

The Cachalotter

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

Mush! Westport Ho!

Let Us Tell You the Story of Klondike Derbies Past at Winter Gathering 2012

Nearly thirty-one years ago, the stories and legends of the Land of the Midnight Sun combined with the games of skill of a winter Scouting event, resulting in the first of what we now know as the Camp Cachalot Klondike Derby. This wasn't the first Klondike ever in Scouting history, nor was it even the first event at Cachalot to be called a Klondike, but that 1981 event kicked off the current chain of Klondike Derbies. Held annually ever since, occasionally threatened by actual snow, and even happening on occasion outside of Cachalot so the public could see a bit of Scouting in action, the Klondike continues as one of the more successful annual programs run in the area that once was Moby Dick Council.

And any event that's been run for that long, by so many different people, for so many different people, has stories to tell. A lot of stories. And we hope to tell them, and maybe hear a few of yours while we're at it.

So, on January 28th, 2012, beginning at 11AM, we hope you'll be able to join us at Our Lady of Grace Church in Westport for our annual Winter Gathering. We plan to have on hand many former Klondike Governors and Mayors, photos, video, and memorabilia from Klondikes past, and tell and hear stories from all those winter days where teams of boys act as sled dogs and run a race through Gold Rush-themed challenges in a quest for (spraypainted) gold nuggets, trophies, and

bragging rights for the next year.

In addition to the Klondike history, we'll have lunch at about noon (a small donation, \$5 suggested, is requested if you'll be dining with us.) People have always ended up spending lunch at the Gathering chatting up friends old and new, and we don't expect this year to be any different. We'll also take the opportunity to give you an update on Association goings-



Sleds line up near the "North Pole" at Klondike II in 1982

on, including upcoming events, happenings out at Cachalot, and progress on the construction of our permanent Wall of Fame out at camp (you can get a preview of that progress on page 6).

If you're still active in a troop, pack, post, or crew, please invite the other members of your unit to join us, so they can see how the Klondike has changed (and hasn't) over the years (and if you're up for it, grab that capote and tocque to keep warm en route!)

Westport, Ho! 🐻

Klondike 2012

January 14th, 2012
8:00AM – 5:00PM

Camp Cachalot
Plymouth, Massachusetts

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association will be running the Warming House, slinging coffee, hot chocolate, and snacks to help keep the attendees warm and active.

Members interested in helping out are welcome (extra props for looking the part of a real sourdough!)

Winter Gathering 2012

January 28th, 2012
11:00AM – 3:00PM

Our Lady of Grace Church
569 Sanford Road
Westport, Massachusetts

Free admission
(donation requested for lunch)

Open to members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association, Scouts, Scouters, and interested members of the public

Updates online at:
www.cachalotalumni.org/gathering

Wall of Fame Honorees • Groundbreaking

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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.

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Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

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Karrie Dumais
Duane Houghton
Brian Jean
George Ramos
Victor Sylvia

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



Until We Meet Again

George Ramos, 2010-11 Camp Cachalot Program Director

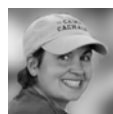
The 2011 Cachalot Scout Reservation Summer Camp season is now down in the history books, and my time has finally come. There have been others who served a long time on camp staff and others who wanted to serve longer but didn't get the opportunity to for one reason or another. In realizing that, I will always remain infinitely appreciative for having had the privilege to work every summer on staff since I was thirteen.

Looking back while working on staff, you learn a lot about life and yourself. There isn't enough space here for me to acknowledge everyone, so I shall simply, but not lightly, say "Thank You". One of the most richest rewards one can receive from serving on staff is hearing kind remarks from campers, parents, and scout leaders. Additionally, I found that the most prosperous award was learning from the staff. I feel humble and grateful having shared all the experiences I had with a group of dedicated and caring people I called, family. It is the staff that is the driving force of the camp program and they inspired me in ways I never could have imagined. As a proud alumnus, I await the day that I can return to camp and start giving back to the place we know so well.

