



Fall 2025

Paul Doucette, Editor

NAUTILUS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reunion 2026 Dates Established

The NAAI Board of Directors has approved the dates and location for the 2026 Nautilus Reunion. Once again it will be in Groton on **September 28, 29 and 30, 2026**, with the primary hotel being the Hilton Garden Inn, Groton—the same hotel we used for the 2024 reunion.

The reunion committee searched diligently for the best hotel price. Most hotels in the Groton/Mystic/New London area with sufficient rooms for our group and with a hospitality room were VERY expensive during late September 2026, all well over \$300 per night for weekend nights. The least expensive for weekday nights was \$279 per night.

So, we went back to the Groton Hilton Garden Inn and got its best price—\$180 plus tax per night for weekday nights Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 28, 29, and 30, 2026. The lowest price for dates that include a weekend was \$250 per night. That's one of the reasons for selecting weekday night for the reunion.

Another great reason for choosing weekdays for the reunion is that we will be able to have our culminating banquet on Wednesday, the 30th, the

actual 72nd anniversary of the commissioning of USS Nautilus.

For those wishing to check in a day early on Sunday the 27th, or remain an extra day and check out on Friday, Oct 2nd, fifteen rooms will be held for that purpose at the same \$180 rate.

We are currently negotiating with venues for the Wednesday night's banquet and for an event on Monday night. Once again, Tuesday night will be devoted to "Sea Stories," with family/legacy members and historic ship crew encouraged to tell their Nautilus-related stories.

The Board realizes that some NAAI members, especially some of our legacy members, bring school-age children to the reunions, and that having the reunion on weekdays/nights require taking the kids out of school. We sincerely hope parents will consider that reunion attendance will be a learning opportunity for children that will outweigh their school absence.

So, mark your calendars for these dates and start making plans to attend what we trust will be another fabulous Nautilus Reunion.

To make hotel reservations, call 860-445-6800 and ask for group code "Nautilus Reunion 2026" to get the reunion rate. Link is [USSNR](#).

Lonnie Barham, President





A Blast from the Past

A big, happy family at the
2024 Nautilus Reunion.
Hope to see them all
again in September 2026.



A NEW OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS



Lieutenant Commander Brian Lucas has assumed the position of Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of Historic Ship Nautilus and Director of the Submarine Force Library & Museum. He relieved newly-promoted Commander Bryan Chapman who is reassigned as XO, U.S. Naval Submarine School.

We wish a fond farewell to CDR Chapman and his family and welcome the opportunity to work with LCDR Lucas as he works to further enhance submarine history and ensure that the memory and achievements of USS Nautilus remain in the minds and hearts of America forever. (See OIC Bio and Historic Ship Update near end of this newsletter.)





Report

The Application Season is now open for both the Nautilus Scholarship and for the Dolphin Scholarships for the 2026/27 academic year.

Those eligible for the Nautilus Scholarship are those pursuing either a 2-year, junior college degree, a 4-year college/university degree, or a technical/trade school degree or certificate.

A Nautilus Scholarship will be awarded to at least one applicant in each of the three categories, so long as there are applicants in each.

Last year we awarded three \$3,500 scholarships, so chances are good for success.

Applicants must be related by blood, marriage or adoption to someone who was assigned to USS Nautilus or to Historic Ship Nautilus for 30 days or more. This includes the sailors themselves, spouses, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and step/adopted in those relationship categories.

Applications must be submitted in time for a 2-3 week processing period before the deadline of March 15, 2026.

To apply go to subforcescholarships.smapply.io to apply. Scroll down to Nautilus Scholarship and go from there.

Please pass this information on to your eligible relatives and tell them that the Nautilus Alumni Association wishest them the best of luck.



HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER THIS?

It was a 119 foot ascent of “Blow and Go” on one breath of air. An awesome experience we will never forget!

Although most who read this newsletter are veterans themselves, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11, 2025, we ask our readers to pause and send silent thanks to all veterans from all services.

HAND SALUTE!



When you go home tell them of us and say,
For Your Tomorrow, We gave Our Today.





MilitaryAllTheWay

In WWII, US submarines made up **less than 2%** of the Navy, yet they sank over **1,300 enemy ships** (more than half of Japan's merchant fleet and about a third of its warships), crippling Japan's supply lines and war industry. Their missions were secret, their losses heavy, and their recognition came late. While surface fleets made headlines, submariners fought unseen, in silence, depth, and darkness.

