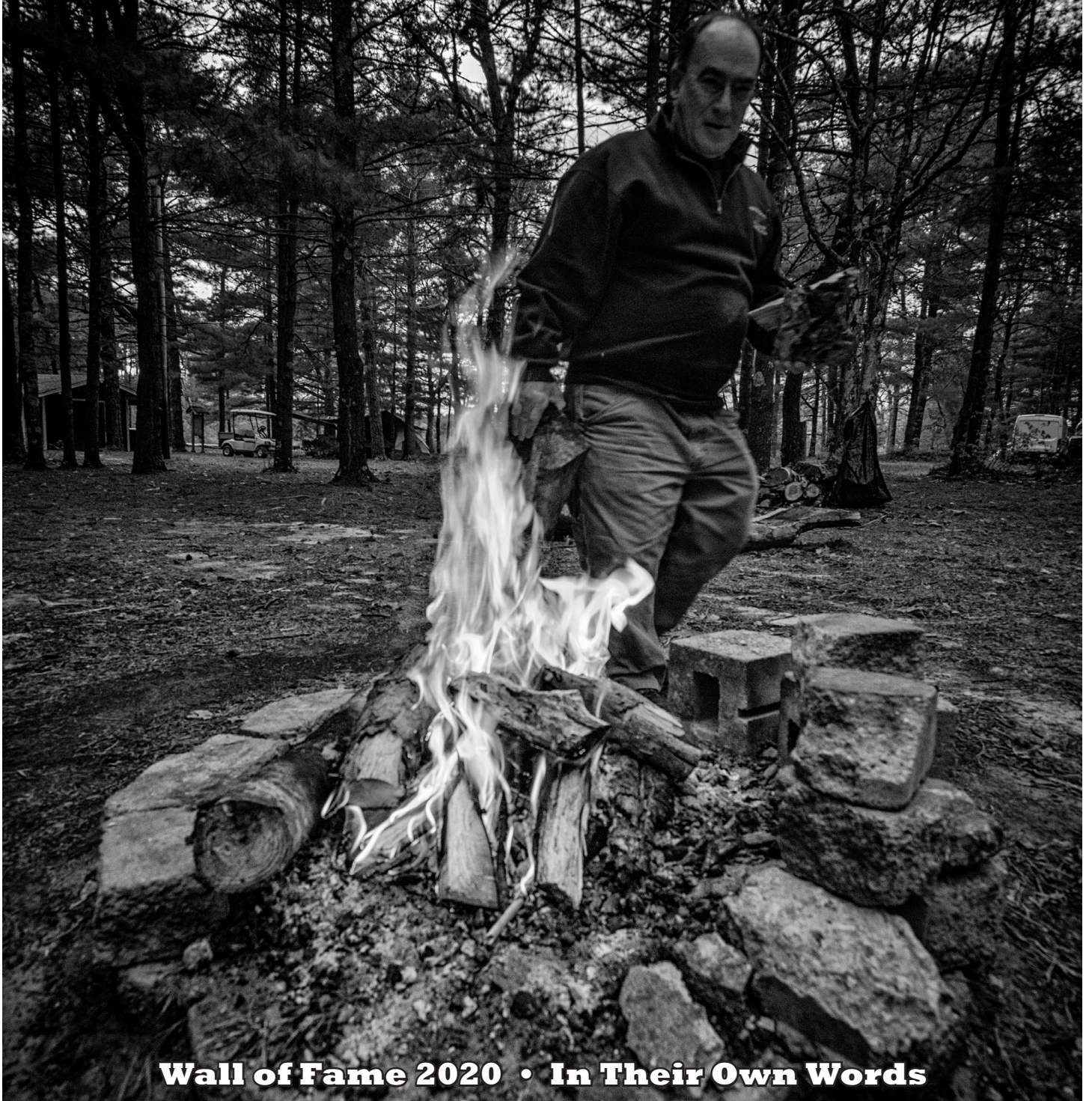


Spring and Summer 2020



The Cachalotter

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



Wall of Fame 2020 • In Their Own Words

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.

