

Spring & Summer 2023



The **Cachaletter**

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



Reunion 2023 • First Local Eagle Scouts

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

On the cover:

An Eagle Scout medal and first-edition handbook on top of an early Scout uniform

Many thanks to eaglescoutbadge.com for use of their photo of the 1916-1919 Dieges and Clust Eagle Medal on page 4.

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
223 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, RI 02921



Desperately Seeking Damas

Dennis Wilkinson, Association Archivist

How does something like this issue's *Brief History* of... article come together, anyway?

This one started almost 20 years ago, with the discovery of a simple note, handwritten in delicate script:

*181 Green Street
Fairhaven, Mass.
February 23rd, 1946*

Dear Sir,

I want to thank you very much for sending the book. I am sending a check for \$5 dollars in memory of my son, Colonel Waldemar Noya Damas who was killed in Germany April 27th, 1945. He was the first Eagle Scout in New Bedford + Fairhaven Mass.

Sincerely his mother,

Philomena N. Damas

**... not every last
piece of information
can be found with a
quick visit to Google
or Wikipedia.**

The letter originally accompanied a small donation to the 1945 capital campaign to purchase the land that would become Camp Cachalot, and was spotted in the Council's archive by Tom Whelan, Peter Ashworth, and Vic Sylvia very shortly after our Association was founded in 2004. This was the very first research trip anyone in our new Association had done, and they kindly made me a photocopy.

The existence of Colonel Damas was easy to verify, although Mrs. Damas was off by a day on the official date of her son's passing. There was one puzzle, however, and a pretty big one: according to national's records, no one by that name had ever earned the Eagle award. According to the BSA, the first Eagle in New Bedford-Fairhaven Council was John Wildman of Troop 23 New Bedford, in February of 1921.

I have been putting the pieces of this puzzle together off and on ever since. The final piece came in May of this year, when I finally found the article from the New Bedford *Evening Standard* with his photo that appears alongside our article, which reinforced another photo-less article found in the Fairhaven *Star*. In that time I've stumbled across at least two other missing-from-the-national-records early local Eagle Scouts (one of whom I'm related to!), acquired via auction the only known copy of Fairhaven High School's 1920 proto-yearbook *Blue and White*, which Waldemar helped published (since donated to the Millicent Library), and collected lots of other threads of early local Scouting history. I'm sure I'll pull on those threads to see where they lead in the future.

The first place I looked was *Boys Life*. The entire archive of *Boys Life* is available via Google Books, and in those early years it ran a monthly column called "The Scout Honor Roll" from the National Court of Honor. This reported on every person who achieved Star, Life, or Eagle, or who received an Honor Medal of one form or another. Our Fall River first Eagle, who is officially on the books, shows up there in the September 1917 issue. Lo and behold, in November of 1917, there was Waldemar Damas, earning both Star and Life. Knowing that names often don't get recognized properly in old scanned documents, I started working my way forward in *Boys Life* looking for a second mention, and...

the following month, December of 1917, was the last time that column would ever run. I wasn't going to find confirmation of his Eagle award that way.

His attendance at West Point turned up a bit later. They keep a record called a "Cullum File"¹ for every one of their alumni. These files contain information on an individual graduate of West Point, usually in the form of news clippings. I reached out to West Point's archivist, who was happy to send me an

¹ Named for George Washington Cullum, one-time superintendant of West Point. He had served as the assistant engineer for Fort Adams and oversaw the construction of many other forts, including Forts Warren and Independence in Boston, and Fort Sumter. Yes, *that* Fort Sumter. He fought on the Union side in the Civil War. After his time running West Point, he published his *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy*, covering all of the graduates of West Point from its founding to 1840.

electronic copy, along with his yearbook entry. While that resulted in a lot of useful information on Col. Damas' military career, there was no mention of his history with Scouting.

Neither Fairhaven High nor the Millicent Library had his yearbook, but, completely coincidentally, a copy of it appeared on eBay for short money, and I bought it, having seen his name on the title page. Once again, it resulted in a few more details of his early life, but no mention of Scouting.

