

Fall 2021 & Winter 2022



The **Cachalotter**

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

**Planning a New Path
Forward at Winter
Gathering**

2021 In Review

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
John Woolley

On the cover: A path through deep snow leads the way to Prescott Hall several winters ago at Klondike XXXV.

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



Charting a New Course

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

Every few months I have to come up with something to write about Cachalot. Sometimes it easily flows. Other times it does not. How does one consistently say something new about the place that "we know so well." It is a "preaching to the choir" challenge. This time may be the most difficult yet. Not because I have nothing to say but to decide what are the most important things to say at this time. After a lovely Thanksgiving weekend, the last thing that I wanted to do was think deeply and dissect a most depressing topic for which I am far from thankful. Narragansett Council's decision to sell Cachalot occurred just after our last Cachaletter went to press. This is the first issue in which this horrendous turn of events can be addressed.

There is a lot to say about Cachalot, Narragansett Council, Scouting BSA now. You have varying opinions, feelings, and priorities about all three entities. You are all justified. You have every right to hold the views that you do—whatever they may be. The Cachalot Alumni Association needs to know how you feel. The mission of our organization is going to change significantly with the loss of Cachalot. We need input from our members so that our new mission and efforts best reflect the priorities of

our members. We want you to participate in charting our new course. We plan to have a group discussion at our upcoming Winter Gathering. We are also creating an electronic questionnaire that will be used to survey our membership. The information gathered will be used to guide our future efforts.

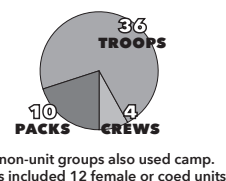
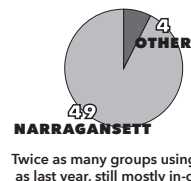
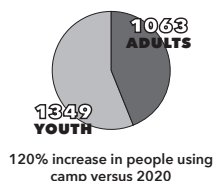
In the past, our association purchased equipment for summer camp, awarded scholarships to summer camp staff, funded facility improvements for "off-season" camping, and assisted with various events at held Cachalot. These are no longer viable options. Your thoughts on our new mission will likely depend on the details. Unfortunately, we have few at this time. We know that Cachalot will very likely be sold and that the state (i.e., MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) has the first option to buy under the conservation restriction. It is very important to remember that no sale is close to final nor is the settlement of the national bankruptcy. The details are still being written and are quite uncertain at this time. It is the waiting that seems to make this all the more unpleasant and painful.

Our dedication to the Cachalot family will not change. We are, and always will be Cachalot. 🐻

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2021 was once again not a normal year at camp, with COVID-19 restrictions keeping the cabins unavailable to rent, and many units having fewer Scouts to bring to camp. Despite this, attendance more than doubled over the prior year. Multiple events were held at camp, several of which had outstanding attendance. That included our own Diamond Jubilee Homecoming and this year's Highland Games, which combined brought nearly 700 people out to enjoy a day or weekend at camp. 🐻

2021 by the Numbers



2462
PEOPLE

\$4805
INCOME

All income comes from either canoe racks, event rental fees, or Adirondack usage, as all cabins remained unavailable for the year

These numbers may be a bit low, as there were a few weekends unaccounted for due to lack of Campmaster coverage

Troop 52 Fairhaven is once again the most-frequent unit at camp with 4 weekends, with T74 Dartmouth, T45 Dighton, and T11 Acushnet all tied for second with 3 weekend each

Loud Thoughts in a Quiet Camp

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II, Communications Chairman

In July, the Association board decided to have its meeting out at Cachalot, something we've done with our July meeting since our founding. And as has been my wont, I took the day off from work to spend the afternoon at camp taking pictures in advance of the meeting.