A succinct and very accurate description of how important U.S. submarines were in defeating the Japanese in WWII. As an aside, there was certainly not that much room in the racks aboard Nautilus. And it's highly unlikely that such pinup pictures would be allowed on today's submarines. LOL

Some may wonder about the book the WWII submariner is reading. It's "The Stray Lamb" published in 1929 by Thorne Smith. It tells the tale of Mr. Lamb, an ordinary man who leads an ordinary life, until a chance encounter leads to him experiencing the world through the eyes of various animals. Thorne Smith

shows his mastery of the comic fantasy tale as Lamb lurches from one mishap to another, reeling from his wife's abandonment and the actions of his headstrong daughter and reveling in the new opportunities that his excursions into animal form provide.

We suspect the sailor may have confused the book with some of Mr. Smith's other books of comic fantasy fiction involving sex, much drinking and supernatural transformations. (Sounds like a book most submariners would enjoy. LOL)

Sailor Rest Your Oars



Rest In Peace Shipmate

Nautilus Crewmembers We Have Learned Departed on Eternal Patrol Since Our Last Newsletter

*"The ship has docked, the watch is done,
Your final voyage has been run.
No more the storm, no more the fight,
Just calm seas in eternal light."*

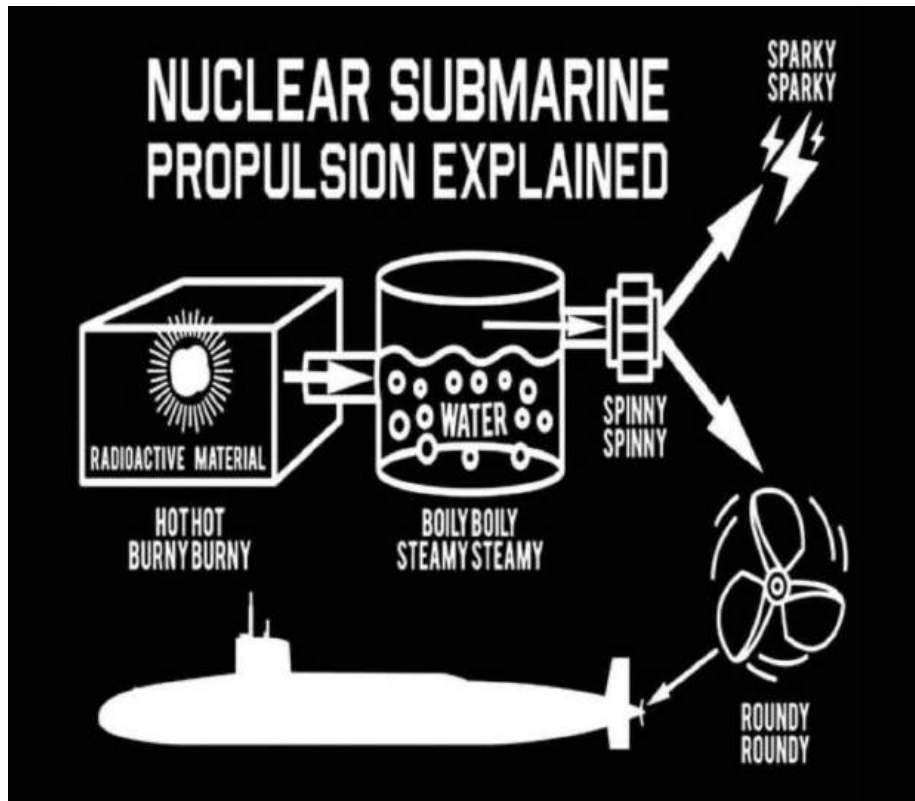
**Rest in Peace until we join you in
Neptune's Valhalla**

Roy E. Berg, EM2(SS), USS Nautilus SS-168, 1943-1945. Eternal Patrol on December 23, 2017

William "Bill" Roy Boots, MMC(SS), USS Nautilus SSN-571, 1968-1969. Eternal Patrol on July 1, 2025.

James M. Stark, MM1(SS), USS Nautilus SSN-571, 1970-1971, Eternal Patrol on July 29, 2025

Now for a bit of Humor



The entire course syllabus at the Navy's Nuclear Power School.

