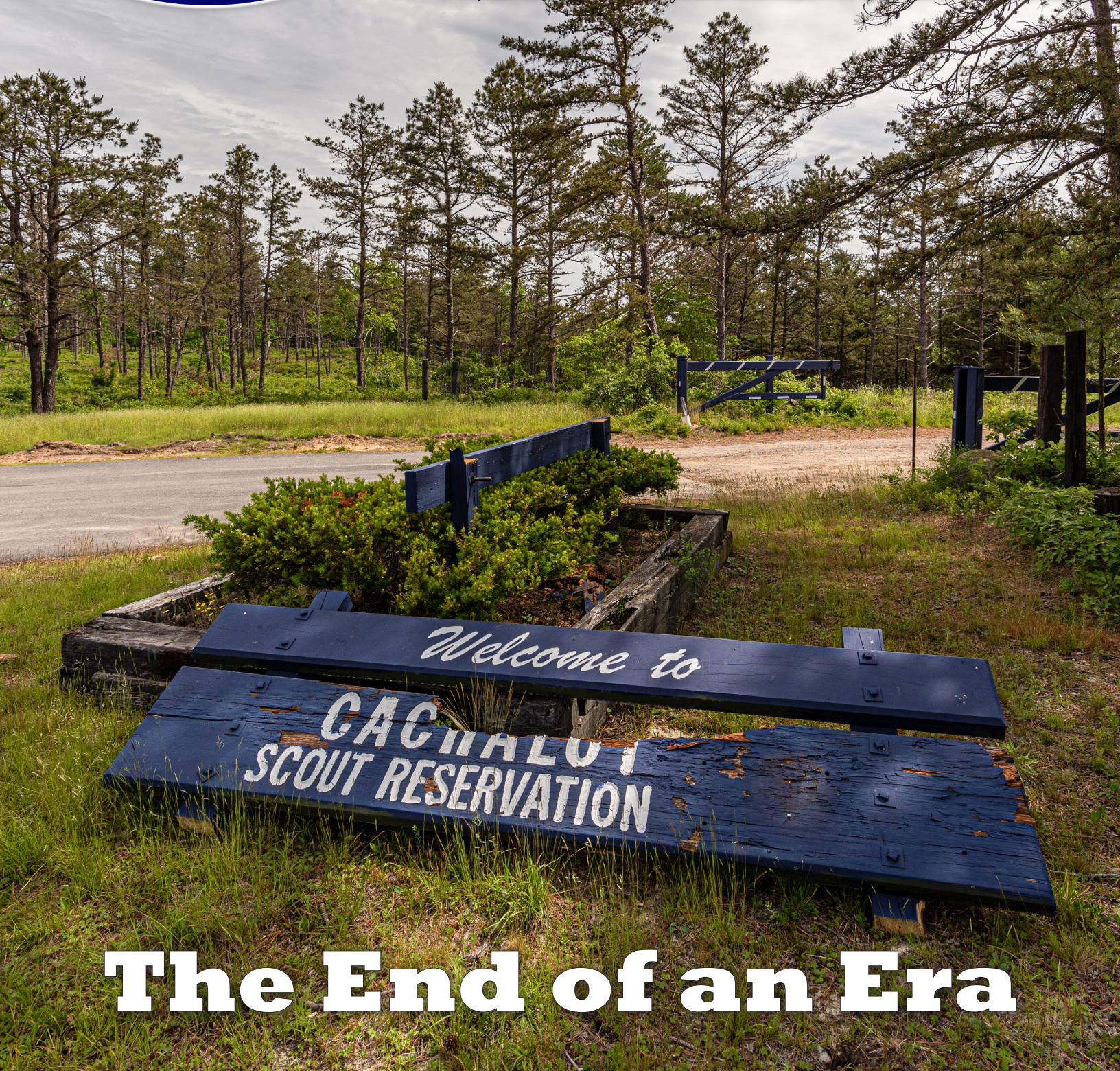


Spring & Summer 2022



The Cachaletter

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



The End of an Era

The Cachalletter

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The Cachalletter 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 Cachalletter* can be sent via email to cachalletter@cachalotalumni.org.

Editor

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

Contributors

Brian Bastarache

On the cover: The entrance sign to Cachalot lays broken by the main gate as it is removed to make way for the sale of the property to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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 Cachalletter*, 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



A Challenging Summer

Brian Bastarache, Association Chairman

This has been a challenging summer for many of us. The first summer without Cachalot. Some of us were lucky enough to spend Memorial Day Weekend at camp. The most difficult part of the weekend was knowing it would be the last time I left Cachalot. While I may someday return to that site, it will no longer be Cachalot. Right now, I am not sure that I can go back there—at least not any time soon. It would be too difficult for me.