If his Star and Life were being reported in late 1917, surely he was close to Eagle, and would probably have completed it by 1918. That turned into many hours at the New Bedford Library, skimming through thousands of pages of microfilm covering all the local papers in all of late 1917 and 1918, literally looking forwards and backwards. I could not find any report of his earning Eagle anywhere. Online newspaper archives have almost nothing from the New Bedford area in the 20th century, and while I found still more detail on his life in the Army and his marriage announcement there, his Eagle award remained a missing puzzle piece. I even discovered that his wife had a son who carried the Damas last name. Unfortunately, he was born several years after Waldemar had passed. I was able to track him down via the mixed blessing that is social media, and he was happy to answer my questions, but he didn't really know much about his mother's husband's early life.

The clue that finally led to those last puzzle pieces came from (literally and figuratively) Providence.

I had collaborated with former Lodge Staff Adviser Jonathan Widmark on his research into the early history of Noquochoke, Agawam, and Neemat Lodges, and on a few other local Scouting topics, so he knew I was looking for information on Colonel Damas. Jonathan had access to digital archives of a newspaper I didn't: the Providence *Sunday Journal* via the public library in Providence, and he took a chance on searching for Damas' name there. Local-interest New Bedford news wouldn't ordinarily get much coverage in a Providence paper, but he hit pay dirt: a brief mention, on March 2nd, 1919, of a rally in New Bedford attended by Providence Scout executive J. Harold Williams. At that rally, Eagle Scout badges were presented to Waldemar N. Damas and Milton S. Handford. My original search had looked in the wrong span of time.

With February and March of 1919 as my new window, I once again looked to local newspapers on microfilm, and fairly quickly found the coverage of that same rally. I still was missing the actual date of his achievement, but at least knew when it was presented. It took more searching, partly delayed by the COVID pandemic, before I finally found the articles in the Fairhaven *Star* and in the *Evening Standard* confirming when he actually earned his award: February 1st, 1919. It had taken nearly twenty years of off-and-on searching, mostly off, and mostly in my spare time, with assists from a half-dozen others, but I finally had all the pieces.

By comparison, Ogden was easy to learn about. His records with the national office were fine; his name appeared in "The Scout Honor Roll" in *Boys Life*, the Fall River Council kept copious news clipping scrapbooks that contained all the relevant articles mentioning him as first Eagle, and we even had the photo of him in our archive, sans first name, from some of our early scanning of Camp Stafford photos loaned to us by Peter Ashworth when he was still a district executive with Narragansett Council.

In the modern era, this serves as a reminder that not every last piece of information can be found with a quick visit to Google or Wikipedia. Early Fall River newspapers into the early 1930s are available and indexed in some of the online databases, but the mid-1930s to the present day are not available. New Bedford's local papers are almost completely absent. That means long hours of perusing old newspapers on microfilm whose quality is steadily declining, and that microfilm is only available at a handful of local libraries. Fairhaven, Marion, and Rochester are in slightly better shape, as the Fairhaven *Star* and the *Wanderer* have been digitized, as has *O Jornal*, the local Portuguese-language paper. Even fairly recent articles in local papers can be missing, as both the Fall River *Herald* and the New Bedford *Standard-Times* have had multiple web site revamps where old articles have been dropped.

Scouting in the New Bedford area is especially challenging to research. In the old Massasoit Council area, we have the aforementioned scrapbooks of news clippings, which go back almost to the beginning, even though there are some gaps. We don't have an equivalent from the Cachalot Council side, and we don't know why. We know there was material that was water-damaged and destroyed in storage in the old Moby Dick Council offices on Grove Street, and our assumption is that anything that might have existed could be among that material. Most of what we have on the Cachalot Council side are from material contributed by our members, dug up from basements or found in attics.

I love putting puzzles like this one together, but I can always use help. If you're also history-minded, and have the time and inclination to lend a hand, drop me a line at curator@cachalotalumni.org. No prior experience required—I'm happy to share what I know, and to provide access to our archives.

This is all of our history. It's worth the time. 🐢

I am indebted to a number of people for making this article possible: Vic Sylvia, Tom Whelan, and Peter Ashworth for finding the original note and the Stafford Pond photo collection; Jonathan Widmark for finding that clue in the ProJo and suggesting other avenues of research; Stephen Damas for graciously answering my questions about his mother's husband; the Fall River Historical Society for digitizing all of the old Fall River/Massasoit Council scrapbooks and providing copies for our archives; and Marilee Meyer, the Memorials & Archives Manager for the West Point Association of Graduates.

