

# NAUTILUS



# NEWS

## The New Board

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## Scan This QR Code

For an outstanding video presentation of the Nautilus overhaul and return to the Museum



## Nautilus Returns to Museum and is "Recommissioned"



The crowd of about 300 gathered on the pier at the Submarine Force Library and Museum sat uncomfortably under the intensely bright sun, hotter than usual for the September 9th day in Groton, CT. While unpleasant for the crowd of submariners, former submariners, families, politicians, and the press, the intense sunlight served to showcase the brilliant, newly refurbished submarine that floated proudly under the sun's illumination. The heat notwithstanding, nothing could have kept the many members of the submarine community from being there to gaze lovingly upon Historic Ship Nautilus docked proudly at her forever home after returning from her \$36 million overhaul. She seemed to smile as she waited patiently for the event that would bring her back to life.

Lieutenant Commander Derek Sutton, Officer in Charge of Historic Ship Nautilus and director of the museum, did a magnificent job as master of ceremonies. He outlined the history of Nautilus and explained the significance of the "re-commissioning" that was about to occur. Several dignitaries, to include Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, Connecticut's two U.S. senators, and the area's congressmen spoke about Nautilus, her achievements, and what she means to the Navy and to America.

Speaking with more knowledge and authority than the politicians were the active and retired admirals on hand.

## Nautilus Alumni Association, Inc Web Page

Our alumni association hosts an outstanding web site where you can access important information about the association and find the crew member list, Eternal Patrol list, photos of Nautilus, and much, much more. Go to:

[ussnautilus.net](http://ussnautilus.net)

## Nautilus Facebook Page

The Nautilus Facebook page is NOT part of the NAAI and it is available to crew members and their families only. It currently has 422 members, there is no politics, advertising, or jokes allowed. It's a place to post pictures and stories about your time on the Nautilus, a great place to catch up and re-connect with old friends. It can be found on Facebook at...

**USS NAUTILUS SSN 571.**

You will need to carefully answer a few questions completely before you will be accepted. If more information is needed you will be sent a question on Messenger.

Vice Admiral William J. Houston, Commander--Submarine Forces Atlantic, and retired Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, Director of Naval History and Heritage Command, spoke eloquently about Nautilus, her history, the men and women who designed and built her, and, most important, the men who sailed her. They and LCDR Sutton described the hugely important role that Nautilus played in naval history and her continued importance as she tells the story of our Navy's submarine history to America today and in the future.

Nautilus Alumni Association's newly-elected president, Lonnie Barham, thanked the Navy and museum leadership for financing and overseeing the very successful refurbishment of Nautilus before he introduced the crew member-related person who would lead the culminating event of the day.

Jennifer (Barham) Murray, speaking clearly from the heart, described growing up in the shadow of Nautilus, her father's home for three years. She shared memories of her many childhood visits to Historic Ship Nautilus with her dad. Especially moving was her description of their first visit to the boat after she docked at the museum in 1986.

Jennifer closed her remarks with the order that would serve to "re-commission" Nautilus, "Crew of Historic Ship Nautilus! Re-man the ship and bring her to life!" The ship's crew then rapidly boarded Nautilus and manned the rails.

Nautilus was alive once again!

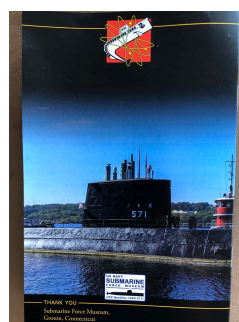
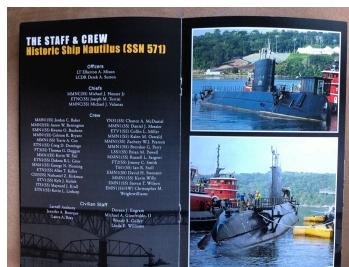
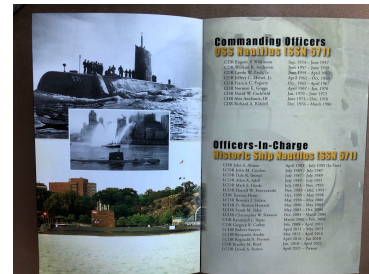
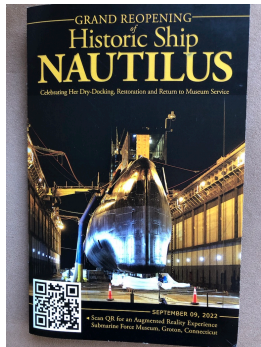
*(To watch the entire ceremony, go to You Tube and search for: Grand Reopening of the Historic Ship Nautilus)*



*HS Nautilus crew members man the rails after she is "recommissioned"*

# The Program for the Nautilus "Recommissioning"

(Click on each page and expand for better viewing)







## **Message from the President**

To say I am proud to have been elected president of the Nautilus Alumni Association would be a huge understatement. It is indeed a tremendous honor to serve our membership. During the next two years, I will strive diligently to fill the shoes of the many great shipmates who served in the position before me.