In closing, I thought I would make this a little fun. One day as I checked Facebook, I received a request to join a page titled, "You know you worked on camp staff when..." Intrigued by the subject, I went on to look at the list only to discover how many other people shared similar experiences. Here are a few that not only relate to my time on camp staff, but may probably relate to your time on staff as well.

- Camp has been over for 22 minutes and you're already thinking about next summer.
- Being at home makes you homesick.
- You say you would buy camp if you ever hit the lottery.
- You go to college just to fill time between summers.
- You can make anything out of duct tape, including Band Aids.
- You would work at camp for free.
- Your primary method of diplomatic resolution is the nose game.
- You save anything and everything campers/staffers have ever made for you.
- You've ever given up time off to comfort a crying camper and/or fellow staffer.
- You end your staff night out by going to Wal-Mart (well, in recent years).

Thank you all. 🐸



A Wish For Things That Work

Karrie Dumais, Ranger, Camp Cachalot

Here it is! I know you have all been waiting for it. I give you the Cachalot Wish List 2011!

- An anvil
- An electric motor for one of the Sea Nymph row boats.
- Game cameras: camouflaged, motion activated, with web capability.
- A concrete tube or plastic culvert section at least 10" long and 3"- 5" in diameter. Planning a project to replace land bridge to protect lagoon habitat.
- Telephone poles.
- Large plastic barrels for new composting program. 55 gallon or larger.
- Hand tools
- Chisels, gouges, riving tool, wood rasps. All shapes and sizes.
- Display cases: any size or shape. (can be placed on top of a table, glass front/top counter, or glass front cabinet/bookcase)
- Nature specimens: Skeletons, pelts, taxidermy, insect displays, plant life displays. Fish tanks.
- Redone or new display or demo items for any of our merit badge classes that we run during Summer Camp. (i.e. knot boards, wood species and examples of their uses for wood-working, leaf identification, animal track castings, scat chart... without the actual scat please, camp gadgets)
- Spars: long, many.
- Saw mill leftovers: when the tree is sawn for boards the outer edge is left. If a mill would be willing to give us some of this I can use it to make some rustic trim and accents.
- Big tree trunk. Pine at least 18" diameter and as long as possible.
- Transportation for a very large tree trunk if one is donated.
- Steel pipe: 4" to 6" diameter. Any length. A 12' footer would be good.
- Fireplace grate.

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Ch-ch-ch-changes

Vic Sylvia, Association Chairman




As I look back on the many years spent at Camp Cachalot, I find myself reflecting on the changes that have taken place over those years. Some changes have been due to acts of nature and others have been due to the planning of others. Nob Hill and Sleepy Hollow have been erased due to the fire of '64 and replaced by Cohakett, Sconticut, Agawam and Acooshnet, then changed to sites 1,2,3,4 and 5, then back to Cohakett, Sconticut, Agawam and Acooshnet. In my youth, the Trading Post was located at the old Commissioner Shack by the lagoon. A new building was built after the fire of '64 by Tom Cullen Field, and the Trading Post was moved to it. When that building burned down in a fire back in the '80s it was moved back to the Commissioner Shack. It stayed there until a new building was built at the site of the one that burnt down. It has since been moved to the Fox's Den, which itself had been converted from the old camp shower house.

Program areas have moved from one location to another, with the exception of the Rifle Range, although I can remember two or three restoration projects on the decking and roof. The Nature area when I first attended Summer Camp was located by the pond, then moved to the Boat House, then to the old Pump House by the lagoon, then to the new Trading Post which replaced the one that burnt down, back to the lagoon and then to the Boat House where it currently resides. Five Mile Pond has remained the same, although I swear it was twice as big as it is now. The waterfront area has changed several times over the years. In my youth the dock system was made of aluminum and was very slippery, which prompted the area director to warn us that if we fell and got cut by the aluminum, we could die from aluminum dioxide poisoning. I don't think anyone died, but I do remember Steve Moniz banging his head against the dock and cutting it back in '62, funny but I haven't seen him since. A new docking system was constructed which required volunteers to remove it on Labor Day weekends and reinstall it in place on Memorial Day weekends. Those were replaced, thank God, by the new system that can stay in place all year, although the decking was replaced by the Association a few years back.

