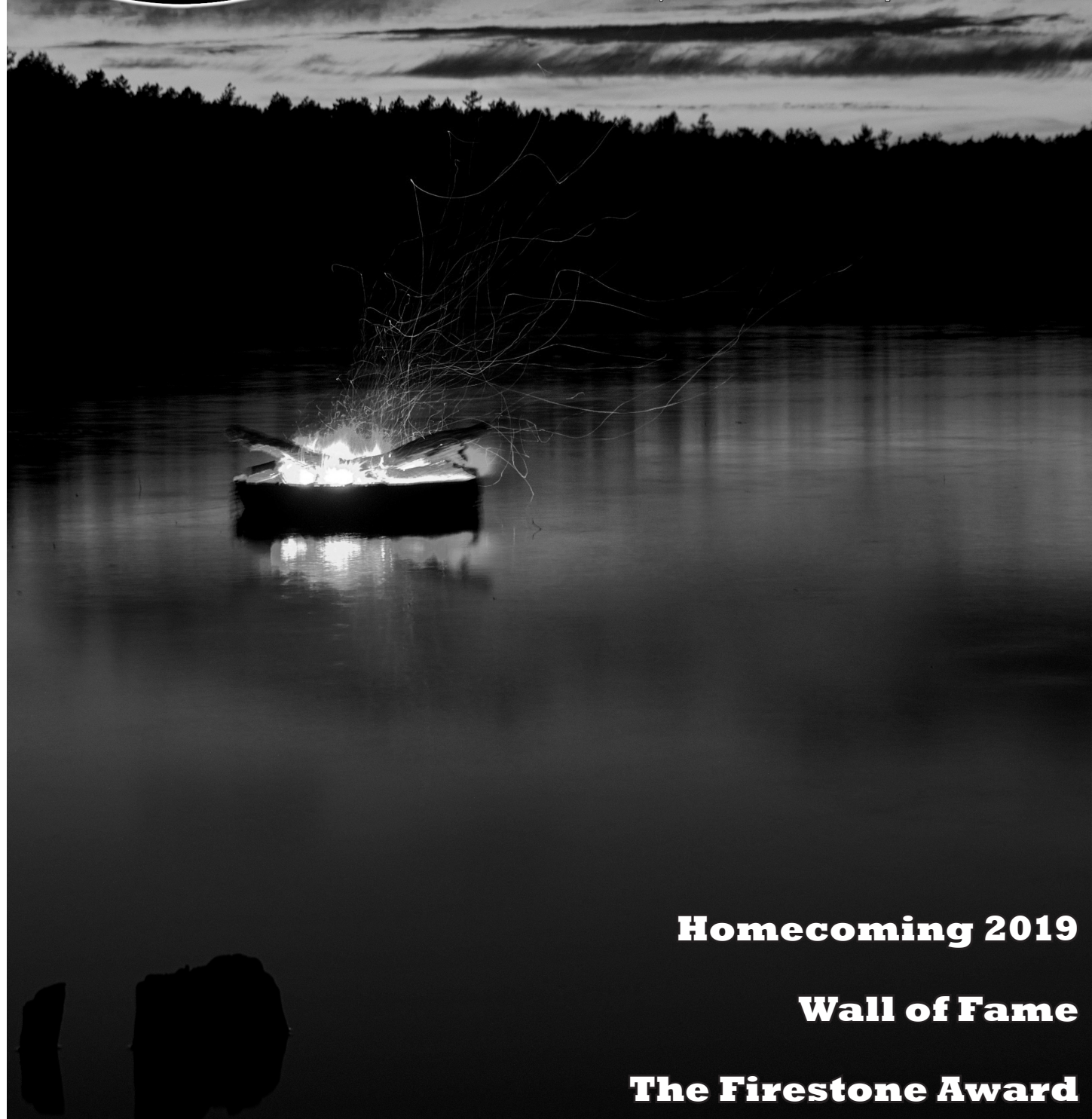


Spring 2019



The **Cachaletter**

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



Homecoming 2019

Wall of Fame

The Firestone Award

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 campfire in the floating fire pit on 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:

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Spring Has Sprung

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

Spring is a time of awakening and growth. The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association is sprouting as well. We have learned a lot from the first year of our comprehensive camp use data collection effort. Not only did these results help illustrate the vitality of Cachalot and its importance to regional Scouting, it showed us where our efforts should be focused.

