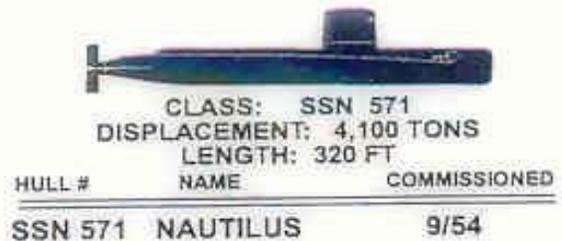
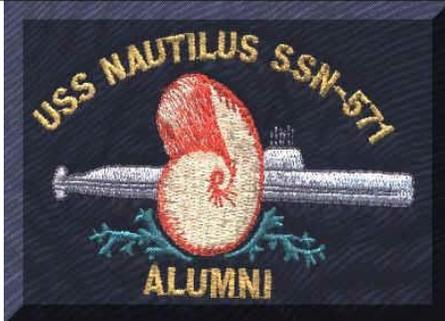


Nautilus Alumni Association, Inc.

NAAI Newsletter - Winter Issue

January 15, 2015



The Nautilus Alumni Association, Inc. is a non-profit, tax deductible, all volunteer, membership organization.

Our purpose is to establish for USS NAUTILUS (SSN-571) her permanent place in history and to assist wherever possible in establishing and maintaining the highest traditions of the United States Navy. Our aim is to account for all former crewmen and to bring together as many former and present shipmates as possible and to remember those shipmates on eternal patrol.

Misty Memories on the Thames

Lonnie Barham

USS Nautilus '66-'68

A light rain drizzled slowly from dark clouds hovering over the wide, gray river that late September morning. The wet, bleak weather was perfect for submariners. A submarine serves best when it is silent and hidden; this weather made hiding much easier.

Since such weather makes submariners happy, it was also appropriate weather for a joyous event - the celebration of a submarine's birthday. Not just any submarine. It was the 60th birthday of the USS. Nautilus, the submarine that introduced a whole new concept of maritime warfare and launched what would become a revolutionary advance in national security through nuclear deterrence.

I sat under a temporary canvas shelter on a pier in Groton, Connecticut, just outside the U.S. Submarine Base, along with about three hundred other guests. Across a few feet of water sat the looming black hulk that had been my home during my last teenage year and for the following two years of my young adult life.

Memories flooded my consciousness. Nautilus memories. Some bad, some good. I was suddenly reliving the hours of boredom sitting at the helm or dive planes as we ran at the same depth, the same speed and the same course for hours and days at a time. I again felt the bitter, cold splash of arctic waves washing over the conning tower and soaking me and others after we barely breeched the

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NAAI Officers & Other Key Folks

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treecastle@gmail.com – 865-428-0099

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robertchilds@gmail.com – 865-348-6105

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Board Member

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em1ss606@aol.com – 978-604-0371

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webmaster@ussnautilus.us – 209-295-2029

2016 Reunion Chairman

Gary Schmid, ’68 – ‘71
c560cpt@aol.com – 860-245-0418

Volunteer Researcher for Missing Crewman

Laura Alley (Aux Member)
ljalley@bellsouth.com - 919-734-2337

*Thank you for volunteering and serving
Your fellow shipmates in the
Nautilus Alumni Association, Inc. (NAAI)*

President’s Message



Shipmates and Friends,

The 2014 Reunion in Cleveland was a huge success. Wally Wallick and his crew Dennis Halstead, Larry Klein, Ken Matheny, Gene Marchese and Howard Kligge were splendid reunion hosts along with enthusiastic participation by associates and vets from the museum ship USS Cod SS224. The reunion was truly enjoyable with plenty of opportunities to renew old memories. In addition to the scheduled activities, we were treated with a visit Saturday afternoon from VADM Kenneth Carr who lives nearby. Mrs. Marilyn Charette, her son Brian and daughter Susan also attended and shared with all of us a huge amount of Nautilus photos and memorabilia. At Saturday’s banquet, Brian treated the gathering to his father Al’s “Archibald” rendition. We all loved it!