The next few years will see the Association taking a more active role in the future of camp.

The Boat House is in the process of change with a portion being developed as a Welcome Center and museum. The Dining Hall has grown over the years with additions, walk-in freezer and a deck area overlooking the pond and is in the beginning stages of a complete major renovation. I know that the hill leading to the Dining Hall has become a lot steeper and the distance from the parking area to the Old Trading Post/Handicraft area/Noquochoke Lodge has increased by at least one half mile. But change is good, and I look forward to what we as an Association can do to improve Cachalot.

The next few years will see the Association taking a more active role in the future of camp. We will be participating in Camp promotions and assisting in the improvements to the program areas of Summer Camp, along with sponsoring a work weekend. All we need is your help. Visit our website to see what you can do to help and post any suggestions in our discussion forum.

Change is good. What can you do to help? 



Wishlist, continued from previous page

- Fire brick
- Garden carts.
- Insulated glass windows w/frame.
- Insulation. Not used please.

As always, donations of any of these items are greatly appreciated. Many items can be found in attics or garages as well. Also, feel free to ask around in your home town. We know that a better program for our Scouts is not only our goal. It takes a community dedicated to it's youth to make it happen. This is you. Thank you for your efforts.

If you have something that you think Cachalot could use please call the Ranger at (781) 831-0834. 

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

January 14th, 2012
Cachalot Klondike Derby

January 28th, 2012
11:00AM through 3:00PM
Winter Gathering
Our Lady of Grace Church
Westport, MA

Today
Nominations being accepted for
2012 Wall of Fame Balloting

Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

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2011 Homecoming Welcomes A New

William “Bill” Joyce, Edmund “Ed” Tavares, and NStar

On a beautiful July day at Camp Cachalot, dozens of members of the Alumni Association converged on the William Joyce Memorial Flag Field at Camp Cachalot with our Wall of Fame honorees and their friends and families to welcome them on to the Wall.

We got started with lunch at the new old

Trading Post, a.k.a. Noquochoke Lodge, by Tom Cullen field, and a quick update on Association business from chairman Vic Sylvia. Attendees were able to get a look at the plans for the Wall, along with a model of the site plan put together by Cachalot’s Ranger, Karrie Dumais, who also shared the plans for the upcoming renovation of Cachalot’s dining

hall. This is more than just a spruce-up of the building—it’s being expanded to seat more people, and it’s being updated to bring more light into the building and repair and improve it inside and out.

After lunch, everyone made the short walk through the pine grove over to the Joyce



The Wall of Fame site model, showing the planned hardscaping of the Joyce Flag Field and the Wall itself (on the right)

Camp Cachalot Wall of



William “Bill” Joyce

A tireless volunteer and Scoutmaster, Mr. Joyce’s legacy at Cachalot is one of innumerable lessons to Scouts, many projects to improve or restore the ecology of the camp, and helping establish many programs that continue to this day.

NStar and It

The bringers and ma power, the employee and non-Scouters alike of volunteer work at C the earliest power line 1950s through maint to

Honoree Ed Tavares (far left) and members of Bill Joyce's family pose near the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field after the induction ceremonies

New Class of Wall of Fame Honorees

Take Their Places on the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame

Flag Field for the induction ceremony, where we were reminded of the many reasons our honorees were elected by our membership to their places on the Wall. George Ramos talked of the long and continuing works of honoree Ed Tavares, both volunteer and professional; Art Caesar spoke glowingly of his (and many other people's) "favorite Scoutmaster", Bill

Joyce; and Vic Sylvia reminded us of the fine work of the many volunteers from NStar Corporation in keeping the lights on and the electricity flowing to camp.

Everyone was very pleased that so many of you came out to help celebrate the work our honorees have done for Cachalot and

the Scouts who call it home. Nominations for the 2012 Wall of Fame are open now, and we need your help in finding this year's group of those unsung heroes who have done so much to make Cachalot what it is today. Please stop by our web site at www.cachalotalumni.org/walloffame and grab a nomination form today! 🐻

of Fame Class of 2011



s Employees **Edmund "Ed" Tavares**

maintainers of light and
es of NSTAR, Scouters
ke, have a long history
Cachalot, from bringing
s into camp in the early
tenance and upgrades
day.

