

## News for the entire Nautilus Family Former Crew, Current Crew, Families, and Supporters



Winter has arrived at Historic Ship Nautilus and the Museum. But both are still open

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### Hello Shipmates, Legacy Families, and Supporters of NAAI:

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, a Happy New Year, and that you will have a safe, healthy and prosperous 2026. It's going to be an exciting year with the Submarine Force Library & Museum and Historic Ship Nautilus open again after the government shutdown, a new Nautilus and Museum OIC with fresh ideas, the 40th anniversary in April of the opening of Nautilus to the public along with the "christening" of the Museum at its current location, and of course the always-wonderful Nautilus Reunion in September.

The two big events we will be celebrating at the 2026 reunion will be the 40th anniversary on April 11, 2026 of the Museum at its off-base site and the opening to the public of Historic Ship Nautilus, and the

72nd anniversary of the commissioning of USS Nautilus on September 30, 1954.

Once again we will honor all Nautilus shipmates from every operational era, from commissioning to decommissioning. But this year we also want to celebrate all of the sailors who have kept Historic Ship Nautilus in shipshape since 1986 and who have helped keep the history and achievements of Nautilus in the hearts and minds of the American public for the past 40 years. We hope to get as many of the current and former historic crews involved in NAAI as possible and to have most of the current crew attend the reunion. These sailors alongside our Legacy members represent the future of our organization.

More information and the reunion registration form can be found later in this newsletter. Please make hotel reservations soon. Communicate with your shipmates and encourage them to attend.



In accordance with Section IX of the NAAI bylaws, the Board of Directors at its January meeting elected Susan Charette to the board as a between-elections at-large Member. Her help will be invaluable in planning the 2026 reunion. Susan is the daughter of PANOPPO Chief Sonarman Al Charette who retired from the Navy as a Commander and has, unfortunately, departed on Eternal Patrol. Al was instrumental in forming NAAI and was a key NAAI leader for many years.

## NAUTILUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC

**CHECKING BALANCE 11/10/2025** \$ 8,698.81

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2025 EXPENSES

11-3-2025	QUICKBOOKS	\$38.00
12-2-2025	QUICKBOOKS	\$38.00
12-4-2025	CT SEC OF STATE(annual Filing)	\$50.00
12-23-2025	NAAI CREDIT CARD PAYMENT	\$636.36
	ZOOM 11-19-25 (\$18.18)	
	ZOOM 12-19-25 (\$18.18)	
	Hilton Garden Inn 11-5-25 (\$600)	
	Hospitality Suite Reunion 2026	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$762.36</b>

## DEPOSITS NOV-DEC 2025

NONE

**CHECKING BALANCE 12-31-2025** \$7,936.45  
**COIN INVENTORY** 46

Submitted by Rick Faircloth, Treasurer 12/31/2025



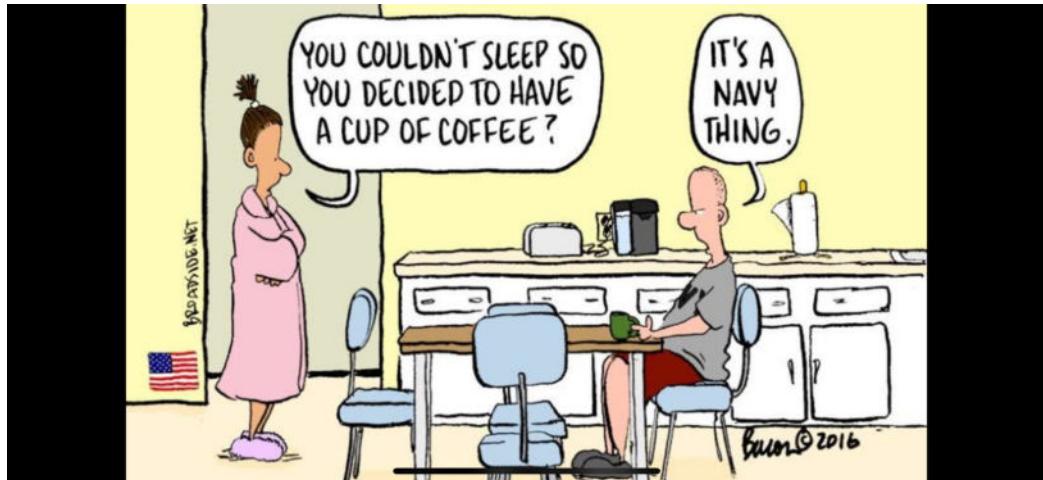
## *Scholarship Report*

The application period to apply for a Nautilus Scholarship opened in mid October of 2025 and will close on March 15, 2026. There is less than two months remaining in the application period for you to encourage your spouse, children, grandchildren, and other eligible descendants to apply.

Thusfar, the Dolphin Scolarship Foundation that administers our scholarship program has received 21 applications, ten of which have been confirmed eligible due to the sponsor having served aboard Nautilus and an eligible relationship having been established. Eleven remain in process.

Of the ten confirmed eligible, nine have applied for 4-year college scholarships and one has applied for a vocational school scholarship.

Now is the time to get the word out to students and potential students. Last year we awarded three \$3500 scholarships. It's well worth applying!



# A STRANGE COINCIDENCE

A recent “*On This Day in History*” column in a nationally syndicated paper featured this event:

**November 20, 1820:** *The American whaler called the **Essex** was rammed and sunk by a sperm whale off the coast of South America. The event was partial inspiration for Herman Melville’s “Moby Dick.”*