Kitchen renovations have begun for Cabins 1 and 2. New refrigerators have been delivered and shelving and counter top replacements are in the works. The new kitchens should not only be “shinier,” but easier to clean and more accommodating of the large totes used by so many units. Sill and roof repairs are also in the works. Of course, a coat of paint will add the finishing touches.

Noquchoke Lodge has been the site of several training sessions in the last year, including a regional Leave No Trace training that drew Scouting participants from four New England councils as well as others from as far afield as Baxter State Park in Northern Maine. The Association is forming a plan to outfit Noquchoke Lodge as a modern training facility that will be uniquely complemented by the pavilion, the Magee Cabins, and the grandeur of Five Mile Pond. (The trainees from Baxter State Park were blown away by the Five Mile sunsets. If you have ever spent any time in Baxter State Park, you know that is high praise indeed!)

We must appeal to the modern Scouts, Scouters and units.

We learned that the 21 Club is least rented of our three winterized cabins, at least in part because it has fewer amenities than Cabins 1 and 2. To address this, the Association is partnering with the council to upgrade the heat and kitchen. This is somewhat controversial, as many feel that the 21 Club should remain the rustic retreat that it has always been. I completely agree. However, us rustic-loving hold-outs are not the only market that needs to be targeted. We must appeal to the modern Scouts, Scouters and units as well.

Our investigation showed that revenue earned at Cachalot is slightly less than the operating cost. The Association has a goal to increase camp revenue to the break-even point. The work described above is part of our strategy to achieve this goal. The amazing programming that many of you have been doing is another vital part of this strategy. We could use a little help.

The Southeast Service Area (which is made up largely of the old Moby Dick Council communities) exhibited the greatest growth of the entire council and across all Scouting age groups. We want to show these new Scouts and Scouters “What’s the best camp,” and that #WeAreCachalot. 🐾

Are you currently active with a unit?

Don’t forget that Cachalot is open for weekend rentals through the summer months! Check out the Council web site for availability, and enjoy the “place we know so well” for your summer Scouting activities.

No matter what time of year you visit camp, be sure to share your Cachalot activities on social media. If you want to catch our attention, you can tag us at @cachalotalumni on Twitter and Instagram, or mark your posts with #cachalotalumni and #campcachalot.

And don’t forget to share your best pictures of Five Mile Pond on Fridays with the hashtag #FiveMileFriday—whether it’s Scouts enjoying the pond, one of Five Mile’s legendary sunsets, or any other great shot of our gorgeous pond!



Box Turtles at Cachalot

Andy Novick, Association Legal Adviser

This past Alumni Family Camping Weekend, Vic Sylvia's grandson Matthew found a Box Turtle out at Camp Cachalot. We took some pictures and then let it continue its journey towards the archery range. The last time I saw a Box Turtle at Camp Cachalot was in 1983, when we kept one at the Waterfront for the summer. We named that one Gertrude, and we used to entertain the Scouts before instructional swim by feeding Gertrude June bugs. It was like watching a T. Rex chase down and kill its meal! We also fed her lettuce and grapes. (Back in 1983, there were also lots of Hognose Snakes out at camp. On any given day, we might see 4 or 5 of them, especially sunning on the logs floating in the swamp between the boathouse and the waterfront.)

Although they look like tortoises, and live on land like tortoises, Box Turtles are more closely related to pond turtles. They do spend some time soaking in the water to cool off as, like all reptiles and amphibians, they are cold-blooded, which means that they have no internal mechanism for regulating their temperature. Box Turtles can live for 100 years in the wild, but live significantly shorter (and less happy) lives if kept as pets. There are three main reasons for this. They can't tell us what they really want to eat, they get very stressed upon being removed from their home range, and they also frequently develop respiratory infections when kept in captivity. They are omnivores. They will eat insects, grass, fruit, worms, grubs, and even dead animals. They are (almost) unique among turtles because they have a hinge on the bottom of their shell that allows them to pull in their head, tail, and legs, and close up like a clam to protect them from (non-human) predators.

If you see a Box Turtle or a Hognose Snake out at Camp, consider it a "privileged sighting" and please leave it there to enjoy the place that we all love. If it's crossing a road, and you can do so safely, move it across in the direction it is heading. Then wash your hands, because although Box Turtles generally don't bite humans, they, like most reptiles, often carry salmonella. 🐢

Andy Novick has been going to Cachalot since he was 5. He spent 3 entire summers at Cachalot as a camper (and bugler), and two summers as Waterfront Director. He now serves as Legal Adviser to the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association.