One of the agenda items for the Board of Directors and the General Membership was in light of IRS changes to consider pursuing the Association becoming 501(c)(3) status which means all donations and memberships would become tax deductible. This would be accomplished with a one time \$400 fee. Support for this motion was unanimous, and through the efforts of Treasurer Bob Childs, we are now a tax deductible corporation.

The 2016 reunion, which is in the capable hands of Reunion Chairman Gary Schmid, will be in the Groton area, at a site as yet to be determined. Some members think we should align our reunions with the SubVet convention, and this idea has been tabled until our next reunion.

Also the Board of Directors voted to close the Ship’s Store and transfer the inventory to the incoming Reunion Chairman. This decision was made due to very limited sales since the 2012 Reunion - \$250. Most of us just like buying T shirts associated with the current reunion.

surface north of the Arctic Circle to fix an electronic mast while we were headed for a classified surveillance mission. I felt both the visceral and cerebral memory of the horrible sound of crunching metal as the boat collided with an aircraft carrier in the south Atlantic while at periscope depth and then spiraled down, out of control. Davy Jones' Locker had looked imminent.

Then there was the memory of pulling into Bermuda and enjoying liberty in civilian clothes. Dancing with college girls on spring break who asked us what college we attended; none would believe that we had just gotten off a nuclear submarine. And there was the seventy-eight day poker game during a "northern run," the euphemism for Cold War surveillance missions to our enemy's shores.

And pictures of the owl and the mermaid played before my consciousness like a 3D movie - two Nautilus "mascots" whose stories would take far more words than this article allows.

Looking around at others sitting on the pier, I found the faces of shipmates with whom I had served on this finest of ships so many years ago. There, a few seats away was Bill, a torpedoman I remembered as a hell-raiser at twenty two - now in his late sixties. And on the other side sat Tommy, an outstanding radioman now in his seventies who was only in his late twenties back then but had been considered "old". He had served as a mentor to so many onboard. And there was Terry the cook, Bob the electrician, and Gary the sonarman.

Though the faces had aged, it took only seconds before I saw in them the fresh-faced young sailors, the undersea warriors, who were my shipmates - nay, my family - in those halcyon days of our youth.

Looking from them to the Nautilus and back to their faces, tears welled in my eyes. After a long career in the military, I consider myself a warrior still so I wouldn't allow tears to flow, but my heart ached for those days and for my Nautilus friends who weren't there - absent not because of lack of interest; absent because they have cast off on eternal patrol.

The ceremony soon began, bringing me back to the present. As if on cue, a long, sleek 688-class submarine slid slowly past us in the morning's misty drizzle - heading south down the Thames River toward the open sea.

Our host, the Officer in Charge of the Historic Ship Nautilus and the Submarine Library and Museum, introduced distinguished guests. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the widow of Admiral Hyman Rickover, the father of the nuclear Navy, was present, along with many Nautilus sailors who had been aboard when the boat was commissioned - plank owners, as they are called because they were there when the "planks" were laid, an honorific that links modern sailors with those who sailed ships made entirely of wooden planks and beams.

On the dais situated topside on the Nautilus after deck and directly across from the pier-bound audience sat the four-star Admiral in charge of all Navy nuclear reactors, a U.S. senator, a congressman, the governor of Connecticut, and a Vice President of Electric Boat Company - the builder of Nautilus

More important, there beside the dignitaries sat two Nautilus plank owners, both retired captains now in their eighties who had been the junior officers aboard Nautilus at her commissioning. Sadly, the more senior officers are deceased or were incapable of attending because of health issues. Only two days earlier, retired plank owner Vice Admiral Kenneth Carr had attended the Nautilus reunion in Cleveland for an hour or so. He had been wheeled in looking very tired. Being physically able to attend only one of the two major events, he had chosen to struggle into the reunion to see old friends. Whether we served with him or not, each of us was pleased and honored to see this distinguished old warrior pass between us as we formed two columns of saluting side boys while someone whistled to mimic a bosun's whistle

One by one the guest speakers on the dais shared with the audience how they viewed the birth of Nautilus and its impact on the nuclear Navy. Thankfully, the guest speakers were brief - even the politicians - since the voices from the dais the former Nautilus shipmates on the pier wanted to hear were those of the two aging plank owners who brought up the tail end of the speaking program. Last, but certainly not least.