There has been a lot of discussion about the use of the Cachalot property under the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) special use permitting program. We have been working on this question. Unfortunately, the purchase is very recent and the regional DCR staff has been very busy with summer camping at Myles Standish State Forest and the busy season at all DCR properties. We hope to have meetings and more information to report back to you once the summer ends and their load becomes a bit lighter.

Over the last few months, I have heard from several members of the Cachalot family. All reported varying levels of difficulty in dealing with the loss of camp. Some lost their favorite place. Others lost the only place in which they truly felt at home. Some of you will continue along the Scouting trail. The Association completely accepts those who hold different views from the council or the BSA and wholeheartedly believes that the Association should work on the goals set by the membership.

Last year we conducted a survey to help us develop our new mission. Many of you responded. Many still wanted to support Scouting in Southeastern Massachusetts. A representative group of our association executive board met with a similar group from the Camp Norse Alumni Association to discuss the potential for cooperation, joint events, and ways to support Scouting in Southeastern Massachusetts. We also discussed the potential of using Norse as a site for our family camping weekends. However, it is important to note that our family camping weekends will be different from what we have known should they continue at any new site.

Some are reading this now and have little interest in the efforts described to support Scouting. Some have washed their hands of the BSA for good. I am one. I have no interest in the local or national organizations. I do agree that the Association should act in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the members, as described above. There is still a place in this Camp Cachalot Alumni Association for those of us who have left Scouting. The Association will still create opportunities for the Cachalot family to gather, support each other, and continue our fellowship and camaraderie. Our next opportunity is the upcoming Cachalot Reunion. I hope that you can all attend, have fun, and help keep Cachalot in all of our hearts. 🐾

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Brian being interviewed by WPRI's Kait Walsh about the sale of Cachalot, during the final weekend of Scout camping in May



Cachalot, a Most Special Place

Dennis J. Wilkinson, II, Communications Chairman

(A version of this appeared previously in our Facebook group.)

No more camping reservations to be made. No more events to schedule. The Wall of Fame has been packed away into storage. The totem pole has been chipped free from the slab at Noquochoke Lodge and transported to safe storage. Some of the plaques have been put in a safe place to be displayed later. Others have been returned to the people or units they represented. The Wall of Fame and Totem Pole will find a new home to be displayed, and the Association plans on creating a portable Wall we can have at our events, along with the “virtual” wall on our web site.

On June 4, I, alongside many friends and familiar faces, spent my last day at Cachalot-as-it-was.

Well, sort of.

As anyone who came out to the Farewell to Cachalot event knows, it already wasn't Cachalot-as-it-was a few months ago. Most of the buildings had been cleaned out completely. Almost all of the signage was gone. The unclaimed plaques in Prescott Hall were strewn across the floor. But the Cachalot family was there.

It wasn't Cachalot-as-it-was in the summer of 2017, when summer camp was still in session and units were making their reservations for the summer of 2018, unaware that the next summer was not to be. Other than as staffers and Venturers, there weren't units with young women taking advantage of what camp had to offer. But the Cachalot family was there then, too, just a bit smaller.

It wasn't Cachalot-as-it-was in the waning days of the Moby Dick Council in the late 1990s, when SEMCA was bringing Scouts from the Annawon and Cape and Islands Councils to camp, bolstering summer camp attendance. The waterfront hadn't added some of the boating options the Scouts in 2017 would have, and even the docks and tower were different. Magee Village didn't yet exist. Prescott Hall had no cupolas, and still had a covered porch. Decisions about camp were made by a volunteer camping committee and not just Council employees. But the Cachalot family was there, including all of those new relatives from Annawon and Cape and Islands.

It wasn't Cachalot-as-it-was in my time as a staffer in the late 1980s or early 1990s. We weren't moving the Trading Post around as buildings burned down and were rebuilt. The area by the stream where Magee Village is now was still the home of program areas during the summer, and year-round tent camping the rest of the time. Prescott Hall was smaller, with staffers lining up to welcome campers at a door that no longer exists today. For a few weeks, we had enough campers that we'd eat in shifts. Senior staffers stuck around for an extra 4 or 5 weeks after Boy Scout camp, welcoming Webelos for overnight camping and hundreds of Cubs to Cub Day Camp, moving from the staff site tents into the 21 Club for lodging, and building more camaraderie that would carry into the next years. Many of the summer sites hadn't been split off from the original sites of Acooshnet, Sippican, Sconticut, Assonet, and James West (although sometimes there were “East” and “West” sections of those sites.) But, the Cachalot family was still there.