Based on the desires articulated at the 2022 reunion business meeting and in various conversations with crew and families during the reunion, a few things need to be addressed in the coming months.

First among them is the next reunion our organization will host in 2024. Wanda Sells has agreed to chair the Reunion Committee and Susan Charette has agreed to assist. I will serve on the committee, also, since I live only 50 miles from Groton and can help with things that require personal visits. We also hope to enlist Kathy Lotring, Executive Director of the Submarine Force Library & Museum Association, and Commander Bradley Boyd, former OIC of Historic Ship Nautilus, to help/advise us on the next reunion. The 2024 Reunion Chairperson, Wanda Sells, can be reached with ideas at [wandasells@icloud.com](mailto:wandasells@icloud.com) More to follow on this!

The membership also brought up the Nautilus Scholarship program. Many thought the selection criteria used by the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation (DSF) was geared too much toward high-achieving students who plan to attend four-year colleges; that not enough attention is paid to those seeking financial assistance to attend a two-year college or a trade school.

We have engaged the director of the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation who agrees with us that the current offerings can be changed so that our three annual scholarships will be geared toward: 1.) a student pursuing a four year degree, 2.) a student pursuing a two year degree, and 3.) a student pursuing a vocational degree or certification. Additionally, we plan to add financial need to the selection criteria. We will work with DSF to make these changes. Again, more to follow.

Always on our minds, of course, is the issue of how to ensure the continuity of NAAI. We have begun to reach out to crew members who served in the 1970s asking them to try to find their shipmates who are currently among the missing. We are also concentrating on adding to our list of legacy members. Clearly, younger crew members--to include Historic Ship Nautilus crews--and legacy members will be the ones who carry our association forward in the years to come and who will keep Nautilus in the forefront of America's minds and hearts.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or comments you may have. The NAAI Board of Directors welcome all input. Again, I am honored to serve as your president.



Vostok-Europe, maker of high-quality watches, and the Nautilus Alumni Association entered into an agreement in which the company used “Submarine SSN571” on an issue of their watches. The company donated several to our association to be given to crew members who attended our 2022 reunion. Above is an SSN571 Vostok watch, there are many different models of the SSN571 watches. On the face it has an image of the Nautilus and says Nuclear Submarine SSN571. On the back is an artist rendering of her under the ice. Below is a link to the Vostok Europe SSN 571 webpage if anyone is interested in purchasing one. At checkout enter SSN to receive a very generous discount.

[Vostok-Europe Watch](#) | [SSN-571 Watches](#) | [Submarine Watches \(r2awatches.com\)](#)

### **Brief Biographies of the New Board**

#### ***President Lonnie Barham, 1966-1968 SK3 (SS)***

I grew up in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas and joined the Navy immediately out of high school.

After basic training and submarine school, I reported aboard Nautilus as an 18-year-old seaman apprentice in May of 1966, back when Nautilus was still a relatively “young” boat. I left her in November of 1968. We both aged a lot in those two and a half years.

In that short span, I traveled with “The Owl,” collided with the USS Essex, crossed the Arctic Circle on a classified “Northern Run,” hit a couple of liberty ports in Bermuda and the Bahamas, and ended up in the yards at Portsmouth, NH. I also mess cooked, worked the deck gang, manned the helm and planes underway, struck into the storekeeper rate, qualified on submarines, and made third class petty officer. Needless to say, I also worked with some of the greatest sailors the Navy has ever produced.

I then spent seven years as a Groton police officer, got married, had two wonderful children, went to school at night, and finally earned a degree in 1977. The Army then offered me a direct commission to first lieutenant, which I accepted. For the next thirty years, I bounced back and forth between tours of Army active duty and work in the corporate and education worlds. My Army tours took me to such places as Germany, Alaska, Korea, and a combat tour in Iraq. I spent my last five active-duty years as Deputy Commander at Fort Dix, NJ, and in a senior position at the Pentagon. I retired in 2007 with the rank of Colonel and now live in Warwick, RI with my wife, Ginny.