## *Fast Forward to 1966*

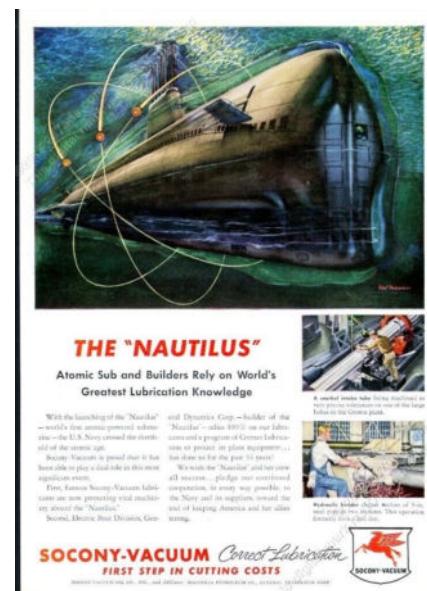
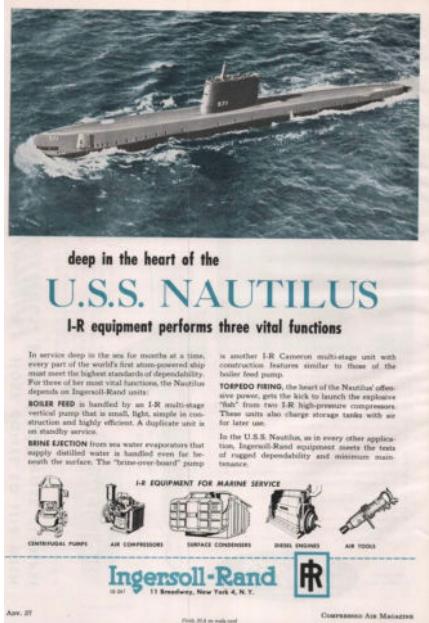
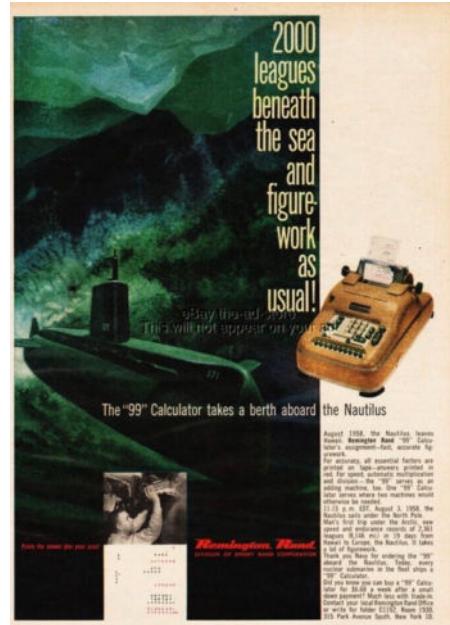
**November 10, 1966:** The USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the world's first nuclear submarine, collided with the USS **Essex** (CVS-9), a large aircraft carrier.

## *A Strange Coincidence, Indeed*

Fortunately, the aircraft carrier Essex was not sunk by the “whale” USS Nautilus, though Nautilus suffered significant damage. The whale back in 1820 may have suffered even greater damage, even though it sank the whaling ship Essex.



# USS Nautilus in Advertising



AN UNTOLD STORY

# The day we almost lost the *Nautilus*

by JACK ANDERSON

Parade Washington correspondent

At 5:52 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, 1959—the day we almost lost the *Nautilus*—a spanking breeze brushed the Atlantic with streaks of spray. Through the swells plowed two destroyers, the *Brownson* and *Willis*, shifting course with well-drilled precision, while their sonar instruments systematically probed the eerie depths for sounds of an underwater enemy.

More than 500 feet below, a submarine stabbed through the watery mass that would have crushed an ordinary hull at that depth. Only the whine of her atom-powered engines and the murmur of voices in the control room disturbed the stillness. Men off duty lay in their bunks, forbidden to make a sound.

The undersea prowler was participating in secret exercises to test the efficiency of the destroyers' new sonar-dome equipment. In earlier war games, she had pulled up under a British aircraft carrier and had scored theoretic hits against half the ships in the British fleet before she could be located. For this was the U.S.S. *Nautilus*, the world's first atomic submarine, first also to sail beneath the North Pole.

On this April Thursday, her mission was to attempt to slip through our anti-submarine defenses. As she slithered along the Newfoundland coast off Grand Bank, the *Nautilus*' skipper, Comdr. William Anderson, received a hushed report from a sonar operator: "Contact, sir. Destroyers 10 miles ahead." The skipper hissed out orders, and the snub-nosed sub began maneuvering like a great, frightened fish.

He was employing tactics an enemy commander might use when the stillness was suddenly shattered

by the urgent clamor of the "collision alarm." Gripped by tension, the men tumbled from their bunks and scrambled frantically for their duty stations. Watertight doors slammed shut sealing off each compartment from the rest of the ship. After the clangor abruptly ceased, the Commander's voice echoed over the intercom: "Flooding in the engine room!"

To the 120-man crew sailing deeper than others had ever dared plunge, this was grim news. But terse reports to the control room made it quickly clear that the flooding, although serious, could be controlled. Fortunately the atomic reactors, which generated the power in another compartment, had been shut off

from the seeping seawater. Commander Anderson's worst fear was that the flooding might "drown" the engines in clouds of steam. An engine failure at such great depth, he knew, would doom the *Nautilus*.

He rasped out orders to surface at emergency speed. The blunt nose tilted upwards at a 35-degree angle, and the *Nautilus* churned towards the surface. Inside, every movable article tumbled to the deck with a series of resounding crashes, and men were sent stumbling against the bulkheads.

Within minutes, the bow broke the surface and reared high in the air, then fell back to the water with a crash that reverberated throughout the submarine. The conning tower crew scrambled to the bridge. To their astonishment, a destroyer was veering away from them scarcely 600 yards distant

## A Near Miss

The skipper wiped his forehead with his sleeve. He had narrowly missed surfacing directly under a destroyer he thought was miles away. Had this happened, his bow would have ripped through the destroyer's bottom and both ships almost certainly would have sunk.

An inquiry revealed the flooding had been caused by a break in a 5½-inch seaward suction flexible hose that failed to withstand the extreme water pressure below 500 feet. The near miss was dismissed as a freak accident; there was no evidence of negligence.

Since no serious damage was caused and no lives lost, the Navy discreetly made no announcement of the incident. But the 120 crewmen won't soon forget how the celebrated *Nautilus* almost became their coffin in a watery grave.



Commander Anderson (r.) and one of his officers study a chart 500 feet under the sea during Atlantic war games.

**Found on the Internet without a date of publication**  
**Perhaps some of those who were aboard in 1959 can verify the accuracy of the story.**



## **Groton Area Submarine Birthday Ball (Follow this on Facebook)**

HOOYAH! The first 2026 Submarine Birthday Ball message is out!