Those who served in the forward compartments, i.e., torpedomen, sornamen, radiomen, etc., (Forward Pukes) always suspected that the superior attitudes displayed by nuclear power school-trained crewmembers, i.e., machinist mates, electrician mates, etc., (Nuke Pukes) were inflated. This graphic lends evidence to that belief. **LOL REALLY! This is a joke!**



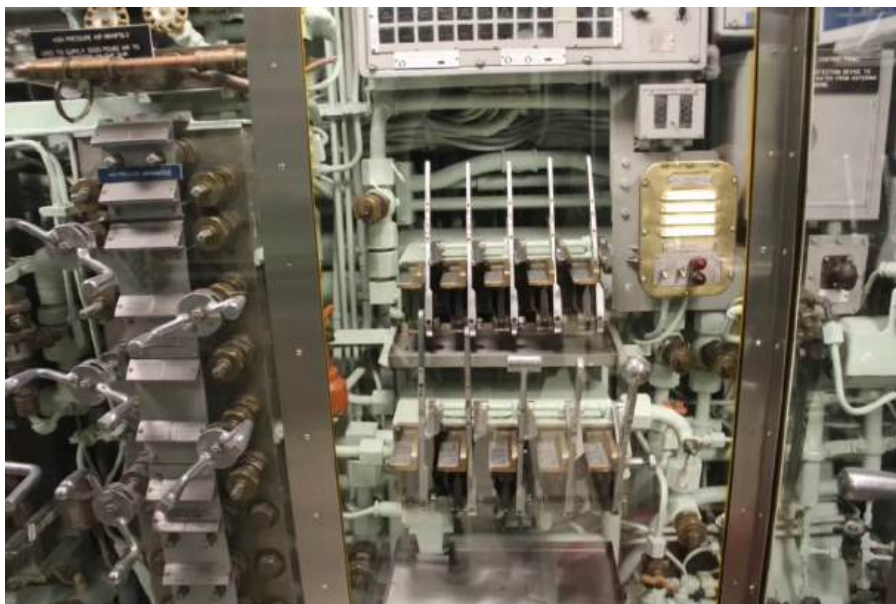
THIS CARTOON IS SO APPROPRIATE FOR CURRENT CREWMEMBERS SERVING ABOARD HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS.

TODAY AND YESTERYEAR

Submarine technology has progressed rapidly in the past few decades. To compare **old** and **new** just look at the ballast control panel on the Ohio class submarines and the primitive hand-crank/manual lever panel our auxiliarmen had to work with to trim the boat.



OHIO CLASS



USS NAUTILUS

PANOPO Keeps Popping Up

*Thanks to Joe Degnan, a member of the PANOPO crew for submitting this photo from way back in 1958. We have to agree with the caption, **Sub Men are Supermen**. I'm sure other servicemen look at this photo and think, "Dang! Those bubbleheads have all the fun!"*



WE ALL HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE 2024 REUNION!

Here are a few photos from that reunion just to remind all of us that such reunions are joyous occasions. Make hotel reservations now by calling 860-445-6800. Ask for group code "Nautilus Reunion 2026" to get the reunion rate. Link is [USSNR](#).





INTERESTING PHOTOS



Nautilus in space!



Nautilus depicted entirely with rocks and glass beads

A President Tries to Earn Dolphins?

In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first U.S. president to ride in a submarine when he took a dive in the USS Plunger. This event was significant because it led Roosevelt to advocate for better pay and hazardous duty pay for submariners, resulting in an Executive Order that changed submariner compensation and helped establish the foundations of modern submarine service pay. (While we applaud President Teddy Roosevelt for his three hour submergence, we will never forget the president who actually earned dolphins, Jimmy Carter - RIP.)

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT UNDER WATER THREE HOURS IN PLUNGER

**In Submarine Boat He Tests
Its Marvelous Per-
formances.**

SENSATIONS ENJOYABLE.

Clad Like One of the Crew, the President Worked Levers of Wonderful Craft.

SUBMARINE SENSATIONS
ENJOYED BY ROOSEVELT.

Here are some of the "stunts" Lieut. Nelson performed with the Plunger for the edification of his distinguished guest:

Dived forty feet to the bottom of Long Island Sound and remained there half an hour while President Roosevelt examined the boat's mechanism.

Exhibition of "porpoise diving," consisting of dashing through the water at high speed, alternately appearing and disappearing along the surface after the manner of a porpoise.