Matthew staring down the box turtle he found over Memorial Day Weekend

2019 Cachalot Alumni Events

July 13th, 2019

11:00AM

Homecoming 2019

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

August 30th through September 2nd, 2019

Labor Day

Family Camping Weekend

Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA

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All Around the Limbo World...

Homecoming 2019: Welcoming George Boucher to the Wall of Fame, and a Classic Cachalot Luau

Join us on Saturday, July 13th for our annual Homecoming out at Cachalot, and to help us celebrate the contributions of George Boucher as we induct him onto the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame.

Camp will open at 11:00AM. We'll gather under the Order of the Arrow Robert LeComte Pavilion at Noquochoke Lodge (across from Tom Cullen Field.) You'll have some time to reminisce with your fellow alumni and enjoy a cookout lunch at noon before we get started with our program for the day, which will kick off with a brief meeting of the Association at 1:00PM.

At 1:30PM, the activity will move to the other side of the pine grove to the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field, the site of our Wall of Fame, where we will celebrate our tenth annual induction ceremony. This year's honoree is George Boucher, a local Scouter whose long service and program contributions to Cachalot are described below.

This year we're going to keep the fun going after the Wall of Fame induction, and take advantage of the clear waters of Five Mile Pond and our waterfront, and host one of our "world famous" Cachalot Luau! Grab your swimsuits and Hawaiian shirts, get some stretching in, and prepare for all of the traditional luau contests of skill and strength: canoe races, sand castle building, a belly flop contest, the limbo, food, music, and more! Or, just take in the spectacle and enjoy the waterfront and some good company. If you

haven't been to camp in a while, members of the Association will be available to help show you to your old haunts and show you what has and hasn't changed.

As always, Homecoming is free, and open to registered members of the Association, Scouts, Scouters, and interested members of the public. You can register for the event via our web site or the event invite in our Facebook group (not strictly required, but helpful for our planning especially if you plan to partake in lunch.) A \$5 donation to help defray the costs of food is appreciated.

Come out for some or all of the day, meet up with old friends, or make some new ones out at "the place we know so well!" We'll see you at Homecoming!

About our Honoree



George Boucher was instrumental in providing leadership and participating in maintenance, renovations, and improvements to the infrastructure of Camp Cachalot throughout the 1980s and into the mid-1990s. As an active member of the Moby Dick Council Camping and Properties Committee, he led many projects at Cachalot, including a significant renovation of the 21 Club that finally insulated the building for better winter

use, beginning a remodel of the Phillips House, re-roofing the Dining Hall, building the storage area for the Rifle Range, construction of the handicapped access ramp on the Health Lodge, winterizing the Duplex, re-roofing and siding the Commissioner's Shed, and the conversion of the old camp shower house into a building with two individual bath rooms and a Commissioner room for use during summer camp (that room, named for Gerry "Silver Fox" Sylvester, now serves as the camp's Silver Fox Trading Post.) He also participated in the remodeling of the old Trading Post office space (now Noquochoke Lodge) along with repair and construction of many campsite fixtures, including cradles, platforms, wash stands, and flagpoles.

George was also a member of a group of Scouters that combated an infestation of Pine Loopers that was impacting Myles Standish State Forest and Cachalot by spraying campsites and program areas.

An active member of and adviser to Neemat Lodge, George also led work crews on many work weekends. He also participated in many Beaver Weekends, where Scouters would spend a weekend or a Saturday in camp tackling various service projects.

Of special note, George's wife Kathy spent many years as the cook during summer camp at Cachalot. When George would return to camp after a day at work with the state of Massachusetts, he was always on-hand to help tackle the maintenance problems that inevitably crop up during a summer camp season.

Outside of his involvement at Cachalot itself, George also served in many units, including Pack 16, Troop 145, and Troop 46, all in New Bedford, as a member of their committees, and as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 46. He served on the Wamsutta and Cachalot District Camping and Activities committees, the Moby Dick Council Camping and Properties Committee, and on the program staffs of Klondikes I and II, the 1982 and 1992 Catch-a-Lot Fishing clinics, the 1982 Interplanetary Cub Scout Cosmic Caper, the 1990 Big Event, many Spring into Scouting events, and numerous district and council Camp-o-Rees and Scout Shows.