1. THE SUBMARINE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD WILL CELEBRATE THE 126TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY SUBMARINE FORCE, SATURDAY, 11 APRIL 2026, AT THE FOX TOWER PREMIER BALLROOM OF FOXWOODS CASINO. WITH AN EXPECTED ATTENDANCE OF MORE THAN 2000 PEOPLE IN THE LARGEST BALLROOM IN THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, IT WILL BE THE BIGGEST SUBMARINE BALL ON THE PLANET!

2. THE SUMMARIZED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1730 - 1900 COCKTAILS

1900 - 2000 PROGRAM AND REMARKS FROM GUEST SPEAKER

2000 - 2050 DINNER

2050 - 2115 PROGRAM

2115 - 2400 DANCING/ENTERTAINMENT

3. THE THEME FOR THE EVENT IS “SUBMARINES ON THE SILVER SCREEN”.

4. THE UNIFORM FOR THE EVENT IS FULL DRESS BLUES OR BETTER FOR MILITARY GUESTS (COVERS NOT REQUIRED) AND FORMAL DRESS FOR NON-MILITARY GUESTS.

5. ALL COMMAND TRIADS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE VIP RECEPTION DURING THE COCKTAIL HOUR. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED SEPCOR.

6. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE STARTING FEB 2, 2026. ONLY DESIGNATED COMMAND REPRESENTATIVES ARE AUTHORIZED TO PURCHASE TICKETS ON A UNIT'S BEHALF. NO PHYSICAL TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT PRE-PAYMENT. TICKET PRICE IS \$85.00 PER PERSON, PAYABLE VIA CASH OR CHECK. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY BALL”. A PHOTO ID AND TICKET ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

A. FEB 2, 2026: TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR SUBMARINE COMMANDS. INITIAL ALLOTMENT WILL BE 100 TICKETS PER SUBMARINE.

B. FEB 23, 2026: TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR SHORE COMMANDS. SECOND ALLOTMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SUBMARINES.

NOTE: MONEY MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE SUB BALL POC FOR THE FIRST ALLOTMENT OF TICKETS IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SECOND ALLOTMENT. EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE BASED ON A SUBMARINE'S UNDERWAY SCHEDULE.

C. TICKET SALES CLOSE ON APR 1, 2026.

7. THERE WILL BE A COMPETITION FOR THE BEST CENTERPIECE DURING THE PROGRAM. CENTERPIECES ARE REQUIRED TO BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO ENTRY. INSPECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE BALLROOM ENTRANCE DOOR BETWEEN 1500 AND 1700. CENTERPIECES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO CONTAIN ALCOHOL OR LAUNCH PROJECTILES. NO CENTERPIECES WILL BE ALLOWED IN AFTER 1700.

**Susan Charette** (Facebook Post)

January 11 at 3:52 PM

The thrift gods were good to me today! Brand new, never used, vintage linen tea towel for \$5. I swear it was Dad winking at me.



A great painting by Troy White of Nautilus entering New York harbor in 1956 with Bill Gaines tending the colors. White named the painting "Start Spreading the News" after Frank Sinatra's hit song. Certainly the news quickly spread worldwide about USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine.

## BLASTS FROM THE PAST



PANOPOs in Dress Whites Ready for the Parade

New York City - August 27, 1958.



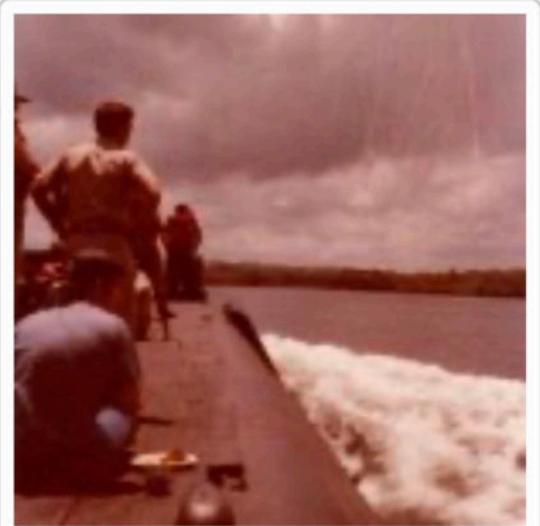
Halifax Run 1978



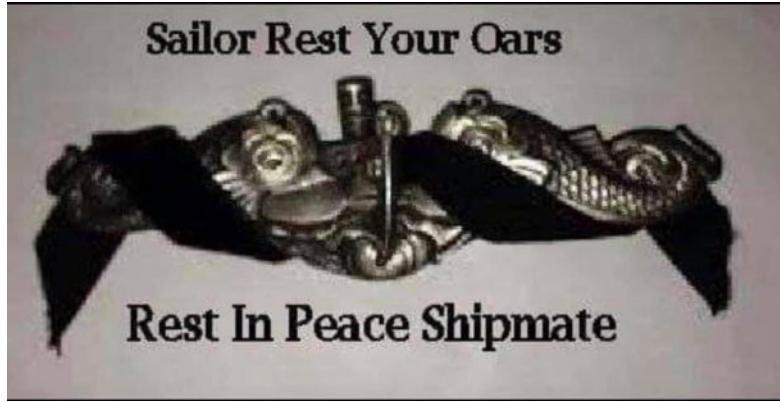
Topside due to heat



rich john



Nautilus Panama Canal 1979



## ETERNAL PATROL

**Eternal Patrol** Crew Members whose passing we've learned about since the last newsletter:

**Rodney O. Rehfeld**, SK3(SS), USS Nautilus 1963-1965, Departed on Eternal Patrol on January 19, 2026

**Wyvon G. May**, MMFN(SS), USS Nautilus 1969-1970, Departed on Eternal Patrol on February 19, 2025

*(See 65 newly-added Eternal Patrol shipmates listed at end of this newsletter who were found by John Lewis as he searched the USSVI database)*



# The Legend of the Submariner

*Andy Dingley, USVII*

The sea is restless, vast and wide,  
A mistress cold, a shifting tide.  
Yet some are called, and some must go,  
To depths where none but shadows know.

No sky above, no open air,  
Just steel and dark, a world laid bare.  
The hum of fate, the breath of time,  
A silent watch, a life confined.