2023 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.

October 22nd, 2023 11:00AM - 3:00PM
Cachalot Alumni Reunion and Wall of Fame Induction
Bay State Beagle Club
44 Point Street
Berkley MA
reunion@cachalotalumni.org

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A Brief History of...

Our First Local Eagle Scout.

(Both of them.)



BY DENNIS WILKINSON

In the 113 years since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, over two and a half million young men and women have earned the Eagle Scout award. The very first to do so, in August of 1912, was Arthur Rose Eldred of Troop 1, Rockville Center, New York, a 17-year-old whose board of review for the award included Dan Beard, Ernest Thompson Seton, and (somewhat by chance) Baden-Powell himself¹.

Those Eagles have gone on to fill just about every role you can imagine: astronauts, authors, actors, athletes, business leaders, cartoonists, coaches, doctors, journalists, law enforcement, military leaders, movie directors, public servants, scientists, professors, philanthropists, politicians, even professional wrestlers. Two Eagle Scouts have walked on the moon (and a third would have, but had to get Apollo XIII safely back to Earth instead!) They have won Emmys, Grammys, Oscars, World Series, Superbowls, MacArthur Fellowships, and Nobel Prizes. One has led the nation as President. Most have gone on to quietly continue to do what they learned in Scouting: helping others, or helping make their families, their communities, their nation, and the world better.

So, who was the first *local* Eagle Scout?

We have to define "local" first. There's a few ways we could do that, but we will focus on the area served by Moby Dick Council. That council was formed out of the merger of both the Cachalot Council (originally the New Bedford-Fairhaven Council) and the Massasoit Council (originally the Fall River Council.) So, we'll discuss two "First Eagle Scouts," one for each of those councils. (In its later life Cachalot also regularly served the former Annawon Council through SEMCA, but we'll leave it to our friends at the Camp Norse Alumni to look at that particular branch of the family tree.)

New Bedford-Fairhaven Council's First Eagle Scout

On February 1st, 1919, Waldemar Noya Damas of Fairhaven became the New Bedford-Fairhaven Council's first Eagle Scout at the age of 16. There had been fewer than 1,000 Eagle awards earned at the time. He was a member of Troop 1 in Fairhaven, which met at the Parish House².

His Eagle Award was presented at a rally held at the New Bedford Armory on Washington's Birthday, February 22nd, attended by over 1,200. Nearly half of that number were Scouts, huge for an organization only nine years old. The council's

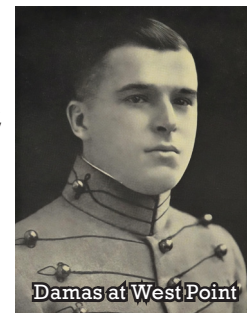
second Eagle, Milton Handford, was presented his award at the same ceremony. Milton was from Troop 14 in New Bedford, and was the son of the council's Scout Executive, Joseph Handford. The awards were presented by Roy N. Berry, national field commissioner for New England (he would become the first-ever Scout Executive of Region 1 the following year). The audience included executives representing neighboring councils: Harry Mason, Edward Roche, and Walter Monroe of Boston; William Hoffmeister of Fall River; and J. Harold Williams of Providence; and local Scouters including future Prescott Hall namesake Oliver Prescott. Acting Mayor Clifton W. Bartlett of New Bedford spoke (we're not sure where Mayor Charles S. Ashley was, but he sent his regards via Mr. Bartlett.)

Waldemar Damas was born to Francisco and Philomena Damas on November 25th, 1902. His parents were both Azorean immigrants: *pai* from the isle of Flores, *mãe* from Terceira (although she had lived most of her life in Rio de Janeiro). Francisco was a widower, and had three sons from his prior marriage. Waldemar was the fourth of six children in the household: three older half-brothers, a younger sister and younger brother. Francisco worked as a laborer, but Waldemar would not have known him well: he died in 1906, with Waldemar only three years old. Francisco's older sons must have done the work of supporting the family, as Philomena appears to have never held a job.