It turned out to be a bright, clear day, and I had the entire camp to myself. I spooked a few turkeys on Tom Cullen Field when I first arrived, hiked out to the old bogs, then to the Besse Bog dam, and finally up to the Adirondacks. When I returned to central camp I once again managed to scare a critter off of the field, this time a woodchuck. I grabbed my water bottle to rehydrate, and sat down in the shade of the Noquochoke pavilion and listened.

There were some warblers singing in the scrub oak brush nearby. A kingfisher flew over, chittering away. The electrical buzzing of insects came from the grass in the field. I was out of the sun, so the deer flies that had pestered me on my hike had finally moved off to other targets.

It was a beautiful day. It was peaceful. Despite the birdsong, the drone of insects, and the susurrant of leaves in the slight breeze, it was quiet. But it was *empty*.

I closed my eyes, and my mind went to my time on camp staff, more years ago than I care to count these days, listening for all the sounds I *should* have been hearing in the 4 o'clock hour.

Despite having ended up Program Director, I still think of myself as a Scoutcraft guy. Back then, I'd have been in my Scoutcraft area in the pine grove. It would have been the third week of camp, usually in that special window when everyone had fallen into the rhythm of the week, and things would be running smoothly, almost automatically. The staff wouldn't have started to get on each other's nerves just yet. I'd have either been teaching a sparsely-attended merit badge class (all the afternoon classes were small) or possibly in the axe yard taking out my frustrations on some innocent pine logs by splitting firewood for Friday's campfire. There'd be noise from Scouts running around or playing a game on Tom Cullen Field. The irregular report of .22 rifles would be coming from whatever Troop had their scheduled afternoon shoot at the Rifle Range. There'd be some chatter and laughter from kids in line, waiting to order their last afternoon snacks at the Trading Post. A Troop swim and boating session would be going on at the waterfront, with the occasional whistle-blows and calls to "Buddy up!" carrying through the trees to where I was working. I may not have been actively paying attention to it, but I would have been soaking in it, absorbing it.

I've had the good fortune to have had been alone in Cachalot on many occasions over the years. Being alone in camp is always quiet, but this was the first time that I was immediately struck with a deep feeling of melancholy because of that quiet. A camp *wants* campers. A camp in the summer *wants* summer camp. The lack of that rich soundscape of times past was striking.

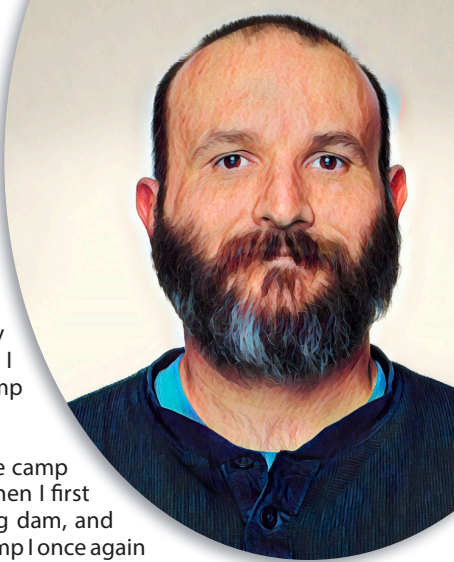
I'm heartbroken to know that Cachalot as it was will not continue. But it was *already* diminished from what it was. Change was and is inevitable. Cachalot in its last year of summer camp was not the same Cachalot as I remember from my own first visit. If summer camp at Cachalot was still alive and well, it'd be different in 10, 20, 30 years than the summer camps I played a part in. Maybe better. Maybe not. But not the same.

I've said it before, but it bears repeating: what has always made Cachalot special to me was the people I was fortunate enough to share it with. My friends. My family. The Cachalot family.

I don't know what the future holds for Cachalot, the place. Five Mile Pond is beautiful, clear, and clean. I hope that continues to be true. Sunset over the pond, or lightning flashing over it, are things to behold, and fill me with awe. The smell of pine tar, hot sand, and ozone still brings me right back to my first years at summer camp, hiking up the trail to the Adirondacks after lunch for my siesta. That's even deeper in the grey matter of my brain than that ashy dirt gets into your ankles as you walk around camp.