They slip beneath the ocean's skin,  
Where day and night mean naught to men.  
No guiding sun, no friendly shore,  
Just orders whispered, shut the door.  
They vanish where the pressure climbs,

Where crushing black erases time.  
A crew, a ship, a fate entwined,  
In steel they trust, in dark they find.  
The Ghosts Below

Oh, lost ones bound beneath the tide,  
Where only steel and silence bide.  
No banners wave, no trumpets cry,  
Yet still they sail, yet still they fight.

No man alone, no soul apart,  
A brother's oath, a sailor's heart.  
Through whispered jokes, hands held tight,  
Through long cold watches in endless night.

For here, below, where warships sleep,  
Where unknown dangers prowl the deep,  
They move unseen, a phantom force,  
No flag to claim, no straight set course.

No cannon's fire, no siren's wail,  
Just sonar pings, a trailing veil.  
A hunted wolf, a silent knife,  
Each mission blurred between death and life.

Oh, lost ones bound beneath the tide,  
Where honor lives, though worlds divide.  
No graves are marked, no names are told,  
Yet still they serve, yet still they hold.

And should the waves one day reclaim,  
The steel, the men, the silent name,  
Know this, as they, they fade from view,  
Yet in the ocean deep, their watch holds true.



# A TOUR OF HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS

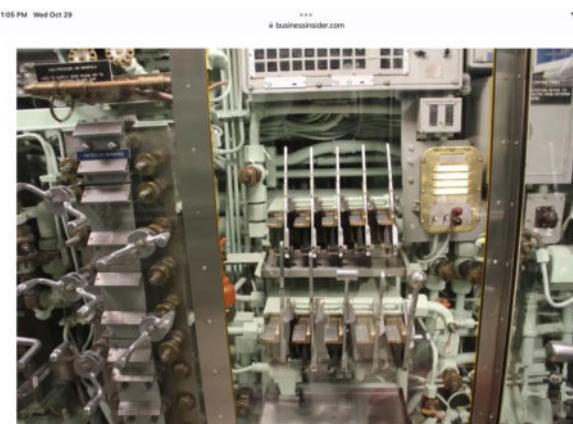
Many of our readers haven't visited their one-time home at sea, the USS Nautilus—now Historic Ship Nautilus—in years, some never. For those shipmates, we feature a few great photos of the forward areas of the boat with mannequins as it is currently shown to visitors.



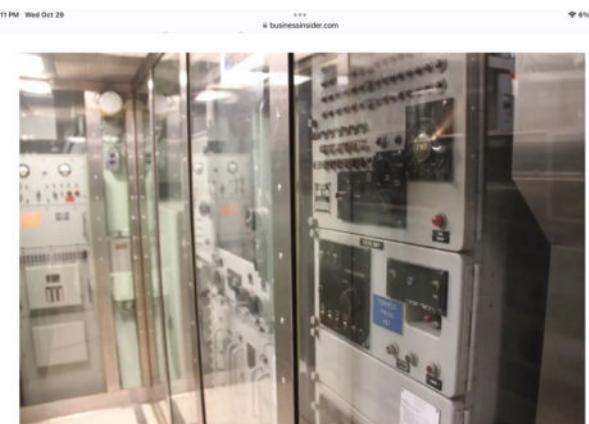
Mannequins of crew members in the control room. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



The attack center. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



Operating levers for the main ballast tanks. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



A firing panel. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



The sonar room. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



The crew's mess. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



The galley. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



Crew quarters on the USS Nautilus. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



The radio room. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



The office. Talia Lakritz/Business Insider



**Wally Najera, a USSVI member from California, posted this on Facebook in November 2025.**

*I met this gentleman while shopping in Vacaville, CA COSTCO last night and I immediately noticed his ballcap. He was on the USS Nautilus commissioning crew (Plank Owner) in 1954. I didn't realize that he is 92 years old until I googled his name. He occasionally speaks at a veterans get together in Vacaville where he has a display which includes his old Navy uniform, a model of the Nautilus, and an exhibit illustration how nuclear fission works among other stuff. I told him I was on the USS George Washington and we talked submarine stuff for a few minutes. He told me he was on the USS Batfish and two other submarines and at some point he obtained his commission; he told me he finally received his Gold Dolphins.*



As it turns out, the shipmate pictured is Thomas J. Brames, who served aboard Nautilus 1954-1956 as an RM3(SS) plankowner. He was later commissioned and retired as a LCDR with gold dolphins. Somewhere along the line, he earned a doctorate in education. He sent me a christmas card in December 2025 and I wrote him back wishing him well and encouraging him to attend our September 2026 reunion. - *Lonnie Barham*

## OLD SUBMARINE MOVIES

*Recommended by American Submariner Magazine*

If you are a member of U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., you get *American Submariner Magazine*. If you're not a member, you should join the nearest base to your home. If you are qualified in submarines and are not a member, go to [ussubvets.org](http://ussubvets.org) to find the base nearest you and to join.

The latest issue of *American Submariner Magazine* list the following old (really old) submarine movies as their picks for the best:

**5. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1916)**



**4. Three Little Sow and Sews (1939)**



**3. Submarine D-1 (1937)**



**2. Men Without Women (1930)**

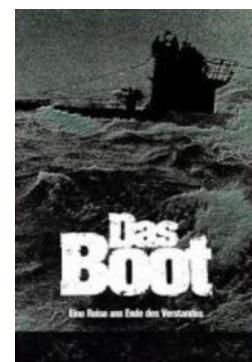
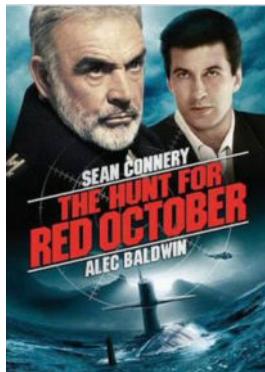


**1. Born to Dance (1936)**



## MORE RECENT SUBMARINE MOVIES THAT GOT GREAT REVIEWS FROM SUBMARINE SAILORS

- Das Boot (1981/1985 Miniseries): Widely regarded as the ultimate submarine film, depicting a German U-boat crew in WWII.
- The Hunt for Red October (1990): A Cold War thriller featuring Sean Connery as a Soviet captain attempting to defect with a stealth submarine.
- Crimson Tide (1995): A tense drama focused on a mutiny aboard a U.S. nuclear missile submarine.
- U-571 (2000): Focuses on American sailors boarding a German U-boat to steal an Enigma code machine.
- K-19: The Widowmaker (2002): A true-story drama about the Soviet Union's first nuclear submarine and its catastrophic first voyage.
- Black Sea (2014): A gritty thriller about a submarine captain searching for sunken gold.
- Hunter Killer (2018): A modern action film where an American submarine captain tries to prevent WWII.
- The Abyss (1989): A sci-fi thriller featuring a civilian dive crew and a U.S. Navy SEAL team searching for a lost submarine.