It wasn't Cachalot-as-it-was when I started as a camper, when the Adirondacks still had fireplaces of Belgian block built in front of each one, before the winter Humphreys and Escobar cabins were built (cabins which I still have to try to not call “the new cabins”, even though they're 41 years old.) The 21 Club was not winterized well, and on a cold weekend was really only a wind-block for the weather outside with bunks inside it. Most of the trees were still shorter than the buildings, and before massive white pine plantings on the north and east sides of the property would take place. But, the Cachalot family was still there.

And although I wasn't there, I know from others and from our history that it wasn't Cachalot-as-it-was in 1972, when the staff split the summer between Cachalot and Noquochoke, or Cachalot-as-it-was in 1964, when a skeleton crew helped clean up post-fire while units went to “Squachalot”, or and certainly not Cachalot-as-it-was in the 1940s and 1950s, before so much of what we've taken for granted was even built for the first time.

But from that very first trip of Senior Scouts including Ed Tavares and Larry Harney onto the property to camp and start setting up for that first summer camp in 1946, the Cachalot family was there, getting larger every year.

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2022 Cachalot Alumni Events

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.

September 17th, 2022 11:00AM - 3:00PM

Cachalot Alumni Reunion

Freetown VFW Memorial Post 6643
89 Middleboro Rd
East Freetown, MA
reunion@cachalotalumni.org

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Alumni kids boating on Memorial Day Weekend



Canoeing into the sunset



Peter Ashworth and Duane Houghton chat by the lake



The final campmaster crew: Association historian Dennis Wilkinson, Association chairman Brian Bastarache, and Cachalot's Campmaster Chief, Tom Bednarz



Scouts getting in some paddling on Five Mile Pond during the last weekend of Scout camping at Cachalot

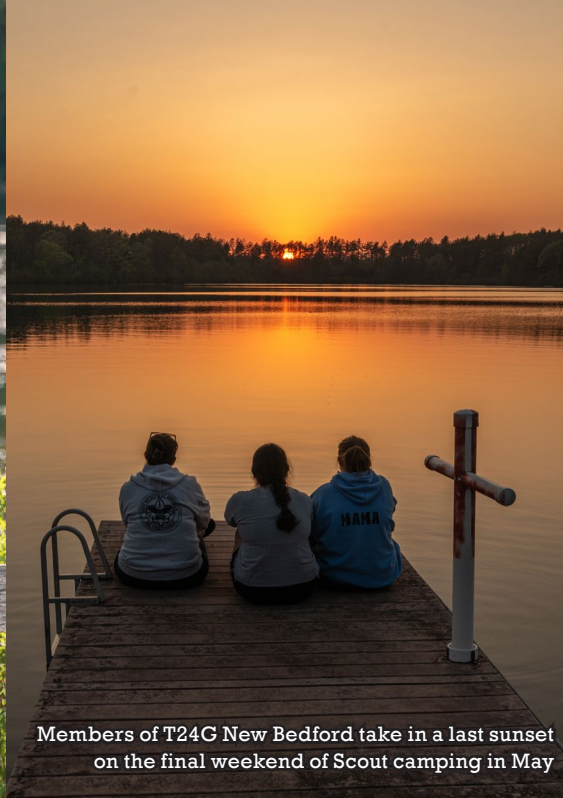


Scenes from t

Cachalot remained a vital place, loved and used by many, right up until its final days in the spring of 2022. H



Lagoon on Memorial Day Weekend



Members of T24G New Bedford take in a last sunset on the final weekend of Scout camping in May



Tim Connick and Ash Houghton free up the camp Totem Pole for transport to safe storage



Plaques lie in disarray on the floor of Prescott Hall in the midst of people going through them to find their own memories to bring home and preserve at the Farewell to Cachalot event



Past staffers headed in for one more Iron Man race at Memorial Day Weekend



Alumni no-longer-kids Christie and Julia Bednarz take in a sunset with Kristen Wilkinson on Memorial Day Weekend

The Last Days

Here are a few final photos of the extended Cachalot family spending time at "the place we know so well."

A Very Special Place

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The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said that “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and he’s not the same man.” Every trip to Cachalot for me has been a different me, visiting a different Cachalot, because the only constant in life is change.

Cachalot-as-it-will-be was always going to be different than Cachalot-as-it-was. The road forward for camp will certainly be different with the Commonwealth at the wheel than it would have been with the BSA and Narragansett Council steering. Probably more different, but it’s impossible to know whether it will be better or worse.