Waldemar attended the Fairhaven public schools, starting at the Washington Street school, then Rogers School, and eventually Fairhaven High School. He started working while still a student to help support the family at the age of 12. He first delivered milk for Whittakers's dairy, worked for five years at Wilson's grocery store, in the print shop during his final year in high school, and briefly on a yacht after graduation. While in high school, he was on the editorial staff of what appears to be Fairhaven High School's first-ever yearbook, *Blue and White* Vol. 1, and was a sub on the football team, playing guard and tackle.

Being the first Eagle made him a sought-after participant in other Scouting activities of the day. When the council planted "Roosevelt Trees"³ on Buttonwood Street in May of 1919, he read the tribute to President Roosevelt written by Secretary of the Interior Franklin Knight Lane. He commanded the Boy Scout contingent in Fairhaven's Memorial Day Parade in 1921. The Fairhaven Star commented on him in one article in late 1919: "If any Scout

thinks that he has been quite regular in attending Scout meetings he should look up Eagle Scout Damas' record who has only missed two meetings in 4 years." Even though he also worked, that penchant for good attendance carried over to school as well, where his was perfect. The local Girl Scouts even brought him in to teach the girls semaphore signaling.



Damas at West Point

He graduated from Fairhaven High in 1920, with the goal of attending the United States Military Academy at West Point. He took the admission exam in February of that year, but did not get in—he had been the second alternate for the 16th Congressional district. He pursued a year of "post-graduate" work at the high school, and reapplied to West Point in 1921, this time as the first alternate. Second time was the charm, and he entered West Point as a cadet on June 1st, 1921, making him the first Fairhavenite to do so.

He was well-regarded at West Point, where he was known as a member of the wrestling team, and willing to tussle. He was also the captain of the company lacrosse team, the Cadet Movie Representative, and a Roman Catholic Sunday school teacher. He graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant as a member of the Class of 1925, with his first post at Fort Warren as part of the 13th Infantry.

His early military career saw him serving in several forts in New England, including Camp Devens, Fort Strong, Fort Ethan Allen, and Fort Adams, in a multitude of roles, including as personal adjutant for the Citizen's Military Training Camps, a program that allowed civilian men to receive military training without the obligation to be called to duty.

April of 1931 brought a promotion to 1st Lieutenant, and a new assignment, as he reported for duty with Company H 35th Infantry, in Hawaii.

He did not remain in Hawaii long. While out on reconnaissance on horseback, his horse threw him. He suffered multiple injuries in the fall, including a skull fracture that resulted in a year spent in hospital recuperating. He was moved back to the mainland to Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco in June of 1932, where he recovered sufficiently to be discharged in August and re-assigned to the 30th Infantry.

Part of his role there was a two-year posting with the California headquarters of the Civilian Conservation Corps, beginning in 1933. He helped establish the Bear Valley Camp in Tahoe National Forest, the "prize camp of the Sacramento district". At the end of that posting, he spent a short stint at the Presidio.



He took leave to return home to Fairhaven in early 1935, for the first time since he had shipped to Hawaii, and made a road trip of it—a five thousand mile solo road trip by car, years before the modern highway system, when many roads across the country were still dirt. He departed from Sacramento March 20th in blinding rain, through the California oil fields near Bakersfield, and through the historic Southwest. He saw temperatures of 90°F and below freezing on the same day, first in the heat of Death Valley to the cold of Darwin, California where the hotel pipes froze. He traveled on, in view of Mount Whitney, to the “20 Mule Team” canyon and Dante’s View. His journey took him to Las Vegas, the Boulder Dam, then the Grand Canyon, where he took in a performance of native dancers at the Hopi House. He toured the Painted Desert, including the nearby Navajo and Hopi reservations, and had a rough go traversing the “Badlands” of Arizona where he had to ford a river and got stuck in deep sand three times. He sought out the Petrified Forest and Carlsbad Cavern, then made his way across central Texas. When crossing the then-raging Mississippi, he found himself anxious to get home, and traveled “as fast as the law would allow” with only two stops to visit friends and a brief visit to see Niagara Falls.

This was just the beginning of a big year for Waldemar: he was promoted to Captain on August 1st, and in November he was married to Anne Regina Ciarla in Newport, RI, with a retinue of local military brass in attendance and an arch of crossed swords for the couple to pass under. He returned to Hawaii with his bride, once again with the 35th Infantry, where they remained for two years.