Editor

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

Contributors

Brian Bastarache
Dennis Prefontaine
Vic Sylvia
Tom Gorka

On the cover: Andy Novick lighting a campfire 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
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Getting Back to Normal

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

The uncomfortable, summer silence at Cachalot has increased since it first fell upon camp with the "suspension" of the summer camp program. While everyone loves the sounds of bird songs and breezes that allow one to relax and unwind at camp, Cachalot's spirit is generated by the thousands of young people who have learned, grown and had the times of their lives on in and around Five Mile Pond. Camp is never as alive as when excitement rings out from a ball game on Tom Cullen Field, a hooked bass breaking the surface of the Lagoon, or anything and everything that happens at the Waterfront. While the "suspension" of summer camp may have dampened the sound, the spirit rose. Weekends have been busy at Cachalot in the last few years. Heavy use by units and fantastic events have kept Cachalot relevant to Scouting in Southeastern Massachusetts. However, the last year and a half have been difficult.

Following several weeks of greatly reduced availability due to EEE, Scouting had just begun regaining its balance and was resuming normal outdoor activities. Then in March we all learned about coronavirus and COVID-19 (CoronaVirus Disease 2019) which it causes. Much of our society screeched to a halt in order to reduce the rate of infection. Like so much else, Cachalot was again closed. These closure periods have been important to help the effort to reduce the spread of the virus but a toll has been taken on the Scouting program, both indoors and out.

**Camp is never as alive
as when excitement
rings out...**

You can help Scouting and Cachalot. Once it has been deemed safe to do so, we would love to see Cachalot bursting at the seams with Scouts and Scouters.

There are lots of new cabin bunks and many tents sites available. Waterfronts offer the best swimming imaginable for those units who meet the Safe Swim Defense requirements. Boats are available for those units with Safety Afloat. The water is perfect well into September.

Campmasters are encouraged to develop and deliver short programs to weekend units. These lessons should only last for one hour - MAYBE two. What are your favorite and strongest Scouting skills? Knot tying, Totin' Chip, first aid? Any skill can be a Scouting skill. Planning a service project, tree identification, proper flag etiquette, time management. Such programs can be helpful for the Scouts. These mini-programs can be quite popular and really help attract units to Cachalot.

Those involved with a unit should keep their sure to visit Cachalot as soon as it is available. Please confirm with the council office as the staff is doing its best to follow state guidelines and help reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, let them know that you are patiently waiting and acutely interested in getting back to Cachalot. Keep an eye out for the next large event at Cachalot. Let's fill the camp on the first one! Whatever you do, employ your social media skills to tell everyone of the great times that you and your unit have had at Cachalot. Photos are worth thousands of words. (It does not help Cachalot to post negative things about other camps or facets of Scouting.)

Right now it feels like we are holding. We are waiting. We are just maintaining until some time, hopefully soon, when we can get "back to normal" and back to camp. I look forward to seeing you at Cachalot when that time comes. Even though we cannot be there right now, #WeAreStillCachalot. 🐍



Brian running a Campmaster program on Cachalot's native snakes



Back Issues

Dennis Wilkinson, Communications Chairman and Archivist

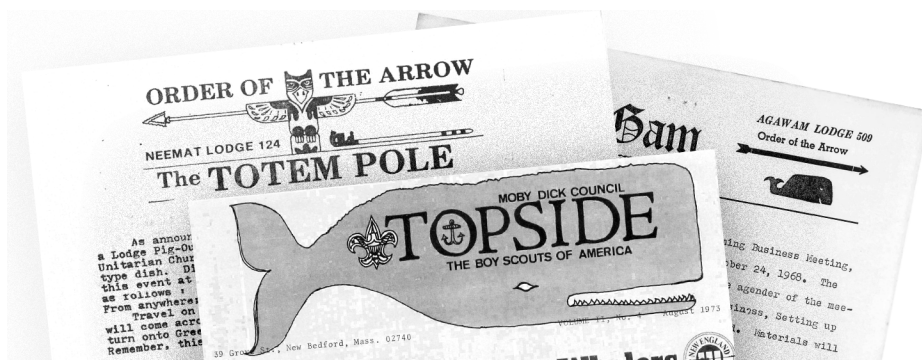
In the Association's sixteen year (and counting!) life, we have been working to record not just the history of Cachalot, but the broader history of Scouting in Southeastern Massachusetts. We've made great strides, and you've seen the results of that work in our "Throwback Thursday" and "Friday Night Campfire" posts on social media, in many hours of historic camp film and video on our YouTube channel, in the pages of this newsletter, in presentations at our events, on the walls of Noquochoke Lodge at Cachalot, and in presentations and slide shows at Scouting events. It has even served as a source for research done by others, including the history of the local Order of the Arrow that was the subject of our Winter Gathering, and a book recording the history of Camp Noquochoke. We've built up a large archive: 7,500 photos, dozens of hours of video, interviews with long-time or founding members of the Cachalot family, and over 2,000 pages of historic documents—and that doesn't include all of the new material we've created to document current goings-on at Cachalot as an Association.