For his contributions to Scouting, George has been awarded the Scouters Key, the Scouters Training Award, the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, Wood Badge, and the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow.

George's long history of leadership in service to camp and providing program to the Scouts and Scouters who camp there led our members to elect him as this year's honoree for the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame. 🐻

2019 Homecoming and Wall of Fame Induction

Cachalot Scout Reservation • Plymouth, MA
July 13th, 2019 • 11:00AM until Sunset

Alumni Meeting

Wall of Fame Induction

Lunch (\$5 donation appreciated)

World-Famous Luau, featuring

- canoe races
- sand castle building
- belly flop contest
- limbo contest
- food, music, and more!

Association and Camp
Merchandise Available



Free to Members,
Scouts, Scouters,
and interested members
of the public

Questions? Contact us at
homecoming@cachalotalumni.org

Register online at
cachalotalumni.org/homecoming
or via the event's invite
in our Facebook group

Our Year so Far

A Few Photos from Winter Gathering and our Family Camping Weekend



Wall-of-Famer Larry Harney and Dave Goldrick at our Winter Gathering



"Kilted" Kevin Thompson going through old summer camp photos at Winter Gathering



Alumni kids paddleboarding on Memorial Day Weekend



Scott Brennan shows off his catch at Memorial Day Weekend



Andy Novick getting the campfire started at Memorial Day Weekend

Scouting's Forgotten Achievement

The Firestone Award

BY JONATHAN P. WIDMARK

Everyone is familiar with the Eagle Scout award. Regardless of whether you have earned that high distinction, most recognize that it carries with it an almost universal aura of respect. Nearly 2.5 million young men have achieved that high honor since 1912. However, if you were a Scout in the Fall River area between 1947 and 1971, there may have been an even higher Scouting distinction, one only bestowed on twenty-five Scouts in as many years...the Firestone Award.

In 1946, the retiring chairman of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, John W. Thomas, established the award as a stimulus to Scouting. The program, while not limited to Fall River, did only exist in communities where a Firestone plant was in operation. The Fall River plant had been a major employer in the community since the late 1930s and an active participant in civic engagement in an era when corporate leadership still felt a sense of obligation to participate in and be active members of the communities in which they did business.

The Massasoit Council, Boy Scouts of America, administered the Scouting program in Fall River, Swansea, Somerset, Westport, Assonet, East Freetown, Tiverton and Little Compton. The Council operated Camp Noquochoke in Westport and partnered with the local

Firestone plant leadership to administer the Firestone Award for Scouting achievement.

The Firestone Award was unique because it recognized not only Scouting achievement but also scholastic prowess and religious observance. The period of competition lasted an entire year and required endorsements from Scoutmasters, teachers and religious leaders. While the requirements varied a little over the quarter century the program was available, they remained fairly standardized. A Scout had to submit a written declaration of his intention to participate. He had to be under the age of eighteen for the entire period of competition and registered in a Scouting unit within the Massasoit Council. Finally, he had to receive the approval of his local Scout leader to participate.

There were many diverse requirements to be a competition finalist:

- A Scout must participate in 10 nights of camping of which 6 could be a long-term camp.
- He must demonstrate leadership in his Scouting unit.
- Participate in Unit or Patrol planning.
- Participate in at least two community service projects.

- Advance the equivalent of at least one rank or earn at least one Eagle palm.
- Demonstrate skill at the Firestone encampment.
- Complete a project from the pre-approved list.
- Visit a Scout unit he has never been to and prepare an oral report for his Scout leader on the visit.

Additionally, a Scout needed to attend at least 75% of his unit meetings, regularly participate in Unit, Council and District activities and be faithful in his observance of the Scout Oath and Law. Finally, each Scout was required to submit a written statement from his religious leader attesting to his satisfactory participation in his faith program and a similar statement from his school principal or teacher attesting to satisfactory progress in his schoolwork.

The projects that each Scout needed to complete were varied and came from a list of ten. They ranged from carrying out a conservation project to serving as a Den Chief, earning a religious award or serving as a news reporter for his unit. Additionally, a Scout could apply to complete a project not on the list, provided the project was pre-approved by the Board of Judges.