1938 brought him to the 1st Infantry at Ft. Warren, Wyoming, where he was among the first to train on the M-1 Garand rifle, and as a member of the “Sight Seein’ Sixth” he travelled over 10,000 miles on maneuvers in 1939 and 1940, receiving a promotion to Major in the process.

His March 1940 McClellan biography reports him as the commander of the 12th battalion of the Branch Immaterial Replacement Training Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, living with his wife in nearby Jacksonville, AR. He was described as being rated as expert with a .45 with either hand, as well as an expert with rifle, Browning automatic rifle, hand grenade, and bayonet. He was transferred to the 60th infantry at Ft. Bragg, NC in August of 1940, where he was instrumental in the organization of the Service Company and the Anti-Tank Company.

After the move to Ft. Bragg, his record is silent for the first few years of World War II. He graduated from the US Army Officers Infantry School in 1943, and now a Lieutenant Colonel, joined the Seventh Army for the invasion of Southern France on August 15th, 1944, under the command of Major General Alexander Patch.

The Seventh Army fought in the Vosges Mountains, breaking into the Alsatian Plain. Late December saw it fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. It took responsibility for an area controlled by the US Third Army, freeing the Third to relieve the besieged forces at Bastogne. It went on the offensive in February 1945, breaking the Colmar

Pocket, capturing Strasbourg, and assaulting the Siegfried Line. In March of 1945, it reached the Rhine.

In April of 1945 Lt. Col. Damas was attached to the general staff of the 21st Corps of the Seventh Army, under General Frank W. Wilburn. It was his duty to enter liberated areas and arrange for the taking over of the captured communities.

Mrs. Damas received a letter from her husband dated April 25th. He wrote that he was “going forward” the next day. The war in Europe would come to a close in a matter of weeks.

Sadly, our first Eagle did not see the end of the war. On that day that he “moved forward”, April 26th, his Jeep struck a land mine, killing him. The official record does not make a note of the place he met his end, but the 21st Corps took Augsburg, Germany two days later, making that a likely location. His family received word of his death on May 8th, V-E Day itself. His body was originally buried at the Lorraine American Cemetery at St. Avold Metz, France, but was later returned to the United States on August 25th, 1949 and reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Less than a year later, his mother, Philomena, would make a \$5 donation in his memory to the capital campaign to buy the land that would become Camp Cachalot. She passed away in 1956. His widow, Anne, returned to her home town of Newport, RI, where she lived until her death in 2002.

The Fall River Council's First Eagle Scout

On July 9th of 1917, Joseph Ogden of Troop 1 in Pottersville (Somerset) became the Fall River Council's first Eagle Scout at the age of 21.

Ogden, the son of Edward and Mary, was born in England on July 30th of 1896. The family emigrated to the US in 1901. Edward was a foundry worker; Mary a yarn winder in the mills. Ogden had started his Scouting career in Troop 7 in Fall River, but in late 1915 his father became the founding Scoutmaster of Troop 1 with Joseph as one of the troop's patrol leaders. His two younger brothers, John and Edward Jr., also became Scouts.

Described as “not robust physically” but desperate to fight alongside his English relatives in the World War (all his male relatives still in England were in the war), he tried 3 times to join the Canadian army and was rejected at each turn; on his last attempt he spotted the US Army recruiting office across the street. They happily took him on as an enlistee. This was March 1918 in Providence; he was assigned to Fort Slocum then to the Quartermaster's Corps at Camp Meigs in Washington, DC.

Ogden's story has a melancholy end, just as Damas' did. He never made it to the lines to fight the same fight as his English relations—he died June 3rd, 1918 in Washington DC at Walter Reed. The cause of death was given as pneumonia. The so-called Spanish Flu was already moving through the US, and recent studies suggest that many pneumonia cases in that year were



Joseph Ogden (on the left) at Camp Stafford in 1917. The other Scout is Eric Jackson, son of Dr. Ralph Jackson, a member of the council board. Both young men helped run this early summer camp.

accelerated by a prior influenza infection having damaged the lining of the lungs. In any case, his pneumonia advanced very quickly; his parents had only just received word of his falling ill on the day he passed away.

Camp Noquochoke named the eastern section of the camp “Camp Ogden” during the summer 1930 season in his honor, and the name continued to be used for several years at Noquochoke, becoming “Ogden Glen” until at least 1935.