I sincerely and profoundly hope that whatever becomes of Cachalot, be it as part of the state forest or as a youth camp for some other organization, in keeping with the strictures of the conservation restriction, that its summers are once again filled with the sounds of people enjoying it, even if it looks quite different than it does today.

Maybe, just maybe, we'll even have to welcome them to the family. 🐾



2022 Cachalot Alumni Events

Our calendar for 2022 is not final, and may be impacted if the sale of Cachalot takes place this calendar year, or by the ongoing public health situation with COVID-19. We intend to take advantage of Cachalot for as long as we have her.

As always, our events will be announced on our web site at www.cachalotalumni.org, via our mailing list, and on social media including our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds.

February 26th, 2022 11:00AM - 3:00PM
Winter Gathering
full details on page 6

May 27th through 30th, 2022
**Memorial Day
Family Camping Weekend**
Cachalot Scout Reservation
Plymouth, MA
(if possible)

Date and Location To Be Announced
**Homecoming and Wall
of Fame Induction**

Executive Committee Other e-Mail Contacts

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Cachalot's Dia

It was not exactly the 75th birthday we all expected, but Cachalot still hosted Scouters, Alumni, and the Cachalot Family for a Homecoming



Archivist Dennis Wilkinson signing copies of *75 Years of Camp Cachalot: from the Archives of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association*



Event Chieftain "Kilted Kevin" Thompson addressing the crowd at Highland Games



The Cachalot Family at Homecoming



Clan Goldrick at Highland Games. L-R: John Goldrick, David L. Goldrick, Aaron Goldrick, David A. Goldrick

Wall-of-Famers in attendance at Homecoming. L-R: D. George Boucher, Vic Sylvia, Ed Tavares, Brenda Pom...



Diamond Jubilee

coming, a Highland Games, and family and unit camping throughout 2021. Here is just a small sampling of scenes from those events.



Dennis Wilkinson (left) being inducted onto the Wall of Fame by fellow Wall-of-Famer Vic Sylvia



Dennis Wilkinson, left



T24G New Bedford competing in the Tug of War at Highland Games



Highland Games campfire at the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field



Caber Toss at Highland Games



T53B Mattapoisett competing in the Tug of War at Highland Games

Winter Gathering 2022

February 26th, 2022

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

Questions?

Email gathering@cachalotalumni.org

RSVP at

www.cachalotalumni.org/gathering

A Path Forward

Planning for the Future at Winter Gathering 2022

We will be gathering the Cachalot family at the Holy Name of the Sacred Heart parish hall on Saturday, February 26th, 2022, beginning at 11:00AM. As always, our Winter Gathering is open to all, and is free to attend. In lieu of an admission fee, we ask that all attendees bring two nonperishable food items to be donated to the food pantry operated by the parish.

As we have done in previous years, we'll start the day with a social hour and a pot luck lunch. Our members always amaze us with a wide variety of food and desserts, so if you want to show off your culinary talents we hope you'll contribute a dish of your own. Association Secretary Bill Begin is again coordinating dishes for the pot luck. If you are planning to bring food, please contact him at home at 508-994-5299, on his cell phone at 508-789-1169, or via email at wlb2750@comcast.net so we can avoid duplicated dishes.

After lunch, we'll give a quick update on the status of the association itself, but our big topic is probably obvious to any of our members. With 2021 bringing the sad news that Cachalot is to be sold, our Association has to revisit our mission. The Diamond Jubilee events and membership

To help set this direction, and to make sure those of you who aren't in Southeastern Massachusetts have a voice in this process, one to two weeks before Winter Gathering we will be distributing a survey via our Facebook group and our mailing list. This survey will be looking for your feedback on some of the ideas the committee has had, and seeking your suggestions on this topic. We will use the results of that survey to help guide our discussion at Gathering itself. This is an extremely important conversation for the Cachalot family, and we expect that Winter Gathering is really just the beginning of that conversation. We expect the answers may change depending on who Cachalot's eventual buyer is, as well as the disposition of the Scouting program itself as the BSA seeks to emerge from bankruptcy.