Even as large as it is, our archive is still very much incomplete.

This archive would be almost nonexistent if not for the generosity of our members. While the Moby Dick Council did have its own archives, they weren't well cared-for, and what the Narragansett Council inherited was limited. Many, many documents were damaged beyond repair by water and mold, and portions of the archives were, sadly, discarded in the move out of the Grove Street office. Some of our founding members rescued hundreds of slides and a smaller number of print photos (including our only immediately post-fire photos) from the dumpster in that move. Most of the material we have was contributed by our members, who in some cases donated their own photos and saved documents outright, and in other cases allowed our History Committee to borrow those materials long enough to digitize them.

We are actively looking for copies of any documents people may have, but especially the things like meeting minutes from council, district, or lodge meetings, as well as back issues of the various newsletters that have been made, including:

- *Spouter*, the Cachalot Council's newsletter (so far we have found no surviving copies)
- *Topside*, the Moby Dick Council's newsletter
- Any newsletters published by the Fall River or Massasoit Councils
- *The Gam*, the Agawam Lodge newsletter
- *The Arrow*, *Leaves of Holly*, or *The Peacepipe*, all newsletters of Noquochoke Lodge
- *The Totem Pole*, the Neemat Lodge newsletter



If you happen to have any documents like this in your personal archives, we would love to have copies of them to help fill the gaps in our history. Please drop me an email message at curator@cachalotalumni.org, and we can work out the best way for us to make copies of them. Should you no longer want them, we'll take them off your hands; if you do want them, we can make arrangements to borrow, digitize, and return the originals to you; or (once we're a bit closer to "normal") get together and go through them together. If you have access to a document scanner and don't mind doing the work to digitize things yourself, we can even let you know the best way to go about doing that. If you'd like copies of the digitized material for yourself, we can provide that, too.

I'd love to be able to have a more-complete picture of local Scouting history. Some of the gaps can almost certainly be filled by records sitting in our members' offices, attics, and basements, waiting to be discovered and shared. Please consider having a look and reaching out to curator@cachalotalumni.org. 🐉

2020 Cachalot Alumni Events

The remainder of our regular 2020 events (at the time of publication, only our Labor Day Family Camping Weekend was left for the year) are on hold due to restrictions on camp usage by the Narragansett Council and limitations on large gatherings in Massachusetts in response to the ongoing public health situation with SARS-CoV-2.

In the event that we are able to hold any events at Cachalot in the latter half of 2020, we will announce those events on our web site at www.cachalotalumni.org and on social media including our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds.

Until that happens, we hope all our members remain safe and healthy, and we all look forward to our eventual return to "the place we know so well."

Our 2021 event calendar will be published as usual in the Fall 2020 issue later this year.

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Wall of Fame Class of 2020

The votes are tallied, and our sole honoree for the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame in 2020 is Marcel Hudon!

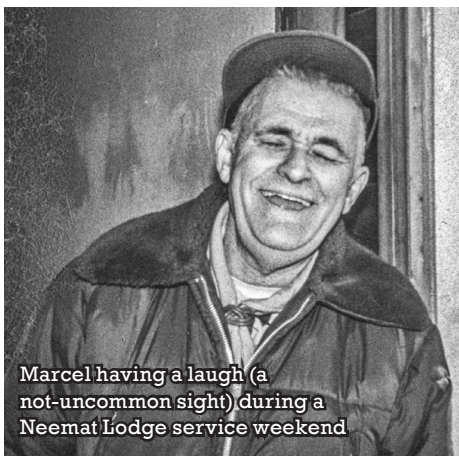


Marcel was a true inspiration to Scouters of all ages. He was always willing to help out in any capacity. At the unit level, he served in the leadership of multiple units over several decades, including Troops 43, 68, 14, 12, and 24. He was a fixture on Roundtable Staff, Wood Badge Staff, and the Training Committee, and at Cachalot as a Camp Commissioner. He was a long-time adviser to the Neemat Lodge Order of the Arrow, often helping out in the kitchen at lodge events. At camporees and other events he was often seen with his frequent partner-in-crime, Wall-of-Famer Al Hall, helping teach Scouts at camp how to build a hobo stove, manage a bean pit, or care for cast iron cookware. For his contributions, Marcel received multiple awards in Scouting, including the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver.