Retired Captain David Boyd spoke of being the junior officer when he reported aboard the Nautilus commissioning crew as a lieutenant junior grade. He was joined shortly thereafter aboard Nautilus by another lieutenant j.g., Raymond Engle, the other retired Captain on the dais. The two regaled the audience with several stories - some funny, some poignant - about their early months aboard Nautilus as she was prepared for launch, during sea trials, and later during the Navy's first ever experience with an operational warship powered by a nuclear reactor.

One of the plank owners quoted the nuclear Navy's most famous message - the one broadcast by the first Nautilus commander, Commander Eugene Wilkinson, as the boat headed to sea for the world's first experience with sea-borne nuclear power. Although public relations folks had prepared a lengthy, adjective-laden message for Commander Wilkinson to send on the historic occasion, both plank owners appreciated Wilkinson's rejection of those trite PR messages and his choosing, instead, his own short, simple message that would enter Navy lore to live forever among such famous messages as those sent by John Paul Jones and Oliver Hazard Perry. The message simply said, "*Underway on Nuclear Power.*"

Commander Wilkinson's successor as Nautilus skipper, Commander William Anderson, would later lead Nautilus under the arctic ice to become the first ship to transit the Arctic Ocean and travel from the Pacific to the Atlantic via the North Pole. His famous message, "*Nautilus 90 North,*" relayed when Nautilus crossed the pole, would also join the long list of iconic Navy messages.

Commander Wilkinson retired from the Navy with the rank of Vice Admiral and died just last year. Commander Anderson retired with the rank of Captain and later served three terms in Congress. He died in 2007.

Most of us could truly appreciate the two plank owners' comments about their junior status and the foibles youth and inexperience can lead to. Most of us had reported aboard as junior officers or young enlisted men and could empathize with their experiences. Again, memory after memory flashed through my mind. And I noticed my old shipmates glancing at one another with knowing smiles and nods as the speaking plank owners' comments caused them to resurrect similar old memories. Yes, the comments by these two, old plank owners brought all of us back to our days aboard this great old lady that sat before us now.

The departing memory relayed to us by the plank owners related to one of Admiral Wilkinson's comments about Nautilus later in his storied career. As the Navy commissioned newer and newer nuclear submarines, such as the modern combat platforms that comprise the Los Angeles, Ohio and Virginia classes of submarines, Admiral Wilkinson said something to the effect, "They may make 'em better, but they'll never be the first!"

That comment sort of summed up my feelings that day as I was torn between fond memories and sad ones, between euphoric recollections and terribly sad memories of deceased shipmates. All of these memories, however, were overshadowed by the overpowering memory of pride and accomplishment I felt at having served aboard this magnificent ship. I looked around once again as the ceremony reached its conclusion. And, once again, I found the faces of my shipmates in the crowd. I saw through their tear-glistened eyes the same pride I felt. As we gave our last salutes to this proud mother of all the Navy's nuclear ships, I was privileged to join some great old sailors standing tall once again. With firm and resolute stances, our chests bulging with pride, we said goodbye once again - for some, perhaps the last goodbye - to our boat, the "Big N," truly the world's "First and Finest!"

Warwick, RI resident Lonnie Barham served as an enlisted sailor aboard Nautilus from February of 1966 until November of 1968. He left the Navy in 1971 as a Second Class Petty Officer (SK2-SS) and, after graduating college, was commissioned a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He retired from the Army in 2007 with the rank of Colonel after a 42 year military career. Lonnie is currently the Vice President of the Nautilus Alumni Association after serving as its secretary for the past two years.