As we go to press, a buyer has not yet been identified and Cachalot has not yet been sold, and is still in very active use as a Scout camp. We intend to continue to take advantage of Cachalot for as long as we have her. This puts a lot of our calendar in a state of flux this year. You will hear about our plans for a final event for Cachalot, to be scheduled as soon as any sale date is determined. We've been assured that we'll be able to hold this event, although notice may be very short.



drive have reinforced our coffers, but we will no longer have Cachalot to spend our money on. Do we become a purely social organization? Do we become a giver of grants to units from the communities that Cachalot served, helping with equipment purchases and camperships for Scouts served by those units as Scouting itself becomes more costly? If Cachalot ends up purchased by the state, do we help underwrite the cost of Scouting events that want to use the property, or continue to help with projects on the public land as a "Friends of" organization? These funds have come from our members and others in the Cachalot family over the years, and we want to be a responsible steward of those funds, spending them the way our members would like to see them spent (and honoring how our members would like to not see them spent, too.)

For those of you who ordered, but have not yet received, Diamond Jubilee hats or polo shirts, they will be available for pick-up at Winter Gathering. We also still have 2022 calendars and copies of our *75 Years of Camp Cachalot* photo history book available for sale, along with the usual Association merchandise.

Should the public health situation with COVID-19 require changes, we will communicate this via our social media channels and via email. We will also update on any required COVID protocol in advance of the event.

We hope that you'll participate in the survey and join us if you can for Winter Gathering, and help us chart our course for the future. #WeAreCachalot, now and forever. 🐾

In Memoriam

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



John "Jack" Goodhue, III, U.S.C.G. Ret., 66, passed away on Friday September 10, 2021 from complications from COVID-19.

Jack was a 1973 graduate of Fairhaven High School and a 1979 graduate of Regis College in Colorado. He served 33 years of active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard until his retirement in 2012 as a Command Master Chief. He and his wife Jan have lived in Ponte Vedra, FL for the past eight years where he coached the Nocatee Swim Team, taught swimming lessons, and worked as a pool manager. Jack was an Eagle Scout, formerly with Troop 55 in Fairhaven, was a member and officer of Neemat Lodge, and was a member of the summer camp staff at Camp Cachalot in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In addition to his wife Jan, he is survived by his daughter Jacqueline and her husband David Myers, and his son Michael; his grandchildren, Trent and Mackenzie Myers; three siblings, his twin Marie, sister Elizabeth, and brother Paul; his mother-in-law, Dolores Lentz; and several nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and a grand-nephew.

He was predeceased by his daughter Christine, his parents, John M. Goodhue, Jr. and Elizabeth (Roman) Goodhue, and his father-in-law, Joseph Lentz.



Charles E. "Charlie" Humphreys, 69, passed away at his home on Sunday, November 21, 2021. He was the husband of Jean Humphreys.

Born in Fairhaven, MA on May 16, 1952, Charlie graduated from Fairhaven High School and went on to receive his undergraduate degree from the U.S. Naval Academy. He completed Navy Nuclear Power training and joined the submarine service. Following active duty, he received an MBA in finance from Drexel University. After 30 years of active and reserve service, Charlie retired as a Captain.

As a senior executive and CEO, Charlie travelled the world running domestic and international

manufacturing companies in the United States, Canada, the UK, Thailand, Chile and Saudi Arabia.