# AN IMPORTANT FACEBOOK POST FOR THOSE WHO SERVED FROM 1962 - 1980

## Submariners' Advocacy Group

Brad Davidson

January 22 at 8:14 PM

### SUBMARINE AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE DATES

The following two tables list submarines that have evidence showing years of potential presence in Vietnam, Thailand, Guam, or American Samoa waters presumed as exposed to AGENT ORANGE from 1962 to 1980. Any box with a number indicates at least one potential data source for that year. The evidence would be from official sources such as VA's non-public exposed vessel list, deck logs or command histories, or from unofficial news paper clippings. The official sources should be accepted by VA as evidence. The news clippings would not normally be accepted, but would show dates a boat was likely there and would obligate VA to search for official evidence around that date. If any of these dates apply to you, you can request a search by creating a comment to this post, starting with the upper case words LOG REQUEST and including the name of your boat and the approximate date ranges you were on board, with months if possible. We will do a lookup and provide the evidence if it can be verified. Response times are typically in 0-3 days depending on the number of requests..

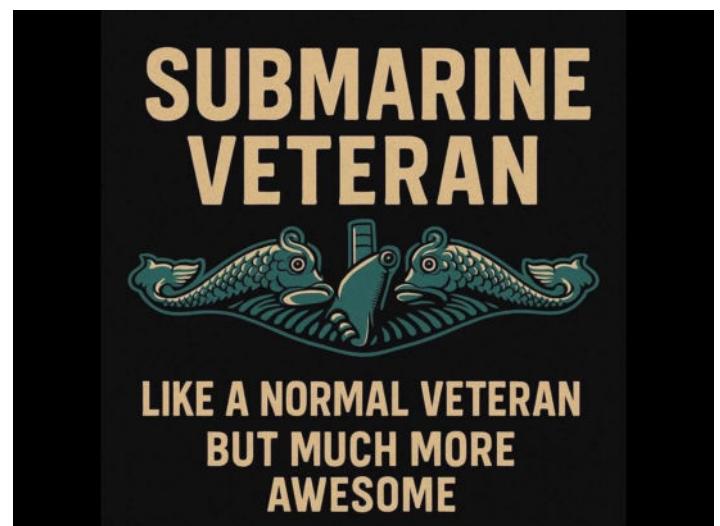
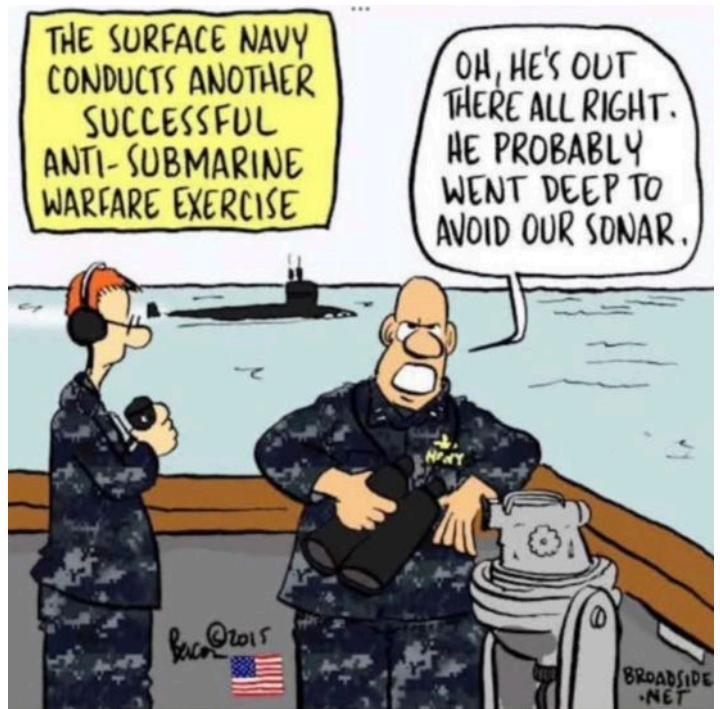
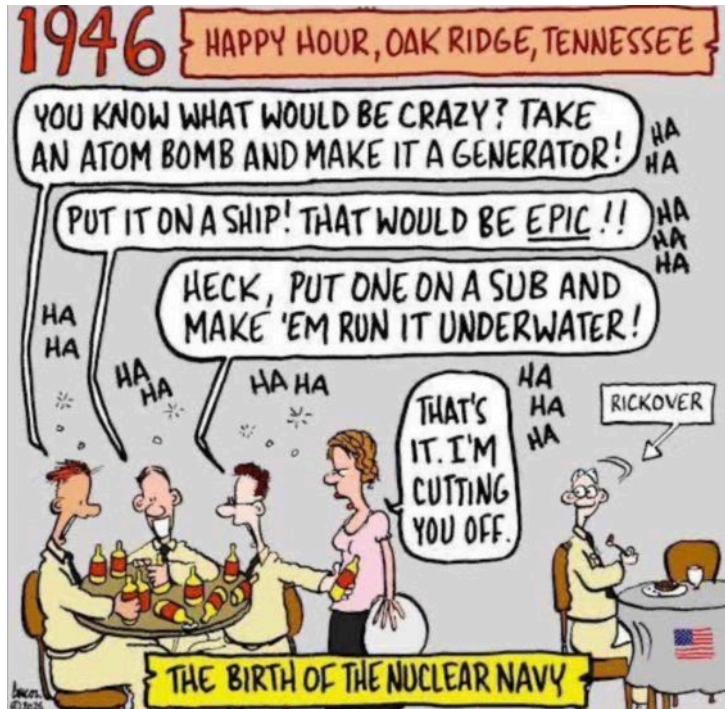
TYPE	(Mu...le Items)	SUBMARINES WITH EVIDENCE OF AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE (A to O)																	
		1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Abraham Lincoln																	1		
Archerfish	2		1	2	2														
ASPRO											2	2			2				2
Aspro													1						
BARB							2				2	4	2				1		1
Barbel			4		2														
Bashaw		2																	
Baya	2								1										
Benjamin Franklin				2	8	12	7	5											
BLACKFIN		2		1						1									
BLUEBACK									1										
BLUEGILL	1				3		2												
Bream	1				2	2	1												
BUGARA							5	3											
CAIMAN									1										
Capitaine	1	1																	
CARBONERO		2			1														
CATFISH					1			2											
CHARR		1																	
Dahlgren				1															
Daniel Boone	1	2	3	2	2	1													
Daniel Webster								4		2									
DARTER									3										
DIODON								2											
Ethan Allen															1	1	1		1
Flasher				2	1				1	3									
GRAYBACK									1	2	1	1	1						
Greenfish	1			2	2					2		3							
Guardfish					4						2		3						
GUDGEON				2	2														
Guitarro											1	2	1						
Gurnard				2	2	2			1								1		
Gutarro											1		1						
HADDOCK				2	2	2				4									
HALIBUT											1		1						
HARDER									2		2								
HAWKBILL											2	2	2						
Henry Clay						3	6					2							
James Monroe						2													
John Adams								8	4	8	3								
John Marshal															1	2	3		
Kamehameha		5	3			4	3												
Mariano G Vallejo			1	2	3														
MARIANO G. VALLEJO			1	2	1														
MEDREGAL					3														
MENHADEN		1					2												
Nathan Hale						3	2												
Omaha																	1		