Long-time volunteer, sometime Scouting professional, Explorer, Venturer, and Scouter, Mr. Tavares' continuing contributions are too numerous to count, and span from his service as a member of Cachalot's first summer camp staff to helping to found our Alumni Association.

George Ramos presents Ed Tavares with his Wall of Fame plaque.



A Golden Shovel Was Outside Our Budget...

Fortunately, We Had a Green Tractor. Ground is Broken for the Wall of Fame!

On Saturday, November 12th, we made a significant step forward and broke ground at the Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field for installation of the permanent Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame! Project committee chairman Duane Houghton and several other alumni have spent most of the weekends since re-sculpting the slope, terracing in steps and parade fields with blocks, and setting the posts that will be the main structure of the Wall of Fame. They've been making great progress, and everything looks fantastic so far. Many thanks to Duane, Dave Houghton, Ash Houghton, Darin Young, Darryl Higgins, Bill Begin, Troops 55 and 70, Tim Connick, Vic Sylvia, and Karrie Dumais for all the work they've done.

Duane is keeping track of goings-on and posting pictures on our Facebook group (www.cachalotalumni.org/facebook will get

you there), and that's also where he's been letting people know when upcoming work days are going to be (we're working with Duane to get that information out via our usual Twitter and web site channels as well.) If you can come out and lend a hand, the help is always greatly appreciated. If you're planning to attend the Klondike Derby in January, either with your own unit or to help us run the Warming Station, please take a minute to go by the Joyce Flag Field and check out the fruits of Duane & company's labor.

If you can't make it out to physically work on the Wall, we hope you'll consider making a donation to help us finish funding its construction. Nearly all of the work to date has been funded by a significant contribution from one of our members, but we still need well over \$1500 to finish purchasing materials

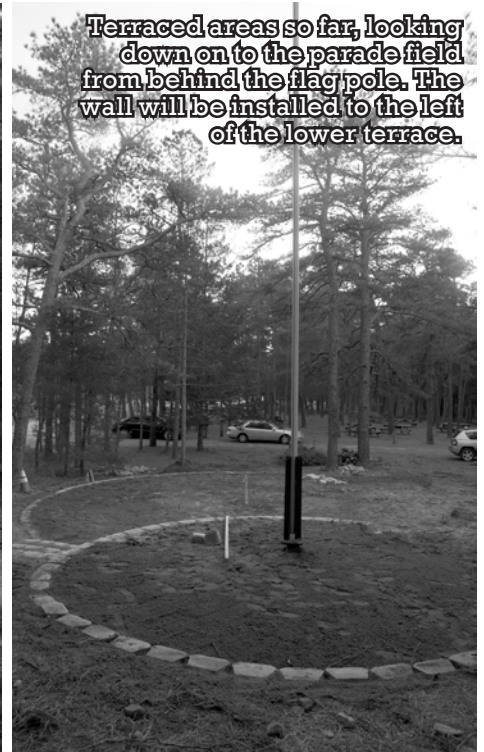
to complete the hardscape and the Wall itself, as well as have the plaques with the honoree's information made to place on the Wall, including those already honored and those who will be named to the Wall over the next few years. Any donation is greatly appreciated, and is tax deductible. Donations can be made online via our web site, please visit: www.cachalotalumni.org/walloffame for details and a link to the donation page.

Everything looks great so far, and we hope to have the Wall completed and the parade grounds in good shape before summer camp opens in 2012, with a formal unveiling of the finished Wall of Fame at Homecoming 2012. Keep your eye on our web site, the Facebook group, and the upcoming spring issue of *The Cachalotter* for more updates! 🛠️

The new terracing of the Bill Joyce Flag Field and the Wall of Fame area is taking shape



Terraced areas so far, looking down on to the parade field from behind the flag pole. The wall will be installed to the left of the lower terrace.