Dave Trull remembers Marcel like this: "Mostly working 'behind the scenes,' his contributions to Cachalot are too numerous to name as he seemed to be a constant presence. One of my favorite recollections was Marcel's attempts at tree replanting as he had a black walnut tree at home and he would bring bags of the black walnuts and scattered them around the camp as he'd walk around. He was dedicated to the betterment of Cachalot and any remaining black walnut trees are due to his efforts."

Professionally, Marcel worked as a machinist, and would often use those skills to make things needed at Cachalot.

Unfortunately we were unable to hold our Homecoming this year. Rest assured that Marcel will receive a full, public induction to the Wall of Fame, as he so well deserves, even if it takes place alongside next year's honorees at Homecoming 2021. 🦋



Marcel having a laugh (a not-uncommon sight) during a Neemat Lodge service weekend

Scenes from Our Gathering

Co-hosted with Tulpe Lodge, OA History Was Our Focus This Year



Guest speaker Jonathan Widmark guiding us through the histories of Noquochoke, Agawam, Neemat, Wincheck, and Abnaki Lodges



Tulpe Lodge Lay Adviser Dave Paulson covered the history of Tulpe Lodge



Members of our co-hosts Tulpe Lodge manning their merch table



A portion of Tulpe Lodge's traveling museum, with patches and neckerchiefs from throughout the history of the lodge and all its predecessors

Klondike XL

The Klondike Derby at Cachalot Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary With Over 330 Attendees and 43 Sleds Competing



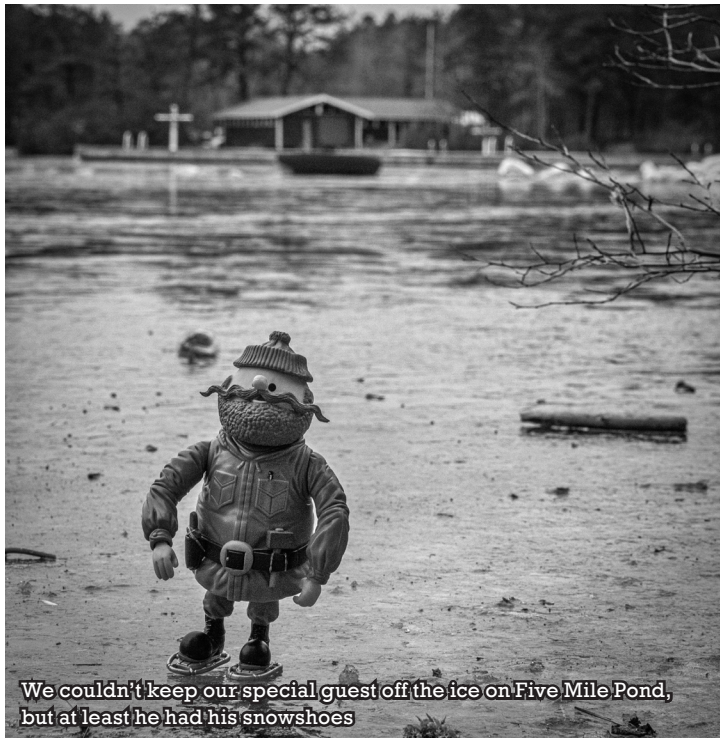
The "Dream Catchers" patrol identifying all the points of a compass at Chilkoot Pass



Snowshoe relay at Attu



A Scout showing a knot to the mayor of Sourdough



We couldn't keep our special guest off the ice on Five Mile Pond, but at least he had his snowshoes



Headed up Dining Hall Hill



Scouters and parents staying warm by the fire at Chilkoot Pass

Their Own Memories, In Their Own Words

Tom Gorka, Cachalot Staff 1958-1963

AS TOLD TO VIC SYLVIA AND DENNIS PREFONTAINE

Vic and Dennis had the pleasure of visiting with Tom in August 2019 at his home in central New Hampshire. We found Tom to be a very spry, very self-sufficient and active mid-octogenarian.

I was a Star Scout in Troop 3 at Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in New Bedford and served on the Cachalot Staff from 1958 through 1963, starting out as "Unit (site) Leader" in Knob Hill and was Program Director from 1960-1963.

I have stayed in contact with old staff members, especially Tom Howe, Waterfront Director, and Julio Cruz, and have fond memories of many more. My Camp Directors were Ed Tavares and Sonny Morse and I remember Scout Executives Ed Petit and Bob Patrick.