Secretary's Report

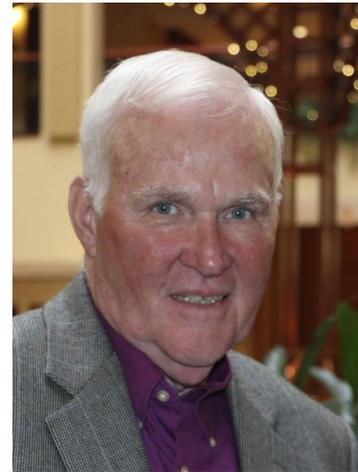


Dear shipmates, families and friends!

Secretary duties have kept me pretty busy so far and I hope to improve my efficiency. I'm a child of the '60s and events almost always bring some song to mind. For NAAI secretary duties, Dolly's Nine to Five is often on the tip of my tongue! The most interesting part of this job is the opportunity to visit with shipmates, many of which came to Nautilus way before me and have experiences to share from her glorious early years. Although I served later, 1968-70, the experience meant the world to me especially the friends I gained and the lessons of responsibility. One highly regarded shipmate shared with me at the Cleveland Reunion that service on Nautilus "defined the rest of his life". I could take those words as my own. I'd bet many of us would say the same.

(continued page 8)

Treasurer's Report



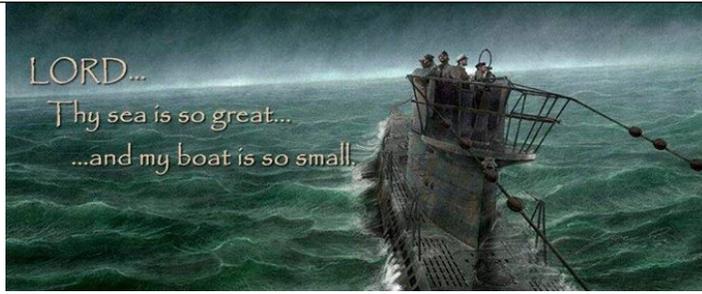
As of December 31, 2014, the total cash value of \$12,220.08 is in the corporate account at Edward Jones for the Nautilus Alumni Association, Inc. (NAAI)

Total deposits for this time period were \$3,251.54. Included in this deposit was \$2,502.54 from the Ship's Store final sales.

On November 27, 2014, a sum of \$4,623.88 was donated to the Dolphin Scholarship

Fund.

**Robert D. Childs
Treasurer, NAAI**



Sailor's Soul

Anyone who's ever gone to sea can relate to this sentiment. Especially those of us who've gone beyond the green water to the open blue, and then submerged beneath the waves.

The sea is so vast that even massive Battleships and Carriers are naught but a speck on the surface. Nature's immeasurable power can be braved, but never truly conquered. In its more docile state, the temperamental surface of the waters awes and inspires. In its wrath, it terrifies and destroys.

In submarines, we often had the luxury -- if you will -- of diving the ship beneath the tumult of the tempest. But not always. The diesel-powered "smoke boats" of eras now passed had to surface or come to snorkel depth to run the diesels and recharge the batteries. The sea had no regard for the status of your power plant. Thus, submarine captains of days gone by were forced to discern which would be the lesser of two very real evils... risk losing propulsion in the relative calm of the deep, or brave the rolls and swells of the surface in heavy seas. This was not a realm for those with a weak constitution.

Nor were the modern nuclear-powered boats immune. Transits through certain waters had to be conducted on the surface, and in several locales on the globe these shallow waters can be especially treacherous. Certain missions called for the necessity of remaining at periscope depth for days at a time. Riding out a typhoon at periscope depth in waters labeled "international," yet deemed the sovereign territory of a potentially hostile foe, one quickly comes to realize that national security trumps your own by a considerable amount.

To dive beneath the waves often provided for a respite from the turmoil above. Yet, to enter this third dimension of the most foreign and hostile environment on the planet... well, it quite literally adds a whole new dimension to the equation. Yes, our boats were DESIGNED to enter this realm, but the process was anything but automatic.

True sailors are not merely passengers aboard their vessel. Rather, they "sail" the vessel, and submariners are each quite intimately involved in multiple aspects of the process. This is especially true at depth, and the personal intimacy of this sailor-ship relationship increases at a rate consistent with the increase of the forces of the sea on every square inch of the hull.