Setting bricks for the upper terrace (photo courtesy Duane Houghton)



Setting the posts that will support the Wall of Fame (photo courtesy Duane Houghton)



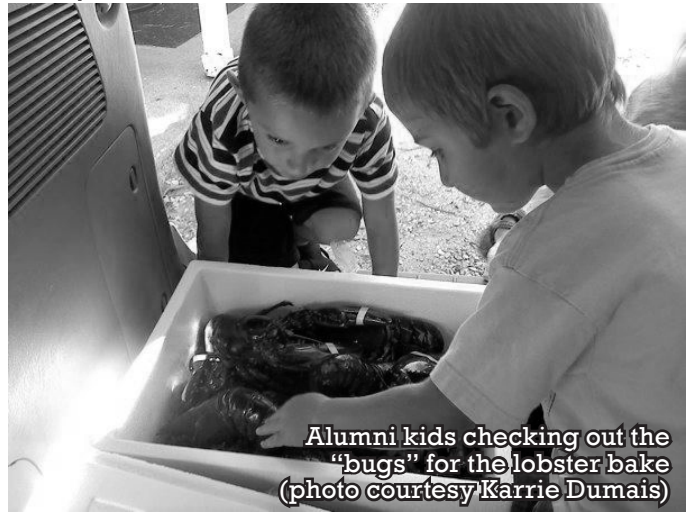
Family Camping

A Few Photos from Labor Day 2011

Alumni kid showing off wild grapes found growing near the Besse Bog Dam at the Agawam River



Dutch oven pineapple upside-down cake, ready for hungry campers



Alumni kids checking out the "bugs" for the lobster bake (photo courtesy Karrie Dumais)



Steam rises off the lobster bake (photo courtesy Karrie Dumais)

Dawn, Scot, and Bob Pomfret enjoy some "lobstah" with alumni kids and Ron Courtemanche (photo courtesy Karrie Dumais)



The families that come out for our family camping weekends always seem to have a good time, and Labor Day this year was no exception. There was a whole lot of swimming, fishing, and hiking; great food was shared around the whole site, and Ranger Karrie Dumais organized a traditional New England "lobstah" bake down on the Waterfront for interested parties. Labor Day and Memorial Day camping is open to the households of all of our members, and we'd love to see even more folks out there! 🐞

2011 Staff Scholarships Awarded

Cachalot's Assistant Chef and Archery Director Make the Grade

Once again, we presented two Staff Scholarships during the last closing ceremony of summer camp. The Association is very proud of our scholarship program, which has to date presented eleven awards totaling \$4500 to deserving members of Cachalot's staff.

This year, the \$500 Thomas P. Whelan Chairman's Scholarship was awarded to

Frederick "Charlie" Beal of Troop 26 Lakeville, who served admirably as the Assistant Cook for the summer. He entered Bristol Community College this fall to study business. 2011 was his fifth year as a member of the summer camp staff.

Kyle Brasseur of Troop 11 in Acushnet received the \$250 Alumni Scholarship. Kyle acted both as Archery director and Assistant Scoutmaster

of the Cadre troop this summer, his first year as a member of our staff. He is a sophomore at Emerson College in Boston, studying broadcast journalism.

To learn more about our scholarship program, download an application, or learn how to donate to help us fully fund our second scholarship, please visit our web site. 🐸



Kyle and Frederick with their Scholarship checks
(photo courtesy Brian Jean)

Movin' On...

Peter Ashworth, Cachalot alum and our council liaison for the last five years, has taken a new position with Vermont's Green Mountain Council as their new Program Director. Peter has been a valuable voice in and for the Association in his time as our liaison, and we wish him hearty congratulations and best of luck in his new, expanded role in Scouting. We hope he'll be able to find the time to stop in on occasion (Cachalot was his camp long before he went pro, after all!) 🐸

...and Movin' In

Stepping into the role of council liaison is Eric Oulette, the current Reservation Director for Cachalot Scout Reservation and Service Area Executive for Southeastern Massachusetts, encompassing the former Moby Dick Council area. We've already worked with Eric some in his role at the camp, and we're looking forward to his contributions, especially as the Association begins to take a more active role in promoting summer and year-round camping out at Cachalot. 🐸

Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

c/o Narragansett Council, BSA

P. O. Box 14777

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