I am proud to have been part of the establishment of many Cachalot traditions and here's why: many you may remember or see evidence of still today. Some of these were Toggle ropes, the Welcome song, Staff plaid neckerchief, very sharp jackknives, notebooks to write down details and checking the bulletin board in the "Program Office" (an old latrine by the Health Lodge) before each meal.

I still remember sensing some staff were not checking the bulletin board for messages, so I changed the meeting location for that day resulting in a staff member showing up by himself in the wrong place. Lesson learned!

I also instituted staff singing while marching to meals up the very dusty Dining Hall Hill, large pioneering projects and the annual "Pirates Picnic".

But, as we have since learned much later on in life, these were disciplines to develop a sense of pride and teamwork in a very young staff. Many of us were only a year or two older than many Campers! So, we were addressed as "Mister" to establish a distinction. It was my goal to create a discipline to develop us as a cohesive group and he did it very well!

I wasn't on the staff in 1964, but was saddened by a visit I made that summer after the great fire. I remember climbing up on the Dining Hall roof to survey the extensive damage. It was shocking and saddening.

My fondest memories are of the Camp Staff and the newest thing in Camp was that first year camper.

I remember the challenges and pranks with the Squanto Staff. I led many annual Staff trips to Mount Chocorua at season's end as well as Staff "nights out" in Plymouth or Wareham, canoe trips on the Agawam River, oiling the Camp roads to keep the dust down, and cleaning and re-cleaning the 21 Club's Staff "Lounge".

In 1963, I was a Crew Leader for our Philmont Expedition led by Sonny Morse. This is an event I will never forget.

I have so many wonderful, vivid and fond memories of my time at Cachalot and my time in Scouting. Each and every one of them helped form the man I became and the backbone of my life. 🐻

For those who remember Tom, he's still the same guy, larger than life, same mannerisms, highly principled and very gregarious. He affected many Scout lives in a very positive way—including ours!

— Vic and Dennis



This photo shows the Philmont crew Mr. Gorka mentions in his remembrances. He is in the second row, seated, 5th from the right. To his right is John Lima, and to his left is Sunny Morse, then L. Fred Prefontaine. Dennis Prefontaine is in the front row, 3rd from the left; Vic Sylvia is in the third row, 5th from the right. Larry Bibeau is also in the third row, 6th from left. Video from this trip can be found on our YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/Yd7_kKx4o-I

In Memoriam

In Recognition of Members of the Cachalot Family Who Have Gone Home



Ken Daniels, a local Scouter and a member of the Association, passed away at the age of 85 on February 23rd, 2020. An Explorer Scout leader in New Bedford, Dartmouth and Acushnet, he was the long-time shop manager for Glaser Glass.

Born in Ohio, he had lived in the New Bedford area for many years. Mr. Daniels was a Korean War Veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy, on the USS IRWIN DD 794, for 4 years.

Survivors include his wife; his children, Matthew John Daniels and his wife Erinne of North Reading, MA, Cynthia Chapper and her husband Lawrence of Andover, MA; and his grandchildren, Matthew Chapper and Mira Daniels.

He counted making stained glass artwork as one of his hobbies. The fleur-de-lis stained glass in the Welcome Center at the Boathouse at Cachalot was a gift to the camp from him in late 2016.



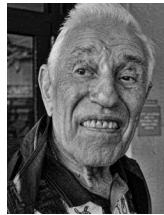
Kenneth Liberty, former Scout Executive of the Cachalot Council, passed away after a brief illness on February 29th, 2020 in Bangor, Maine, where he had lived for the last 30 years. He was 91 years old.

Originally from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Mr. Liberty came to the Cachalot Council in late 1966 from the Katahdin Area Council in Maine. He served as our Scout Executive until early 1971. His tenure at the Cachalot Council came in years when Cachalot was still working to recover from the fire of 1964. He was the individual responsible for proposing that Camp Cachalot be renamed to emphasize that Cachalot was more than "just" a summer camp, resulting in the formal name change to "Cachalot Council Scout Reservation" in May of 1967, eventually shortened to just Cachalot Scout Reservation. He returned to the Katahdin Area Council as their Scout Executive, retiring in 1993, after a record-setting term of 22 years in that role. His career with the Boy Scouts of America spanned 40 years.

Mr. Liberty served in the United States Army in 1951 and 1952 as a medical technician at Sandia Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, during the Korean War.