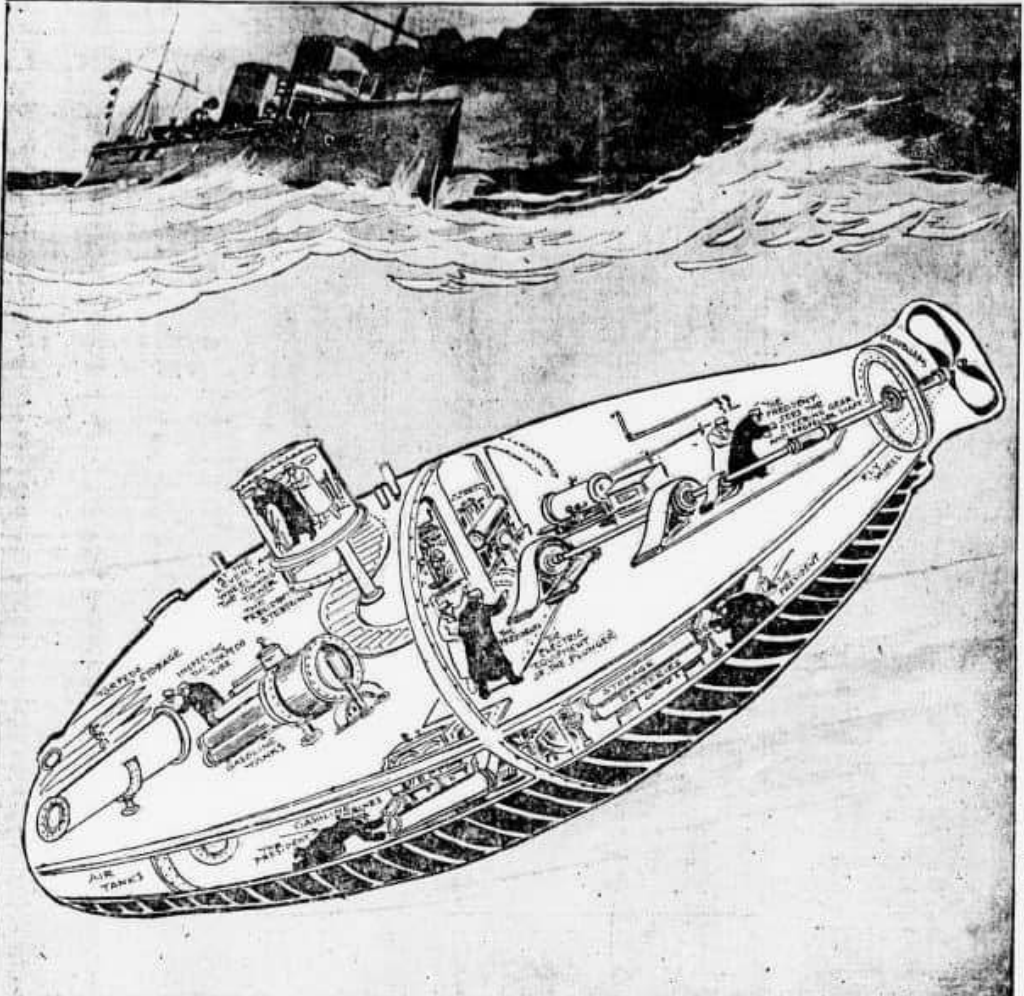
Dive of twenty feet below surface at an angle of forty-five degrees stopped, engines reversed and craft shoots back to the surface.

Boat sinks to bottom of the sea, turns completely around and reverses her course in one minute.

Craft sinks to depth of twenty feet, rests motionless with heavy storm raging at the surface.

- All lights in Plunger extinguished and crew of nine man work the boat perfectly in total darkness.

President Roosevelt witnessed the official trial trip of the submarine to the adjacent Plunger off Oyster Bay today and, though he appeared enthusiastic, he was thinking all the time that such fun the occasion was to the divers compared with the keen enjoyment of those who were putting the new mechanical fish through its evolution.



