and discuss the current state of Cachalot as we usually do, but we will also have a presentation on the history of the Order of the Arrow in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island by former Abnaki Lodge Staff Adviser Jonathan P. Widmark, who recently published a comprehensive book on the subject.

There are a few other changes in store this year. First, in order to better accommodate our Order of the Arrow guests, we will be serving a spaghetti dinner for the meal, rather than doing a pot luck dinner as we have done the last few years. Second, we have a change in venue to allow us to seat a larger group, and the event will take place at the Holy Name of the Sacred Heart Church Hall in New Bedford. We ask that all of our guests bring two nonperishable items as "admission," which will be used to increase the stock at the church's food pantry. The spaghetti dinner will be free, although we never turn away donations to help defray costs.

The rest of our agenda will be familiar to those of you who have attended Winter Gatherings in recent years. Arrive starting

Winter Gathering 2020

February 29th, 2020
11:00AM - 3:00PM

Holy Name of the
Sacred Heart Parish Hall
121 Mount Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA

**Free and Open to Association
Members, Scouts, Scouters, and
Interested Members of the Public**

**A donation of two nonperishable
food items is requested in lieu of an
admission fee**

For other questions or to RSVP:

gathering@cachalotalumni.org

www.cachalotalumni.org/gathering

**or visit the Camp Cachalot Alumni
Association Facebook group**

at 11:00AM, and there will be some time to socialize and catch up with your fellow alumni before we sit down to our lunch. Our more formal program will begin after lunch at 1:00PM, with a brief meeting of the Association. This will include an update on the state of the Alumni Association and our work supporting Cachalot, as well as some discussion of Cachalot's 2019 numbers (as seen in the gatefold of this issue.) After the meeting, our featured speaker will take over, covering the history of the local lodges that came to make up Abnaki and now Tulpe Lodge.

As with all of our events, Winter Gathering is free and open to all our members, Scouts, and Scouters, and interested members of the public. If you do plan to join us for lunch, please RSVP either to the event page on our web site or to the Facebook event invite, so we can be sure we have planned for enough food for everyone. We will of course have Alumni Association merchandise available for purchase at the event, along with copies of Mr. Widmark's book, and our history committee will be on-hand with our archives and ready to scan any photos, slides, or documents you are willing to share with us. Many such documents helped inform the history that will be presented at Winter Gathering, in fact.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!



About our Featured Presentation



Jonathan P. Widmark is the Scout

Executive of the Cape Fear Council BSA in Wilmington, NC. He became involved with Camp Cachalot during his nine year tenure as a professional Scouter with the Narragansett Council BSA and as the Staff Adviser for Abnaki Lodge Order of the Arrow. An Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor recipient, he holds a BA in History from Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

While Staff Adviser of Abnaki Lodge, Jonathan assembled a comprehensive history of Abnaki and its predecessor Lodges, including Noquochoke, Agawam, Neemat, and Wincheck Lodges. This work both leveraged the archives of



the Alumni Association as well as added a significant amount of material to those archives. He has transformed that history into a self-published book entitled *Weld Tightly Every Link: A History of the Order of the Arrow in Rhode Island and Southcoast, Massachusetts, 1938-2015*.

The book has been offered for sale at recent Tulpe Lodge events, and includes chapters with narrative histories of each predecessor lodge, nearly comprehensive lists of the Chiefs of those lodges, complete listings of all of the Vigil Honor members of those lodges through 2015, and the names of all of those honored with the Founders Award in that same time frame. It is illustrated throughout with both black and white and color photographs of significant personages, Lodge events, various and sundry items of memorabilia, and images of historic documents, charters, and newsletters.