He is survived by his younger sister, Ila Mae Liberty and her three daughters Kimberly, Stephanie, and Nicole and their families; his sister-in-law, Sophie Liberty and her children Alan Gilbert Liberty and Beth Ann Liberty;

his son, Dr. Kenneth Benedict Liberty; his daughter-in-law, Rebecca (Schlatter) Liberty; his grandson, Kenneth James Gustav Liberty, and granddaughter, Claire Anne Marie Liberty. He also leaves two stepchildren and their families: Carol Smith and her husband George (Skip) Smith of Lamoine and Guy Phillips; Liberty also leaves a longtime friend and companion, Bruce DeMerchant.



Sumner "Sunny" Morse, long-time Scout Executive of the Moby Dick Council and one of our inaugural class of inductees on the Wall of Fame passed away yesterday, January 28th, at the age of 96.

Born in Boston, Mr. Morse had a long career in Scouting. He was a Field Exec with the Algonquin Council, serving as the assistant director at Camp Resolute and leading a trip to Philmont Scout Ranch while there. He was a District Executive and Director of Exploring at Boston Council from late 1954 through the early 1960s, including serving as one of the assistant directors at the former Loon Pond Scout Camp in Lakeville. In the mid-1960s he did a stint with the Cachalot Council, and was the assistant director and then director of the joint Cachalot-Squanto program that ran in 1964 and 1965 after the fire that destroyed much of the forest in Cachalot. He had a second term in the late 1960s into the 70s with Boston Council as their Director of Public Relations, and made a return to our area in 1977 as the Scout Executive of the Moby Dick Council. His term started with him arriving at the council office while it was being picketed by the "Save Our Camps" campaign, saw the establishment of a large trust fund to support the council and camp, helped the camp recover from yet another fire (the arson of the Trading Post in 1987), up to his eventual retirement from Scouting in 1989. He even got his Youth Protection training up to date just last year.

Mr. Morse served in the United States Army Air Corp. during World War II. He was a graduate of Boston Latin School, class of 1941 and received a Master's degree from Boston University in 1949.

We honored Sumner for all of his contributions to Cachalot with a spot on the Wall of Fame in our first group of inductees in the summer of 2010.

Preceded in death by his beloved wife Jean (Elkin) Morse and his son Steven, he is survived by his daughter, Judith M. Carter and her husband Gary of Dartmouth; a son, Edward Morse and his wife Terrie of Mahopac, NY; his grandchildren, Kerri and husband Brian, Stephanie and husband Lucas, Courtnei, Scott

and wife Carrie, Jordan and wife Elise, Aimee and husband Seth, Nicholas and Elizabeth; 9 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews



Everett Macomber Graviel succumbed to COVID-19 on Monday, May 4th, 2020.

Everett was a long-time presence at Cachalot, as a Scout, a camp staffer, a volunteer Scouter, a prominent collector of Scouting memorabilia and ephemera, and as a professional Scouter with several local councils, including the Moby Dick Council and Narragansett Council. He retired from professional Scouting in 2007.

Born and raised in New Bedford, Everett shared 42 years of marriage as husband to the late Paulette J. (Camara) Graviel. He graduated from NBHS as a member of the Class of 1963 and he was a Vietnam-era Veteran serving in the United States Army from 1963 to 1966.

Survivors include his 102 year old mother, Hilda S. (Paulo) Graviel of New Bedford; his son, Kenneth A. Graviel; his daughter, Darci L. Graviel; a grandson, Derrin A. Graviel; a great granddaughter, Laycie A. Graviel; two sisters, Lisa Graviel and Gail B. Graviel – Rabideau; a niece Rochelle L. Avila and her three boys, Jayme, Shane, and Sheldon Diaz; a sister-in-law, Pauline M. Graviel; and a niece, Jayne E. Graviel.



Ellsworth "Ellie" Sylvaria, an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 52 in Fairhaven passed away very unexpectedly at the age of 53 on March 3rd, 2020.

Known for a quick wit and sense of humor, he was a devoted father to his son Alex, with whom he shared a close connection through Scouting. They enjoyed many adventures together at various Scouting events. He also had a passion for sharing his love of local and family history, serving for a number of years in the Fairhaven Village Militia, eventually earning the title of Commander. He also served as a cannoneer, one of his favorite pastimes.

Ellie is survived by his wife of more than 25 years, Debra (Audette) Sylvaria and their son, Alex; his parents Ellsworth and Violet (West) Sylvaria; his in-laws, Paul and Elizabeth Audette; his brothers, Dean Sylvaria and his wife Michelle, Keith Sylvaria and his girlfriend Casey, and Toby Sylvaria; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. 🐾

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