In the stories of our first two Eagles we find the remarkable journeys of two young men who embodied the ideals of Scouting and service. From Waldemar's hard work and success after the loss of his father as a child, to Joseph's determined pursuit of service, their lives are a testament to the impact of Scouting. 🦅

¹ Arthur Eldred had to wait for his medal, as the early BSA did not believe anyone would ever earn the award, and the medal had not yet been designed! He was also presented an Honor Medal for helping to save another Scout from drowning. He graduated from Cornell University in 1916, served in the US Navy during the first World War, then went on to a long career as a transportation executive, both in rail transport and in trucking. The 2.5 million Eagles that have come after him include his son, two of his grandsons, and two of his great-grandsons, so far.

² The Parish House of the Unitarian Church. Troop 1 was one of 3 troops in the area in 1914, the others being Troops 2 and 3 in New Bedford. There was no council yet. Its Scoutmaster was the Rev. George Reed, who was also the pastor of the Unitarian Church

³ These trees were memorials to Theodore Roosevelt who had passed away on January 6th of that year

Join us in October!

When the air gets brisk, the days grow shorter, the nights grow cool, and every coffee shop starts to hype gourd-related beverages, your Association will be meeting at a new-to-us venue for our second annual Alumni Reunion, on Sunday the 22nd of October, 2023, beginning at 11AM.

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 October 12th. You can RSVP online by visiting our web site at:

www.cachalotalumni.org/reunion

As is traditional, Reunion is when we recognize



our annual honorees on the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame. Your 2023 honoree is long-time volunteer and Association Secretary Bill Begin. We'll celebrate his long Scouting career, and all of the things he has done for Cachalot and its family, and what better way to do that than in person? You can find more information about him below.

This year's event will take place in Berkley, at the Bay State Beagle Club on Point Street. If the fall weather cooperates we will meet outdoors for our activities, but we do have the building as well if it does not. We will have coffee and water available with lunch, and soft drinks and adult beverages will be available for purchase from the bar inside the club.

We sincerely 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. 🐋

Our 2023 Honoree: William "Bill" Begin

In his long tenure in Scouting, Bill has been a driving force in the promotion and upkeep of Camp Cachalot. His contributions include work on: the renovation of Prescott Hall, the renovation of Magee Village, the construction of the new rifle range, painting the interior of Noquochoke Lodge, and assisting in the construction of the LeCompte Pavilion with the OA. Bill assisted in the construction and upkeep of the Wall of Fame, he assisted in the construction and painting of the new outhouses for Cabins 1 & 2. He worked tirelessly on stripping and replacing siding on many buildings including the 21 Club, the maintenance building, and the Welcome Center. He led the effort in re-screening the porch and painting the interior of the Phillips House, and assisted in installing new fencing at the waterfront along with re-decking the docks. He also assisted in the construction of more than 20 picnic tables and many other projects around Cachalot.

When Bill wasn't swinging a hammer he could always be found mowing the grass alongside the roads and buildings throughout camp. He assisted the Ranger in cleaning fire pits, clearing paths to buildings after snow storms, removing dead or fallen trees that posed a danger to campers, burning excess wood, working on

erosion control, and assisting the Ranger whenever help was needed.

Bill was instrumental in getting new appliances for Cabins 1 & 2, the Phillips House, and the 21 Club. He replaced all of the hardware on the rowboats, including new oarlocks and oars. Bill served on the staff of many Camporees and events at Cachalot, and he could always be found helping cook and serve food at Alumni events and various Camporees.

In addition to his work at camp, Bill has been active with several units in Southeastern Massachusetts, including: as an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 24 from 1986 to 1988; on the committee of Pack 74 from 2002-2005; the committee of Troop 74 from 2005-2013, the latter 4 years as its chairman; and as a Crew 24 adviser from 2018-2021. He also served on Cachalot's Campmaster Corps from 2004 through 2022; on the staffs of Klondikes from 2010 through 2020; and has served the Alumni Association as its Secretary since 2013.