Since retirement, I have spent my time traveling, frequently aboard free Space-A flights, to such places as Hawaii, Australia, and Vietnam. After my first love of visiting family and caring for grandchildren, I love to write. I’ve published a novel about the Vietnam War and how it affected the lives of two soldiers, a book of poetry, and I am currently writing another novel that

is a crime/detective story set in Salt Lake City. The book also examines the pros and cons of physician-assisted suicide for the terminally ill.

I'm looking forward to the next two years as NAAI president and helping plan the next reunion in 2024. I promise to strive to live up to the standards set by all the great presidents I am following.

***Vice President John Lewis, 1970-1974, ETR2 (SS) Reactor Operator***

I joined the Navy in February of 1967. While in Electronics 'A' school my detailer eventually changed my MOS to the Nuclear program. (He just got tired of my calls.) After 'A' school I was assigned to the USS Quillback SS424, where I obtained my dolphins. I began Nuclear School in 1969 at Bainbridge, Md. and then on to SIC in Windsor, Ct. for prototype. I reported to Nautilus in 1970. Just prior to my arrival David "Duke" Cockfield took over as CO with one order from the Admiral, "Get Nautilus back to sea." The next two years we went to sea and found/broke/and repaired some of the weak links in the boat, and there were many. (Diesels, Air Compressors, HVAC units, Low Pressure blower, Reduction gear, and the list goes on). In 1972 Alex Anckonie took over command and we entered the shipyard at EB. We got in with a very low estimated budget because ships force would do most of the work. Well, best laid plans often go awry. I completed my service in 1974. I went on to work for Combustion Engineering 1974-1985 I&C Engineering and Nuclear Startup. From 1985 to 1992 I worked for Houston Light & Power as a I&C Supervisor and Startup Supervisor. In 1992 I went to work for MOVATS (now Crane Nuclear) as a Hardware/Software Engineer and Nuclear Valve Tester during outage seasons. I retired in 2014. If it wasn't for the Navy (schooling, submarine service, Nautilus) I would have never imagined my career in the nuclear industry. I am so grateful.

***Treasurer Rick Faircloth, son of Eternal Patrol PANOPPO Bobby Faircloth, 1958-1960 EM1 (SS)***

I was born in Hartford CT and moved to Vernon when I was 3 years old. We lived in Vernon until we moved to Baconton GA in 1973. I married my wife, Brenda in 1982 and we raised two wonderful children. We just celebrated 40 years of marriage. Brenda deserves a medal!

After high school I studied electronics at the local tech school and then received an AA in Applied Science. This opened a door to a career working on 3M office and microfilm equipment. I went back to school at night and received my BA in Business in 1997. In 1998 I changed careers and went to work for Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance. I continued this career until I retired last year.

My "retired" career revolves around our farm where we have a 40-acre pecan grove, 20 head of cattle and several hay fields. I thought I was retiring but with all the jobs on the farm I think I'm just "tired"!

My passions include spending time with family and our 2 grandchildren, our church where I lead the music program and serve as Treasurer, fishing, hunting and traveling.

In closing, let me say how humbled I am to serve as your Treasurer. My goal is to not only follow the excellent work Doug Turner has provided as your Treasurer, but to do my very best to serve all the crew members of the USS Nautilus. I feel if I succeed in these goals, I will be honoring the memory of my father, Bobby J. Faircloth which was the ultimate reason in volunteering for this position.

***Secretary Bret Strobe, 1977-1980, STS3 (SS)***

The Nautilus was my qual boat I remember many good times and runs especially the rum runs to St. Croix. On our trip through the Panama Canal in 1980 when we were heading to the West coast for decom, I was lucky enough to be a phone talker in the sail, so I had some great views and a great sunburn. When we pulled into San Diego, I got off for more school, so I was not part of the decom crew. After school I was assigned to America's 100th Nuclear Sub the USS Silversides SSN-679. While aboard we went many places that we "never were". The best run was up to the north pole, where we surfaced and were allowed to go out on the ice and play a little ice-cold baseball. I left the Navy after 5 years and eventually got a job drilling wells in high radiation zones identifying leaking tank waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, where I worked for many years. I am now comfortably retired and live with my wonderful wife of 20 years in the foothills of the Blue Mountains in SE Washington State near Dayton WA. We have daily visitors of the local wildlife, there are a lot of wild turkeys, white tail and mule deer, the occasional bobcat, cougar, and brown bear. We did have a lot of coyotes, but the Grey Wolves ate them all.

**SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE*****Pat Anderson, Scholarship Chair***

The Nautilus Alumni Association's scholarship program (aka NEAF or Nautilus Education Assistance Fund, administered by the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation) opened October 1 for Fall 2023 programs. The process is entirely online. Students begin by registering on the website [dolphinscholarship.org](http://dolphinscholarship.org).

High school seniors and undergraduate college students who are either the child, grandchild, great-grandchild (whether by marriage or adoption) or the spouse of a Nautilus Alumni member who served honorably for at least 30 days on the Historic Ship Nautilus are eligible.

Very important: The Nautilus Alumni Association is an organization comprised of men and women who value and encourage all students even though they may not be interested in the traditional four-year college programs to apply for Nautilus scholarship in order to continue their education and develop skills at either skill development/training programs and two-year community college programs.

After the student registers online, the Dolphin scholarship administrator in Norfolk takes a day or two to confirm that the student's sponsor is valid, upon which the student will receive information on how to proceed fulfilling application requirements.

Note that the following information is usually required and must be in the hands of the Dolphin administrator by March 15, 2023. The Scholarship Selection Committee (6-8 people who are not part of the DSF or Nautilus Alumni community) evaluate and rank applicants based on information from the following submissions:

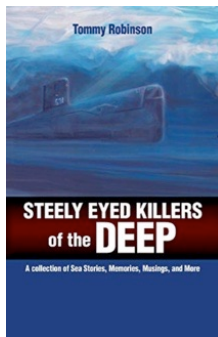
- High School and College Transcripts,
- ACT/SAT Scores,
- 2 Recommendations,
- Student work history, community involvement, and extracurricular activities,
- Essay (theme of essay will be provided after registration).

The rank and name of the sponsor is not revealed to the Selection Committee nor is the name of the student. All names and rank of the sponsor are redacted from all information presented to the selection committee.

**Repeat:** Online application must be completed and required documentation received by the Dolphin Scholarship administrator by March 15, 2023.

Students who do not receive an award this year are encouraged to apply again the next year. Year-to-year stock market conditions determine how many and in what dollar amount NEAF awards can be given.

Awards are announced in late April or May. Please email [patanderson@nautilustrilogy.com](mailto:patanderson@nautilustrilogy.com) with questions or requests for assistance. I am happy to help. All the best to our applicants!



**BOOK RECOMMENDATION:** The sea stories of over 45 submariners who served in USS Nautilus (SSN-571) between 1954 and 1980 make for some great reading and a great gift this Christmas. What one submarine sailor can imagine and tell in great detail, another submarine sailor can corroborate, expand and improve on, in much greater detail. These are their stories.

Compiled and written by **Tommy Robinson** who served aboard Nautilus in the 60s, the book is available at Amazon Books. Simply type in the title of this book in the search bar at the top of the Amazon Books site. A great book! Well worth reading!

### ***Submarine Force Library and Museum to Celebrate 65th Anniversary of USS Nautilus' 1958 trip to the North Pole (PANOP0)***

The Submarine Force Library and Museum, home of Historic Ship Nautilus, plans to host an event sometime during 2023 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the USS Nautilus' 1958 trip to the North Pole and its transit from the Pacific to the Atlantic via the North Pole. At this point, neither the date nor the activity planned have been selected but it will likely be in late summer, perhaps August, since the historic voyage was made in August of 1958.

NAAI will engage the Museum to offer assistance. As the minimum, we will make sure all surviving PANOP0s are well aware of the event and offer them any assistance we can in getting to and enjoying the celebration.



A crusty, old Chief of the Boat was talking to a young seaman soon to be discharged. "I'll bet that once you're a civilian, you'll be waiting for me to die so you can come piss on my grave." The young sailor replied, "No, Chief. I promised myself that when I got out of the Navy I was never going to wait in line again"



## NAAI Officers/Board Members and Chairpersons July 2022

<b>BOARD MEMBER (Ex-Officio)</b>		<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>MEMBERSHIP CHAIR</b>
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				-OPEN-
<b>VOLUNTEER RESEARCHER FOR MISSING CREWMEMBERS</b>		<b>TREASURER</b>		<b>SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR</b>
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