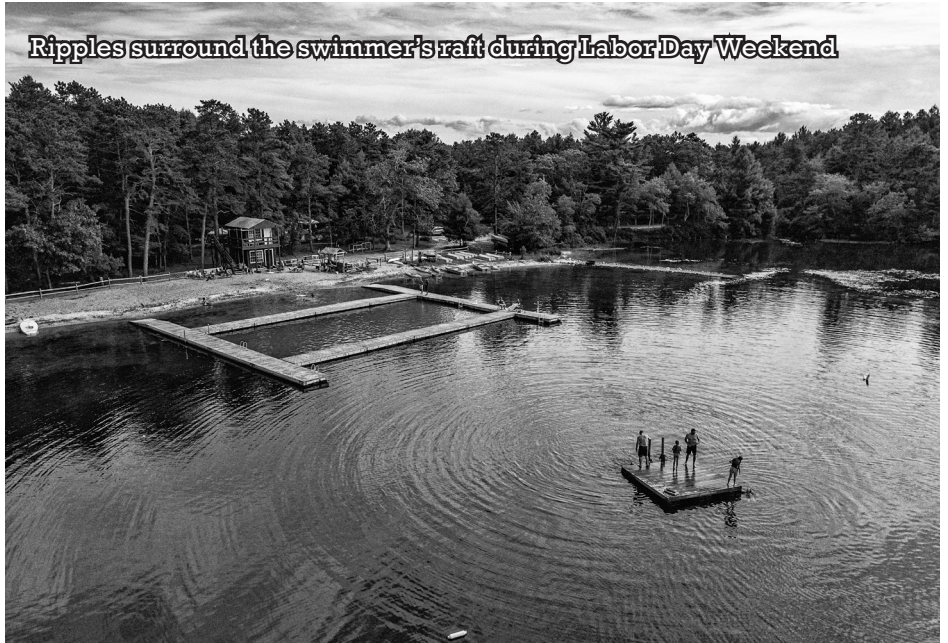
Summer Memories

A Few Photos from Our Summer Events in 2019

2019 Wall of Fame Honoree George Boucher addresses the crowd at Homecoming



Ripples surround the swimmer's raft during Labor Day Weekend



Mike Joseph and some alumni kids getting ready for a model rocket launch in Tom Cullen Field over Labor Day Weekend



Labor Day liftoff!

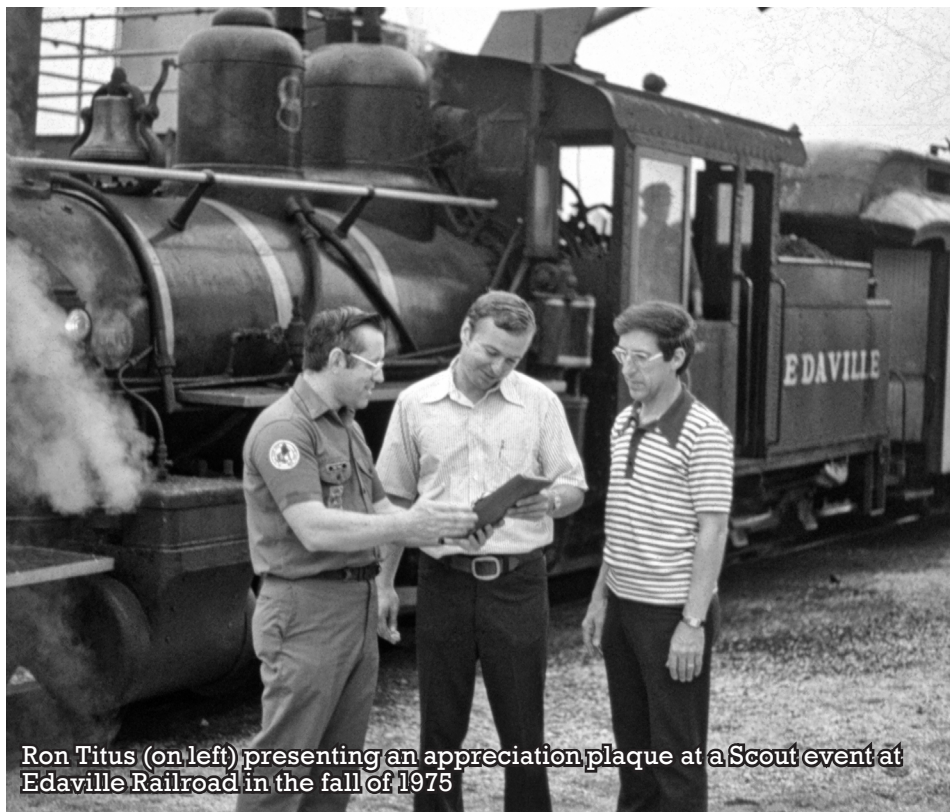


"Kilted" Kevin Thompson out fishing with his son over Labor Day Weekend



Labor Day Campfire





Ron Titus (on left) presenting an appreciation plaque at a Scout event at Edaville Railroad in the fall of 1975

In Memoriam



Ronald P. Titus, the Scout Executive of the still-young Moby Dick Council from 1974 through 1977, passed away at the age of 84 on December 29th, 2018, after being struck by a vehicle while out on his daily walk in Hilton Head, North Carolina. It was the day after his 63rd wedding anniversary.

Mr. Titus, a veteran of the US Army, spent 28 years in the employ of the Boy Scouts of America, serving councils in New England. All of his post-Moby Dick Council career was in New Hampshire. He was an avid bird and outdoor photographer whose work was often featured at his church, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry in Bluffton.

He is survived by his wife Donna; their four children Ann Harrison (Peter Kandis), Ellen Titus (David Inserra), John Titus, all of Hilton Head Island, North Carolina and Kate Titus (Judith Armatta) of Portland, Oregon; and 6 grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 31.



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