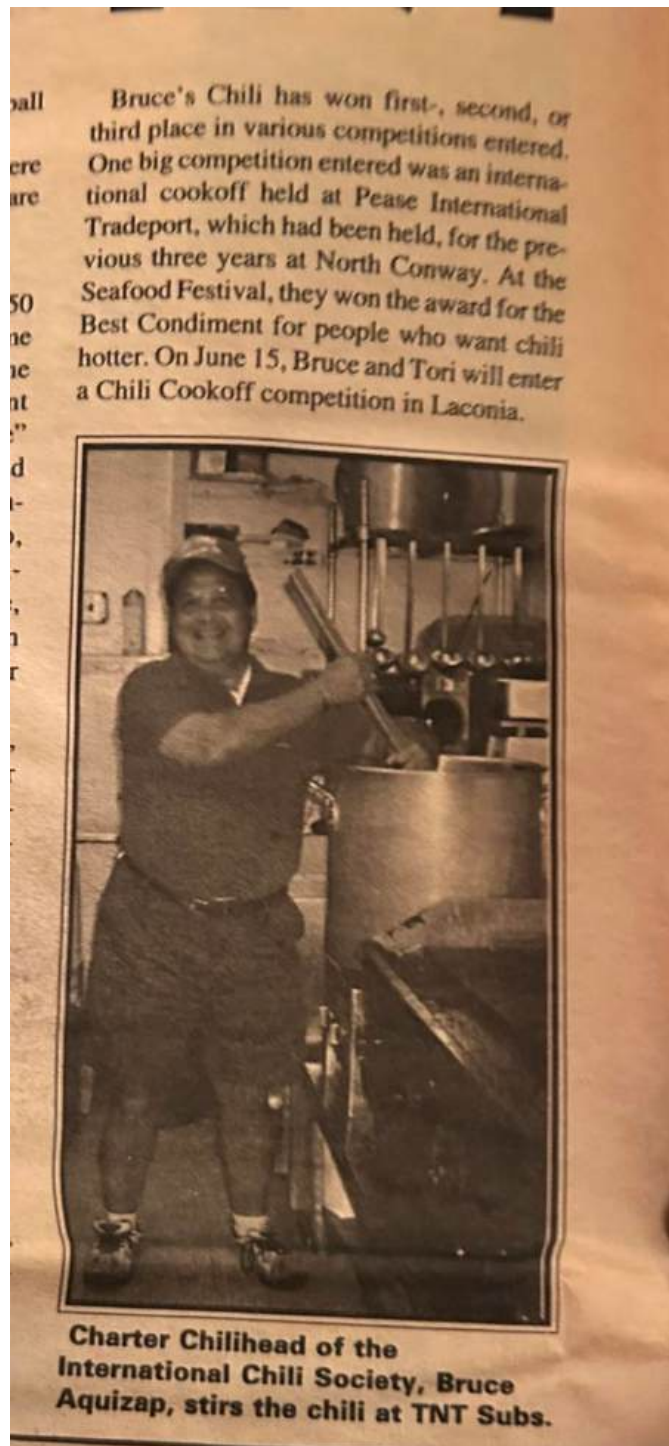
Since our next newsletter will not go out until February of 2026, the editorial staff at NAAI wants to wish all readers a **VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!**



And Sisterhood

REMEMBERING A SHIPMATE

Our shipmate Bruce Aquizap, now on Eternal Patrol, was not only a great submariner but he was also an expert chilli chef. Wow! The interesting things you learn about a shipmate and his retirement hobbies!



When History and Modernity Meet

(Grandmother and Grandchild?)



The Military Lover's is in New York, NY.

October 18 at 8:47 PM · 🌐

The attack submarine Pittsburgh SSN-720 passes the Historic Ship Nautilus as it transits the Thames river en route to homeport at Naval Submarine Base New London on 15 October 2010. Pittsburgh returned home after completing a scheduled six-month deployment. 🇺🇸 ⚓

Thanks to **Tori Aquizap** for reposting this on the Nautilus Alumni Association Facebook Group's site.

Join the **Nautilus Alumni Association Facebook Group** at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/964349679134624/>

LATEST TREASURER'S REPORT

\$

NAUTILUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC

CHECKING BALANCE 09/10/2025	\$ 8,713.17
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SEPTEMBER-OCT 2025 EXPENSES

10-20-2025	NAAI CREDIT CARD PAYMENT	\$46.11
	ZOOM MEETING (SEPT) \$18.18	
	ZOOM MEETING (OCT) \$18.18	
	USPS (MAIL COINS) \$9.75	
10-2-2025	QUICKBOOKS	\$38.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$84.11
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DEPOSITS AUGUST-SEP 2025

10-31-2025	COINS SALES	\$67.75
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CHECKING BALANCE 09-10-2025	\$8,696.71
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COIN INVENTORY	46
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Submitted by Rick Faircloth, Treasurer 10/31/2025

LCDR Brian Lucas, USN

Officer-in-Charge, Historic Ship NAUTILUS (SSN 571)
Director, Submarine Force Museum

A native of Merritt Island, Florida, Lcdr Lucas graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in December of 2009. He worked in the civilian sector for 3 years before pursuing a commission through the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NUPOC) program in 2012. Lcdr Lucas commissioned in the US Navy via Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, RI in September of 2012. Following initial nuclear and submarine training, he reported to the USS Rhode Island (SSBN-740)(Blue) in Kings Bay, GA in June of 2014.