TYPE	(Multiple Items) SUBMARINES WITH EVIDENCE OF AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE (A to O)																		
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Count of TYPE	Log	Count																	
NAME																			
Patrick Henry																			1
Perch	5				3														
PERMIT											1								
PICKEREL	2																		
Plunger									2	2	2								
POGY																2			
POLLACK																			1
POMFRET						1					1								
Queenfish	2							4				2		1					
RASHER			1			3													
Raton	2	1			5														
RAZORBACK									2	2									
Redfish	3	3	4			1	2												
REMORA		2					2												
Robert E Lee																		2	1
ROBERT E. LEE																			
Rock	2	3		2			4												
Ronquil	1							2			1								
SABALO	1							1	5										1
Salmon						2			3			1							
Sam Houston																		1	1
SARGO											1	3							
SCAMP							3							4					
SCULPIN												1		1					
Sea Devil	1																		
SEA DRAGON								1	2			2	1		2	4			
Sea Fox	2									2									
Segundo	2					1				4									
SNOOK						2			2						2				
STERLET	2																		
Stonewall Jackson			3	1	2	2	3												
Swordfish	3					4													
TANG										1									
TAUTOG												3		1		1			
TECUMSEH	1	3	1	3	2	1													1
Thomas Edison																			
Tiru		2			1			2						1					
TROUT							8	3											
TUNNY							2		3	1									
Ulysses S Grant	2	4																	
ULYSSES S. GRANT																			
Union	1																		
VOLADOR					2														
Wahoo	2							1	1										
Woodrow Wilson								1	2										

If you served aboard any of these boats during the periods indicated with numbers, there may be evidence available that you were exposed to the Agent Orange exfolient used extensively in Vietnam and that may have circulated far enough to sea to have exposed the boats. If this applies to you, go to Facebook and search for the group Submariners' Advocacy Group. Scroll down to 191919 locate this post from January 22nd. In the comments enter LOG REQUEST and the name of the applicable boat and the dates of your service. The Advocacy Group will conduct a search for evidence of your boat's exposure and get back to you



# SUBMARINE HUMOR



## **COMING HOME**

Countless times we sailed under the Gold Star Bridge on the final leg of our return to our home port in Groton. Every time we see a photo of any boat maneuvering under the bridge, it brings back fond memories.