He has previously been awarded the Cachalot District Silver Harpoon, the Silver Beaver, and the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow. 🐋

Alumni Reunion 2023

Sunday, October 22nd, 2023
11:00AM - 3:00PM

Bay State Beagle Club
44 Point Street
Berkley, MA

Free and open to anyone

Lunch from Riccardi's Italian
Restaurant provided

Additional beverages available
for purchase from the venue

RSVP requested; use the form at
www.cachalotalumni.org/reunion
before October 12th



Bill Begin at Cachalot during 2022's
"Farewell to Cachalot" event

In Memoriam

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

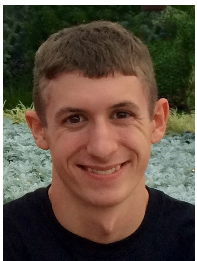


Carl Amaral, 73, passed away peacefully at home on March 4, 2023.

Carl was born on May 9, 1949 in New Bedford to Luiz and Dorothy (Martin) Amaral. He graduated from New Bedford High School in 1967 and from New Hampshire College in May 1971. On May 7, 1971, he married Jane M. Acucena. After serving for several years as a member of Cachalot's summer camp staff, including as Program Director in 1970, Carl began his professional career with the Boy Scouts of America serving on the Western Massachusetts and Narragansett Councils before moving on to professional banking. He worked for Fleet Bank for a number of years before retiring from The Washington Trust Company as a Senior Executive Vice President after 24 years of service.

Carl had many interests and hobbies. He was a long time Wakefield Rotary member, an avid skier who volunteered with the Adaptive Sports Program at Mount Snow, West Dover, Vermont and also served as treasurer. Carl also volunteered with the Southern Vermont Therapeutic Riding Center. He loved animals, especially his cats and dogs and playing music on one of his many guitars or keyboard. Carl is also remembered as a talented woodworker who built beautiful furniture that he loved sharing with friends and family.

Carl is survived by his beloved wife Jane of 52 years, their two daughters; Jennifer Amaral Marceau and fiancé, Mark Gagnon, and Amy Amaral Devlin and her husband Matthew Devlin, four grandchildren; Ava, Ryan, Eric and Emma, his brother; Kevin Amaral and wife Ellen, and his cousin Clinton Martin and wife Patty as well as several nieces and nephews. 🐾



Daniel R. Bellavance, 25, of Westport passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at home.

Born in Fall River, son of David E. and Melissa A. Bellavance of Westport, he was a lifelong resident of Westport. He was a graduate of Bristol County Agricultural High School and Paul Smith's College. Daniel was a member of the Pacific Union Congregational Church in Westport. He was a merchandiser for Lowe's and also worked for Cook's Tree Service in Rehoboth.

Daniel loved the outdoors and making his yard beautiful was his passion. Daniel was a Boy Scout for many years, eventually attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project was completing the Noquochoke Conservation Trail, on the site of the former Camp Noquochoke. Daniel had a kind, loving heart and always would

be there to help anyone in their time of need. Dan was very creative and played a variety of instruments, including base guitar and drums.

He was a loyal friend, son and brother who will be sorely missed by all who loved him.

Including his parents he is survived by a sister Hannah; maternal grandparents Laurence and Bernadette Palmer; paternal grandmother Dorothy Bellavance, and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was grandson of the late Robert E. Bellavance. 🐾



Roger Fournier, 70, of Tiverton passed away after a brief illness September 1, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Fall River, he was a son of the late Roger G. and Liane (Despres) Fournier. He was also the loving stepson of the late Jeanne (Deschene)

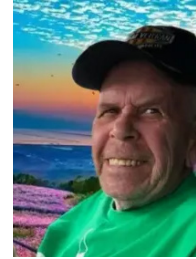
Fournier. He lived in Tiverton since 1984. Mr. Fournier was a communicant of St. Theresa's Church in Tiverton.

Roger was the loving husband and best friend of Margaret "Peg" (Comeau) Fournier, with whom he just celebrated 50 years of marriage, and she was the love of his life. Roger and Peg spent the last 55 years creating a beautiful life and family together.