The penultimate step in the Firestone Award program was the encampment. Held annually, usually in April at Camp Noquochoke, the encampment was the examination of a Scout's campcraft skills. While the encampment was only a Saturday from 9AM to 5PM, extra points could be earned by staying Friday night. Participating Scouts were graded on packcraft, campcraft, cookcraft and safety and sanitation. Additionally, scoutcraft activities, including tracking, compass work, knot tying, and first aid were included. A scout could earn up to ten points in each category of the grading based on his organization and performance. These results would be considered, along with the results of the individual Scout projects and endorsements from school and religious leaders, in determining the fifty finalists and the top scoring award winner.

The driving desire behind competing for the Firestone Award was a free week of summer camp. As many boys who wanted could compete but only the top fifty would receive a Firestone certificate granting them the free week of camp sponsored by the Firestone Company. The highest rated Scout of the fifty would be declared the top Scout in the council and would receive not only a beautifully engraved silver medallion but also a free week of summer camp and a one hundred dollar savings bond.



Ernie Picard of Troop 24 Fall River being presented the first Firestone Award in 1947.

The final results were announced at the Firestone Award Dinner held in June. Participating Scouts and their families were invited to the banquet as guests of the Firestone Company. The top fifty point-earning Scouts received the ornate Firestone certificate and a free week of camp. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the top scoring Scout to receive the coveted medallion and honors as the council's "Top Scout."

A Scout could receive a Firestone certificate more than once but could only receive the top prize once. The first recipient of the John W. Thomas Award was Ernest H. Picard, an Eagle Scout from Troop 24 in Fall River. By 1953 the John W. Thomas Award had been re-named the Harvey S. Firestone, Jr. Award after the passing of Mr. Thomas and Mr. Firestone's decision to carry on the patronage of the program. David Wordell, an Eagle Scout from Troop 10 Fall River, sponsored by the Firestone Company, was the recipient that year. By 1970, the award had once again changed names to the Raymond C. Firestone Award after Raymond had assumed operational control of the company from his older brother.

The last year the program was offered in Fall River was 1971. The final recipient of the Raymond C. Firestone Award was Henry Boudreau of Troop 50 Fall River. The Firestone Company announced in late June that it would be closing its Fall River plant by September 30th of that year. At the same time, the Massasoit Council had been in talks for some time with the Cachalot Council of New Bedford about a merger. That merger would take place and the new Moby Dick Council, headquartered in New Bedford, was born the next year.

It has been nearly half a century since a Scout participated in the Firestone program in Fall River. The recollections of that worthwhile program have not faded from the memories of generations of Scouts who came of age over that twenty-five year period in the Massasoit Council. In an era beset with participation ribbons and fifteenth place trophies, one can't help but wonder if it were not time to resurrect a program like the Firestone Award. 🐸



Firestone Award Winners

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1947 | Ernest H. Picard | Troop 24 Fall River |
| 1948 | G. Lincoln Crook | Troop 11 Fall River |
| 1949 | Douglas W. Geisler | Troop 10 Fall River |
| 1950 | Charles T. Harrington | Troop 2 Somerset |
| 1951 | Ralph W. Lawton, Jr. | Troop 10 Fall River |
| 1952 | David F. Bliss | Troop 26 Swansea |
| 1953 | David H. Wordell | Troop 10 Fall River |
| 1954 | John E. Biello | Troop 2 Somerset |
| 1955 | John F. Pysz, Jr. | Troop 26 Swansea |
| 1956 | Anthony Huszcza | Troop 19 Fall River |
| 1957 | Harold J. Wilson | Troop 17 Fall River |
| 1958 | Paul W. Cloutier | Troop 20 Fall River |
| 1959 | Richard M. Peirce | Troop 2 Somerset |
| 1960 | James T. Flannery, Jr. | Troop 2 Somerset |
| 1961 | Denis Lussier | Troop 20 Fall River |
| 1962 | James F. Charrette | Troop 2 Somerset |
| 1963 | Paul R. Methot | Troop 20 Fall River |
| 1964 | Gerald Lemay | Troop 20 Fall River |
| 1965 | <i>Recipient Unknown</i> | |
| 1966 | Raymond Mello, Jr. | Troop 66 Fall River |
| 1967 | Wayne Litchfield | Troop 70 Tiverton |
| 1968 | Jerome P. Gamache | Troop 76 Fall River |
| 1969 | Normand H. Menard, Jr. | Troop 50 Fall River |
| 1970 | Michael Correia | Troop 25 Fall River |
| 1971 | Henry J. Boudreau, Jr. | Troop 50 Fall River |



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.



Michael Vieira's Firestone Certificate

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