Unknown boat headed home under the Gold Star



Nautilus docking at home

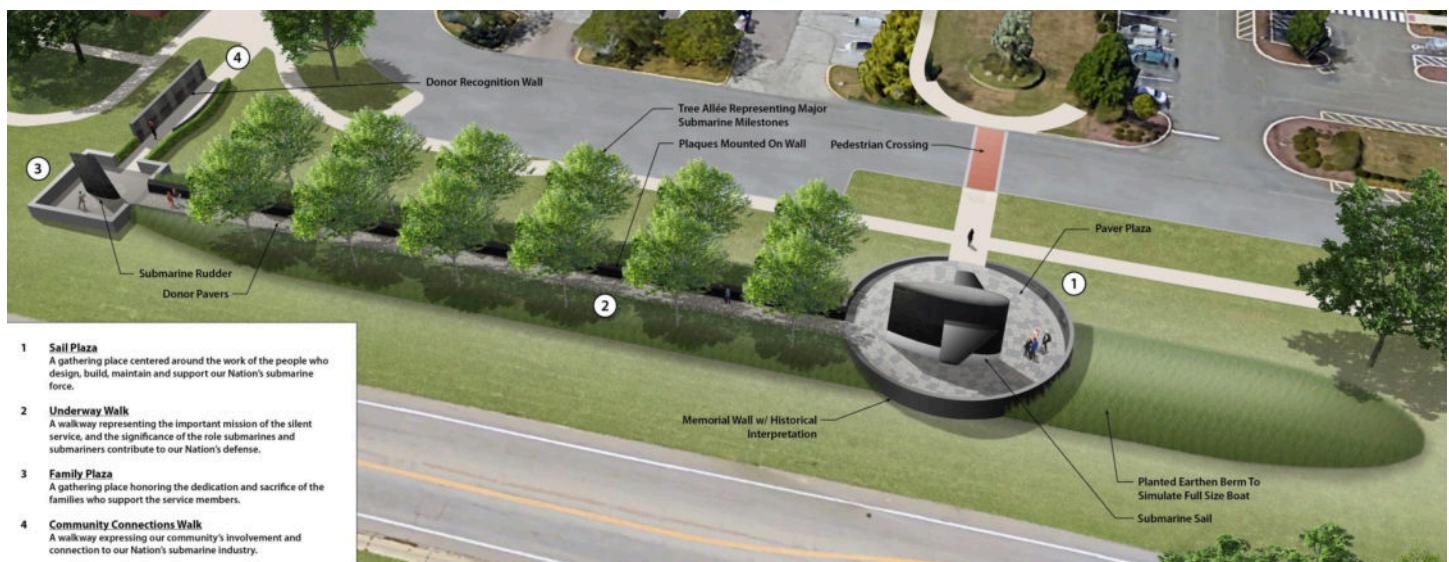


**USS Nautilus' final trip home to become Historic Ship Nautilus**



A member of NAAI's board of directors, Ben Amdur, former OIC of Historic Ship Nautilus, is also a member of the Groton Sail Foundation that is planning a monument that will honor all submariners, shipbuilders, and supporters of the submarine community that have made Groton the "Submarine Capital of the World." Since USS Nautilus was and remains such a major player in establishing Groton's position as the premier submarine location, the NAAI board has voted to support the project by purchasing a paver. NAAI members are encouraged to make similar purchases to honor specific Nautilus crew members. Go to [www.grotontsail.com](http://www.grotontsail.com) for additional information.

The centerpiece of the monument will be the USS Groton's sail and rudder, which will serve as a permanent tribute to the Navy's submarine community, past, present and future.



# Coins Still Available

A few of the NAAI-commissioned coins that celebrated the 70th anniversary of the commissioning of USS Nautilus SSN571 are still available. If you would like one of these highly collectible coins to give to children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors, please contact the NAAI treasurer, Rick Faircloth, at [rickfaircloth1025@gmail.com](mailto:rickfaircloth1025@gmail.com). Coins are **\$10 each plus \$5 for shipping**. (Orders for multiple coins will be shipped based on actual shipping cost but will be far less than \$5 each.)



# USS Nautilus Eternal Patrol Announcements



Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. 24They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. 25For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. 26They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. 27They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. 28Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. 29He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea<sup>107:29</sup> Dead Sea Scrolls; Masoretic Text / their waves were hushed. 30They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Psalm 107:23-30

*Our shipmates listed here were researched by Membership Committee Chairman John Lewis to be on Eternal Patrol from his review of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI) website. It is saddening and thought provoking to have lost so many shipmates this suddenly. One can think only to offer a final salute: Sailor, you have done your duty. Let us take up the oar.*

<u>Shipmate</u>	<u>Crew</u>	<u>Yrs OnBd</u>	<u>Rate/Rank OnBd</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Juan C Agbayani, Jr.		1962	TNSN(SS)		7/3/2017
William K Angell		71-73	STC(SS)	STC USN Ret.	11/16/2021
Terry Atkins		unknown	LT(SS)		1/19/2017
Douglas I Baker		62-27	TM2(SS)	TMC USN Ret.	9/21/2019
Richard A Bernier		63-65	IC1(SS)		12/17/2023
James L Berry		68-69	MM1(SS)	MMCS USN Ret.	12/16/2022
Dennison K Breese	PANOPO	55-59	ETR3(SS)		11/26/2023
Garland J Brock, Jr.	Hist Ship	1993	IC1(SS)		2/24/2020
Gardner R Brown		1954, 56-59	LT(SS)	CDR USN Ret.	4/6/2018
Gayle F Campbell		57-58	FN(SS)		unknown
James L Cassidy		1965	FTM3(SS)		8/28/2017
Frank C Cherry		1958	EN1(SS)	EN1 USN Ret.	8/27/2023
David W Cockfield		70-72	CDR/7th CO(SS)	RADM USN Ret.	9/22/2020

[Continued Next Page](#)

<b>Shipmate</b>	<b>Crew</b>	<b>Yrs OnBd</b>	<b>Rate/Rank OnBd</b>	<b>Retired</b>	<b>DOD</b>
Richard E Cordero		58-59	EN1(SS)	ENCS USN Ret.	11/9/2022
Wayne A Davis, Sr.		1957	CS1(SS)	CSC USN Ret.	1/30/2020
Julio D De Los Santos		unknown			5/19/2006
Elmer C Dering	Plank Owner	54-56	IC3(SS)		5/7/2023
Patrick J Donnelly		69-70	ETR2(SS)		12/22/2023
Joseph J Dougherty	SS-168	WWII	GM3(SS)		Nov 1985
Ronald R Eisenmann		57-58	FN(SS)	MMCS USN Ret.	12/12/2022
Edward D Endres		69-70	YN1(SS)	YNC USN Ret.	10/6/2023
Carl L Eubanks	Plank Owner	54-56	EN2(SS)		1/5/2021
William R Evermon	Decom	77-80	MMCS(SS)		8/14/2024
James L Fay		1962	EN2(SS)		unknown
Ben H Fisher		1959	TM1(SS)	LCDR USN Ret.	9/2/2021
Gerald A Friedman		67-68	CS1(SS)	CS1 USN Ret.	5/6/2023
Robert J Guilmette		74-75	MM2(SS)		9/26/2020
Richard F Hartfelder		1957	IC1(SS)	LCDR USN Ret.	4/28/2023
Raymond M Henken		56-57	EMCA(SS)	LCDR USN Ret.	11/13/2022
Malvin R Hoffman		1959	TM1(SS)	TM1 USN Ret.	3/4/2016
John A Howard		67-70	EMCS(SS)	EMCS USN Ret.	12/4/2020
Fred D Howell	SS-168	WWII 41-45	EMC(SS)		1/2/1981
Joe O Howell	SS-168	WWII 44-45	ENC(SS)		7/7/1982
James G Irvin	PANOP	57-59	IC1(SS)		8/29/2023
Bruce E Johnson		65-67	ETR2(SS)		10/12/2022
James W Johnson		60-61	RM2(SS)		4/30/2019
Paul M Keown		59-60	TM2(SS)	TMC USN Ret.	1/30/2022
Howard W Kligge		75-76	YN1(SS)	YNCS USN Ret.	4/4/2023
John A Larson, Jr.		60-62	TMC(SS)		7/7/1974
Lawrence L Lawyer	Plank Owner	54-55	ET1(SS)		4/2/2017
Bruce E Massis		1968	YNSN(SS)		1/10/2023
William J McDonald		76-78	MS3(SS)		7/31/2023
Ronald J Merwin		1971	ENS(SS)	LCDR USN Ret.	10/23/2023
Gerald T Milan Sr.	SS-168	31-33	YNC/LTJG(SS)	LTJG USN Ret.	6/10/1961
Thomas A Miller		72-73	ETC(SS)	ETCS USN Ret.	1/6/2017
Thomas C Morelock		71-75	ETCS(SS)	ETCS USN Ret.	6/18/2024
George G Murphy, Jr.		67-68	MM2(SS)		3/16/2020
George E Nault		1964	EMCS(SS)	EMCM USN Ret.	3/20/2022
Thomas Northrup, Sr.		73-75	MM3(SS)		9/11/2020
Galon R Olsen, Sr.		1962	EM2(SS)	EMCM USN Ret.	7/15/2018
David A Phoenix		52-54	MM1(SS)	CAPT USN Ret.	5/22/2022
William F Roberts, Jr.		62-68	MMCS(SS)	MMCM USN Ret.	10/4/2018
Willard P Ross, Jr.		58-60	SN(SS)	STCS USN Ret.	4/15/2020
Lawrence G Rubright		68-69	MM1(SS)	MMCM USN Ret.	10/8/2023
Edward P Sanderson		60-61	FT2(SS)		1/31/2022
Wallace J Schlauder		68-71	LCDR/XO(SS)	CDR USN Ret.	8/23/2024
Delmar L Simpson		64-65	IC2(SS)	ICC USN Ret.	4/22/2021
Michael L Stewart	Decom	78-80	HMC(SS)		unknown
Michael D Triplett		1970	MM2(SS)		3/22/2023
John C Vick		61-62	LTJG(SS)	CAPT USN Ret.	1/2/2019
John R Wahl		63-66	EM2(SS)	CW04 USN Ret.	10/5/2022
Jeffrey M Werner	Hist Ship	2008	MM2(SS)		4/17/2021