Cachalot fills my memory, and my life. My father camped at Cachalot as a boy. I’ve been, at times, camper, staffer, unit leader, teacher, learner, mentor, mentee, volunteer, willing collaborator, innocent bystander, or alumni over the last 44 years. I met my wife there. My daughters have camped there for as long as they can remember at family camping weekends, one later as a Venturer. My nephew served on staff. My strongest friendships were made, or made stronger, at Cachalot. I know the place like the back of my hand, and if I can’t summon a picture to mind of camp, I have nearly 45,000 photos of the place I can fall back on.

And here’s the thing: even though I no longer have any version of Cachalot-as-it-was, I still



The last “Five Mile Friday” sunset at Cachalot, June 10, 2022.

have all of those things. All of those people, and memories. That family. *So do you.*

People who know me know that I enjoy a good quote. I’ve subjected my friends, and even my staffers, to many of them over the years. In the run-up to the recent release of the movie *Dune* (a movie set in a rather sandy place, with wildlife a bit more dangerous than at our favorite sandy place), I re-read Frank Herbert’s original novel. One of the characters there, Thufir Hawat, who was one of the teachers of the protagonist, says:

“Sad? Nonsense! Parting with friends is a sadness. A place is only a place.”

I have a hard time myself thinking of Cachalot as just a place, but I see the wisdom in those words. Cachalot-as-it-was (all of them!) was a very special place. But we, as friends, have not parted. And for that we should be glad.

I’ll see you at our reunion in September. After all, it’s a family reunion. 🐟



Klondike Gold

We wanted to do something a little special for the Klondike Derby this year (pictured to the left and right), since it would be the last Klondike held at Cachalot while it was a Scout camp. We decided that meant awarding our winners in all of the divisions with a little bit of extra “Klondike gold”—gift cards to spend on some unit equipment that are good at Cabela’s or Bass Pro Shops, along with a note of congratulations from the Association featuring a classic Five Mile Pond sunset.

First place finishers received a \$100 gift card, second place \$75, and third place \$50. Congratulations to all of this year’s winning patrols! Spend your gold well! 🐟

SCOUT DIVISION WINNERS

- 1st T303 Swansea, *Duct Tape Patrol*
- 2nd T24B New Bedford, *Atomic Slice*
- 3rd (tie) T13B Rehoboth, *I Don’t Know Patrol*
- 3rd (tie) T45B Dighton, *Polly Patrol*
- 3rd (tie) T24G New Bedford, *Dream Catchers*

SENIOR DIVISION WINNERS

- 1st T3 New Bedford, *Medieval Falcons*
- 2nd T45B Dighton, *Kyle Patrol 4.0*
- 3rd T3 North Dighton, *Frowls*

WEBELOS DIVISION WINNER

- 1st P24 New Bedford, *Timberwolves*



Our "First" Reunion

Honoring Mike Ramos in September

It seemed wrong to continue to call our summer get-together as "Homecoming," so beginning this year, we would like to invite you to our first Alumni Reunion, on Saturday the 17th of September, 2022, beginning at 11:00AM.

This year's event will give us all an opportunity to gather together, discuss whatever information we can about our plans for the future, and share a meal together. A buffet lunch featuring food from Riccardi's Italian Restaurant will be provided. There's no cost for lunch (although small donations are welcome), but we do ask that if you plan to join us for lunch that you RSVP before September 7th at our web site at

www.cachalotalumni.org/reunion

We will also spend time at this event to induct Mike Ramos, your 2022 honoree, onto the Wall of Fame, and celebrate his long Scouting career. You can find more information about him below.

Our 2022 Reunion will take place in Freetown, at the VFW Memorial Post 6643 on Middleboro Road (Route 18) near the intersection with Mason Road. If the weather cooperates we will use the outdoor pavilion for our activities, but we do have the building as well if it does not. Coffee will be available with lunch; soft drinks

and other beverages are not provided but will be available for purchase from the bar inside the VFW.

It has been a difficult summer for us all, capping off several very challenging years. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for the day, give your respect to a deserving Wall of Fame honoree, and catch up with the rest of the Cachalot family with some excellent Italian food.

As always, we'll have some Association T-shirts, polo shirts, stickers, and other merchandise on hand, including copies of our *75 Years of Camp Cachalot: from the Archives of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association* photo history book. The author will be on-hand to sign copies as well.

In addition, our History committee will bring along some of our archives for interested folks to have a look through, if you'd like to see some scenes from your own time at Cachalot. If you have old camp photos, council/district/lodge newsletters, or other documents you'd like to contribute to our archive, bring them along! We will be able to digitize some materials on-site, or we can make arrangements to borrow and return your original materials to you after they've been digitized.