Charlie was the son of the late Cachalot Wall-of-Famer John Humphreys and his wife Marie. Charlie was a Scout, an active member of Agawam Lodge including serving as its Vice-Chief, and a member of Cachalot's summer camp staff for several summers in the 1960s. Most recently, he was a member of the Diamond Jubilee committee for the Alumni Association, helping to reach out to local high school alumni groups and other organizations to get the word out about our 75th anniversary events.

He continued with his outdoor adventures after retiring, as a frequent hiker and volunteer with the AMC in the White Mountains, even volunteering at the Mount Washington Observatory. He gave back to his community in other ways, as an elected Township Supervisor serving as Chair of the Board for four years and dedicating his time and talent to the betterment of his community. An avid American history buff, Charlie volunteered at the National Constitution Center. His appreciation for the value of open space and the land led him to join the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Quaker City Farmers, and the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture where he served as Treasurer.

But Charlie's greatest passion was stewarding his own farm and historic property in Chester County, PA. Hands on, he dedicated himself to preserving the integrity and beauty of the land and home he loved.



Joseph F. A. "Al" LeBlanc, 98, of New Bedford, passed away Sunday, December 19, 2021 at home. He was the husband of the late Marie A. (Bourgeois) LeBlanc with whom he shared 64 years of marriage.

Born in New Bedford, a son of the late Theotina and Olive (Belliveau) LeBlanc, he was a lifelong resident of New Bedford.

He proudly served in the United States Army during World War II and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, American Theater Campaign Ribbon and the European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon. Mr.

LeBlanc was the owner and operator of Al LeBlanc Flooring until his retirement.

Al's Scouting career began in 1949, and he was involved for most of his adult life. He was a Boy Scout Leader, including serving as Scoutmaster of Troop 12 in New Bedford, and was member of the Catholic Committee of Scouting, receiving numerous awards for his service including the Bronze Pelican Award. He was a member and officer of the former Sixth Bristol Club and was a longtime volunteer at St. Mary's Church.

His family includes a daughter, Linda Taylor and her husband Christopher of Acushnet; a son, Rene; a brother, Albert; his grandchildren, Megan Aguiar and her husband Derek, Noah Taylor and Christopher Taylor, Jr. and his wife Melissa; his great-grandchildren, Leighton and Audrey; and several nieces and nephews. He was the grandfather of the late, Adam Taylor and the brother of the late Della Bolduc, Louis, Henry, Ovila and Raymond LeBlanc.



John J. "Jack" Staskiewicz, Jr., 65, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, June 7, 2020 in St. Anne's Hospital. He was the loving husband of Christine (Dunne) Staskiewicz to whom he was married for 38 years.

Born in Fall River, MA a son of the late John J. Sr. and Grace (Shea) Staskiewicz, he was a longtime resident of Tiverton.

A graduate of Bishop Connolly High School, Class of 1973 he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Rhode Island in 1978. He worked as an Environmental Inspector for the City of Fall River for 29 years and then for Attleboro for one year. A member of the Theta Chi Fraternity at URI, he was very dedicated to Scouting, and served as the Massasoit District Commissioner for many years.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Timothy "Tim" J. Staskiewicz and Daniel J. Staskiewicz; one daughter, Lauren M. Church and one granddaughter, Violet Church. 🖤

If you should learn of the passing of a member of the Cachalot family, please let us know by sending email to info@cachalotalumni.org

The nomination period for our 2022 Wall of Fame induction is open. Do you remember a Scout leader, mentor, long-time volunteer, or outside organization that made an outsized difference at Cachalot, either through their service to camp, contributions to year-round or summer camp programs, or through their professional Scouting or financial contributions? The Association wants to recognize those who have gone above and

beyond for Cachalot and the Cachalot family on our Wall of Fame, and we need you to nominate those people and organizations.

For more information on eligibility, download a nomination form, learn about the voting process, or see those we've already honored with a space on the Wall of Fame, visit our web site at cachalotalumni.org/walloffame. 🖤

Wall of Fame Nominations Open for 2022

Nominating deadline is April 16th

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