# REUNION 2026

It's time to start some serious planning for your trip to Groton for the 2026 Nautilus Reunion. A few notes about the reunion:

1. As we did for the very successful 2024 Reunion (Thank you, Wanda Sells), we will again use the Hilton Garden Inn on Rt. 184, Gold Star Hwy, Groton, for our primary hotel and hospitality center. See the registration form on the next page for registration information.
2. The Channel Fever BBQ/Lobster Bake on Monday night will be either at the Groton Elks or at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Negotiations are underway with both.
3. The lunch being planned to honor the Historic Ship Crew on Tuesday is planned for the historic ship location under a tent or indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate. (Alternate location is the Hilton Hospitality Room)
4. The water taxi tours of the Thames river will leave from and return to the new water taxi dock located across the pier from Historic Ship Nautilus. The tour promises to be a great time.
5. Tuesday night's Sea Stories event will be in the Hilton Hospitality Room the same as in 2024. We will again have pizza, calzones, and other munchies—along with drinks—at the no-cost event. This reunion we will hear Nautilus stories from the historic ship crew and from legacy members.
6. We have the Port & Starboard banquet venue at Ocean Beach, New London, on hold for the culminating banquet on September 30th - the 72nd anniversary of the commissioning of USS Nautilus in 1954. We are still looking for a better venue since several attendees complained about Port & Starboard last reunion.

**REGISTER NOW WITH THE FOLLOWING FORM**

# NAUTILUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2026 REUNION



September 28 - September 30, 2026  
Groton-New London, Connecticut

## Registration Form (Please complete a form for each individual attending)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Crew Member? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Years Aboard \_\_\_\_\_ Rank While Aboard \_\_\_\_\_

Plank Owner? \_\_\_ PANOPO? \_\_\_ Decom Crew? \_\_\_ Historic Ship? \_\_\_

If non-crew, name of related crew member \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT	COST
<b>(Circle Cost &amp; No Cost for all Events You are Attending)</b>	
Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$20.00 (Mandatory)

### Monday, September 28, 2026

9 am - 4 pm: Arrival/Check-in Hilton Garden Inn No Cost

6 pm - 9 pm: Channel Fever  
BBQ & Lobster Clambake (Circle choice if attending) \$30 BBQ  
\$65 Lobster

### Tuesday, September 29, 2026

9 am - 11 am: NAAI Business Meeting/Election No Cost

1 pm - 3 pm: Lunch Honoring Historic Ship Crew &  
40th Anniversary of Museum/Ship opening to Public No Cost

3 pm - 5 pm: Tour of Museum & Historic Ship Nautilus No Cost

7 pm - 9 pm: Hist. Ship Crew & Legacy Sea Stories  
Pizza, Calzones & Drinks - Hilton Hospitality Room No Cost

### Wednesday, September 30, 2026

11 am - 2 pm: Tour Thames River Heritage Park  
Aboard Water Taxi (Departs Museum 11, 12, & 1) \$15.00

5pm - 9 pm: Nautilus Reunion Banquet. Cocktail  
Hour 5-6 pm, Banquet 6-9 pm \$65.00

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Hotel Reservations at the  
Hilton Garden Inn, 224 Gold Star  
Hwy (Rt. 184), Groton, CT, by  
calling 860-445-6800.

Use Group Code USSNR for  
Reunion Rates. (Rate also applies  
to Sept 27 and Oct. 1 for longer  
stays.)

Or make reservations online by  
typing or copying and pasting this  
link into your browser window:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=GONNLGI&groupCode=USSNR&arrivaldate=2026-09-27&departuredate=2026-10-01&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>



Make Checks Payable to  
NAAI  
Send this form and check to:

2026 NAAI REunion  
Rick Faircloth, Treasurer  
PO Box 104  
Baconton, GA 31716

Send Form & Check  
No Later Than Aug. 15, 2026



# The Final Page

If your vacation plans take you to New England this year, take advantage of this stop...



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November 11, 2025 ·

Just off the highway in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, sits one of the most unexpected Cold War relics you can actually walk inside—the USS Albacore. This sleek, experimental submarine once tested groundbreaking designs that reshaped modern undersea travel. Step aboard and you'll find cramped bunks, glowing control panels, and the eerie hum of a world built for life beneath the surface. It's part history, part sci-fi—and proof that innovation doesn't always stay underwater. [#USSAlbacore](#) [#PortsmouthNH](#) [#ColdWarHistory](#) [#SubmarineMuseum](#) [#NewEnglandExplores](#)