While aboard USS Rhode Island he served as the Electrical Assistant and Damage Control Assistant while guiding the ship through two patrols, a dry-docking, and strategic off-load prior to her Engineered Refueling Overhaul (ERO) in Portsmouth, VA. Due to his sea duty time remaining Lcdr Lucas volunteered to transfer to the USS Maryland (SSBN-738)(Gold) in November 2015 where he served as the Communications Officer and the Assistant Operations Officer. There, he helped lead the ship through post-ERO sea trials, strategic recommitment, strategic on-load, and the ship's first post-ERO patrol.

Following duty on Maryland, Lcdr Lucas completed a shore assignment as the Assistant Operations Officer at Submarine Squadron Twenty in Kings Bay, GA from September of 2017 to September of 2019.

His Department Head tour began in July of 2020 aboard USS Alexandria (SSN-757) in San Diego, CA where, as the ship's Navigator and Operations Officer, he completed a Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment, various training and testing exercises, and a Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) dry-docking.

LCDR Lucas completed his next shore tour at the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) in Omaha, NE where he served as Strike Advisor and Strategic Operations Section Head on both Operations Teams Two and Three from May, 2023 to July, 2025. There he was responsible for advising the highest levels of civilian and military leadership on the details of the nation's nuclear war plan as well as serving as a watch officer onboard one of the survivable nodes of the National Military Command System (NMCS).

LCDR Lucas relieved as the Officer in Charge of Historic Ship Nautilus and Director of the U.S. Submarine Force Museum and Research Library on September 19th, 2025.

LCDR Lucas's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various campaign and service awards. He resides in Guilford, CT with his wife, Amy, and son, Caden.



Fall 2025 Update from Historic Ship Nautilus and the Submarine Force Museum

I am truly honored and excited to take on the role of Officer-in-Charge of the Historic Ship Nautilus (HSN) and Director of the Submarine Force Museum (SFM). It's a privilege to carry forward the rich legacy of our Navy's submarine history, and I look forward to working closely with the dedicated team at the museum and our valued partners at the Nautilus Alumni Association, Inc. Together, we will continue to uphold the standards of excellence and service that have defined this institution for decades, and ensure the preservation of this important piece of naval history for future generations.

As we approach the end of October, I'm pleased to provide an update on the ongoing efforts at the SFM/HSN, despite the challenges posed by the ongoing government shutdown.

Since the start of the shutdown on October 1, 2025, we have been closed to the public. This closure, while unfortunate, has allowed us to focus on much-needed maintenance and upgrades aboard the HS Nautilus. As of the last day in October, we are completing our fall maintenance availability, which includes a variety of essential preservation and repair tasks to ensure the continued integrity of the ship and museum.

Pending the resolution of the government shutdown, we are excited to resume work on our Navy 250 exhibit, celebrating the U.S. Navy's 250th anniversary in 2025. A key focus of the exhibit will be Submarines 125, marking the 125th anniversary of the U.S. Navy's acquisition and commissioning of its first submarine, the USS Holland (SS-1), in 1900 and its enormous impact on naval warfare. The exhibit will feature significant artifacts and interactive displays showcasing the evolution of submarines and their role in Navy and global security.

We look forward to welcoming the public back once the shutdown ends and sharing these exciting developments with you. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to preserve and celebrate the history of the United States Navy and the Submarine Force.

Stay tuned for more updates as we finalize the details of our reopening!

Very respectfully,

Brian C. Lucas, LCDR, USN
OIC, HS NAUTILUS, SSN-571
Director, Submarine Force Museum and Research Library"

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Pauldoucette153@comcast.net

Directors

Reunion Chair: Open (volunteers?)

Your e-mail could go here 😊

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Chaplain: John Anderson

Chaplainjohn571@gmail.com

Membership Chair: John Lewis

Jlewis77@comcast.net

Data Management Chair: Bob Keehan

Krkeehn@gmail.com

Scholarship Chair: Open (volunteers?) Lonnie filling in

Your e-mail could go here 😊

Historic ship Liaison: Ben Amdur

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