Roger began his career in law enforcement as a Community Service Officer in the city of Fall River. He then worked for 19 years as a correctional officer with the Dept. of Corrections at the A.C.I. in Cranston, Rhode Island where he was a member of the tactical team, and he was a K9 handler. After his retirement Roger spent most of his days creating beautiful pieces of woodwork in his wood shop. He spent many summers volunteering at Camp Cachalot, both on the rifle range and the waterfront. Roger also took pride in being a volunteer with the American Red Cross. He enjoyed collecting model trains and designing elaborate tracks to run them on. For the last 20 years, Roger's home away from home was the cabin he built in Springfield, Maine. There Roger could commune with nature and the peacefulness of his woods. Roger became involved in the community up in Maine and made many dear friends that became his extended family. Roger will be remembered for his generous heart and smile, which he shared with so many people. He truly cared for his family and friends, and if you knew him, you knew that.

Along with his wife, survivors include his daughters: Liane Farias and her husband James, and Michelle Clarke; his son, Roger Machado-Fournier and his husband Richard Machado-Fournier; his sisters: Claire Louise Rocha, Rita

Bronhard, Rachel Costa, and Elaine; and his brother, Gerard. The lights of his life were his 7 grandchildren: Eleanor, Leo, Riley, Gavin, Christopher, Jason, and Maeve. He was so proud of each and every one of them and all their accomplishments, they were his world and he loved them all so much. Roger was also adored by his many nieces and nephews. 🐾



Charles S. Hammond, 76 went home to be with the Lord after a long illness on August 30, 2023.

Charlie was born November 19, 1946 in New Bedford, Massachusetts to Percy E. Hammond and Stephanie I. Hammond. He leaves

behind his present wife Anne Holbrook Hammond. Charlie was very active in Scouting and loved Camp Cachalot. He was a troop leader with Troop 35 in Onset, and was active in the Order of the Arrow. He loved to cook. He loved Country music. Charlie retired after 29 years from Otis Air Force base. He will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him.

He is survived by his children Noah James Hammond, Jordan Stacey, Chuck Hammond and wife Kelly, Holly Hammond Baxter and husband Bob, Chris Hammond and wife Regina, his step children Robert Holbrook and partner Vanessa, Thomas Holbrook wife Ashley Jennifer Holbrook O'Brien and husband Danny, His great niece Lilly Avery, He leaves behind 9 grandsons, 2 granddaughters, 1 foster grandson, a sister Carol Ann Hammond, a brother Stephen Hammond, a foster sister Patricia Cleary (Brian), a foster brother Tim (Debbie) Lambert, his mother-in-law Jeannette Leupold, 4 sister-in-laws, 5 brother-in-laws, many nieces and nephews, many great -nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his foster brother in heaven Ron Lambert (Gail). 🐾



John L'Abbe, 53 of Rollinsford, NH, passed away unexpectedly on June 20, 2023.

Born in New Bedford, MA he was the son of Richard L'Abbe and the late Claudia Harkin. John spent several summers at Cachalot as a member of the staff, working in Prescott Hall as the assistant chef.

He was the loving husband of Carrie Davis L'Abbe, with whom he shared 19 years together, 13 years married. They rescued numerous dogs together that he loved fiercely.

John was a talented chef who started his career in the US Navy on the USS Topeka.

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In Memoriam

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He loved to be around friends, especially hosting dinners and cookouts by the fire pit with family and loved ones where you were always greeted with a "Johnny hug"

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his father Richard, his brother Greg, son CJ, sister-in-law Katie, in-laws Betsy and Jerry, and his two dogs Stevie and Moxie. 🐾



Beloved wife, mother, grand-mother and great-grand-mother **Marye "Glenda" Mortensen** passed away in Bradenton, FL, after a lengthy illness. She leaves behind her husband of 59 years Martin Mortensen Jr.

Born and raised in Texas, she met and married Martin who was in the

Air Force in Texas and moved with him after discharge back to Massachusetts. While living in Acushnet they raised five children, three of whom have already passed away: Jimmy, the eldest; and twin daughters Marye and Malana. In addition to her husband she is survived by her daughter Danita Louise Angers and her son Martin Anthony Mortensen, as well as grandchildren Sarah Angers and John Angers, and her great-grandson Parker Angers.

Glenda spent many years as the bookkeeper, registrar, and office manager for the Cachalot and Moby Dick Councils. She was also a very accomplished artist who painted prolifically after she and Martin retired and moved to Florida. A devoted wife and mother who loved her family deeply, she will live forever in our hearts. 🐾

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



Camp Cachalot Alumni Association
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