We look forward to seeing all of you! 🐸

Reunion and Wall of Fame Induction 2022

*Saturday, September 17th, 2022
11:00AM - 3:00PM*

*Freetown VFW Memorial Post 6643
89 Middleboro Rd
East Freetown, MA*

Free and open to anyone

*A buffet lunch will be provided with food from by
Riccardi's Italian Restaurant*

*Questions?
Email reunion@cachalotalumni.org*

*Please RSVP at
www.cachalotalumni.org/reunion
before September 7th*

Mike Ramos: 2022's Honoree

Handicapped as a toddler by polio and confined to a wheelchair, Wall of Fame honoree **Mike Ramos** learned he could have no limits, including in his Scouting involvement.

Mike was an ambassador for Scouting in the New Bedford Cape Verdean communities as a Scoutmaster and Explorer Advisor at Our Lady of Assumption, the first Scout troop serving the Cape Verdean community in the United States. He participated in the City's Annual Parade being pushed in his wheelchair by "his boys" as he called them. During his Scouting tenure he was awarded the Scouter's Key, the District Award of Merit, and the Silver Beaver, along with numerous other honors.

At Camp Cachalot, Mike served for a decade on the staff as Handicraft Director, patiently guiding young Scouts to carve a neckerchief slide, paint their Patrol Plaque or craft a lanyard with plastic "gimp" cord.

Mike was the cohesive part of the Camp Staff. He led songs in the Dining Hall and at Campfires, and the Staff would pull his chair up the Dining Hall hill with toggle ropes because he was one of them, too. Mike even went on one of the end of season Staff climbs on Mount Chocorua where Tom Gorka carried Mike to the top on his back.

He continued to serve as a leader after his years on staff, including helping to run camporees and other program events at Cachalot, into the early 1980s.

Living independently, Mike drove a car and had a position as a Quality Control Technician at the Acushnet Company inspecting Titleist Golf Balls.

Mike's example, wisdom, advice and guidance were an inspiration to the hundreds of Scouts' lives he touched. He kept a lot of kids out of trouble by his involvement and mentoring. 🐸

(Photograph by Ronald Barboza, and used with his kind permission)



In Memoriam

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



Norma L. (Roberts) Bibeau RN, age 71 of New Bedford, passed away in her residence with her family by her side. She was the wife of the late Lawrence A. Bibeau.

Born in New Bedford, a daughter of the late Wayne A. and Agnes (Silveira)

Roberts. Norma was a lifelong resident of New Bedford. She was employed by St. Luke's Hospital as a registered nurse prior to her retirement. Norma had a great love and affection for her children, especially her grandchildren. She was very active with the Boy Scouts and enjoyed quilting.

Norma is survived by her children, Christopher A. Bibeau, Jean M. Bibeau Mooney and her husband Shawn, Marie Duarte and her husband John, Matthew A. Bibeau and his wife Naomi and David A. Bibeau and his wife Melissa Sue; a brother, David Roberts and his wife Janis; twelve grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Norma's honor may be made to: CARE Southcoast, 197 Middle Road, Acushnet, MA 02743



David E. Trull passed away at the age of 65 in Redmond, WA on August 3, 2022.

David was born in New Bedford, MA, to the late Alden and Rita Trull. He grew up in Fairhaven and graduated from Fairhaven High School in 1974 and the

University of Massachusetts in 1979, where he studied forestry.

David attended the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven as a youth. He was a Cub Scout and later a Boy Scout in Pack and Troop 55, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1971. After graduating from UMass, David returned to Fairhaven and his troop to serve as an adult volunteer leader, he assumed the position of Scoutmaster where he served for more than 20 years, mentoring hundreds of young men through the teenage years, many of whom earned the rank of Eagle Scout with his guidance.

In addition, he was a member of the Wampanoag District Committee providing leadership to many area activities and adult training courses. He was awarded the District Award of Merit by

the Moby Dick Council, Boy Scouts of America, and completed Wood Badge training, later serving as a staff member of this advanced Scout leader training course. He was also a Scouting memorabilia collector. Despite having relocated to Washington state, he was an active remote participant in the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association, and contributed greatly by writing up several of the nominations for eventual Wall of Fame honorees.

Professionally, he was a Senior Risk Consultant covering the Pacific Northwest and Canada with AXA XL Risk Consulting, with over 30 years of experience in that field.

He is survived by his wife Joe Ann Barrett of Redmond, WA, his son Nathaniel, nephew Nicholas Trull, Elizabeth Trull his former spouse and mother of Nathaniel, and was predeceased by his son Benjamin.

If you would like to make a donation to your favorite animal shelter, please list David as the honoree so his family can know of the gift. 🐾

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

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