Unless you've heard the groanings of HY-80 steel straining against the pressure of the deep, you simply cannot truly relate. But even if you've never been there, perhaps you can understand the dynamic I'm speaking of. It is no wonder then, that we old submariners, whose boats have been relegated to the recycle bin, speak of them in personally possessive and nostalgic terms. My nostalgia also

increases at a rate consistent with the increase in the gray in my hair and the years I've walked this Earth. It is at times a strange and dichotomous mix of both pride and humility, and very difficult to explain.

Yes, lord... Thy sea is so great, and our boats were so small. But they took my brothers and I into harm's way and brought us back again. Most of us. In reverent awe, we remember those who remain eternally in the dark deep, and commend them to your care.

~Jody Durham



IN MEMORIAM

Our shipmates who served
their country!
They have done their duty!

*Since July 15, 2014 these
shipmates have either been
reported or researched as
having received their final
orders.*

RM1(SS) Gregory "Greg" Fessler, USN Ret
'71 - '72 RM1(SS) 07/24/14

MR Richard "Gary" McDaniel
'70 - '73 MM2(SS) 07/27/14

CWO2 Norman "Zook" Vitale, USN Ret PANOPO
'56 - '58 EN1(SS) 07/30/14

MR Robert "Bob" Testerman
'59 - '60 ET3(SS) 08/02/14

STS1(SS/DV) Darel Reynolds, USN Ret
'64 - '65 STS1(SS/DV) 09/17/14

Nautilus Alumni Association, Inc Dues Form

Life Membership = \$100
Annual Membership = \$10 /Yr.

_____ Life Membership
_____ 2014 _____ 2015 Annual Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ - _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Email Add: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Spouse Name: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Please check one)

SSN-571: _____ Ships company or attached personnel serving 30 or more days aboard *Nautilus*.

Auxiliary: _____ Any person interested in establishing for Nautilus its permanent place in history and/or establishing a legacy for a family member who has served on *Nautilus*, e.g.

Spouse ___ Son ___ Daughter ___ Grandchild ___

FOR CREWMEMBERS

Served in Nautilus from (YR) _____ to (YR) _____

Rank/Rate (Duty) while onboard? _____

Military Retired? _____ Retired Rate/Rank?: _____

Plank Owner? _____ PANOPO? _____

Decom Crew? _____ Historic Ship Crew? _____

Please make checks payable to NAAI and mail with this form to:

NAAI Treasurer
Bob Childs
610 Woodland Drive
Clinton, TN 37716

Dues! Dues! Dues!

Please include the adjacent Dues Form. It helps keep the NAAI DB current. If you have question regarding your membership status please contact Secretary Bob Keehn at krkeehn@gmail.com or telephone 214-350-2529.

Thanks to all who continue to support our fine Association.

Welcome Aboard New Life Members

(Since Jan 15, 2014)

MR Gerald "Gerry" Rice
'70 - '71 CS3(SS)

ETC(SS) Jon P Sutton, USN Ret
'66 - '68 ET1(SS)

DR Gordon Roesler, Captain, USN Ret
'763 - '80 LT
Decommissioning Crew

MMCS(SS) Sam Manson, USN Ret
'67 - '70 MM1(SS)

MR Neil Johnson
'67 - '70 TM2(SS)



NAUTILUS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND

The balance in the NEAF trust as of 31DEC2014 was \$55,886.17 (this includes interest and market appreciation and is therefore subject to change.)

DONORS

11/21/13	Nicholas, Dorothy*	\$1,000.00
04/23/14	Keehn, Kenneth	100.00
08/01/14	Robinson, Tommy	50.00
08/28/14	Robinson, Tommy	38.00
09/03/14	Cavallo, Jon	100.00
10/27/14	O'Halloran, William	25.00
10/27/14	Shuman, Alfred	30.00
10/30/14	Childs, Edward	25.00
11/03/14	Warnke, Larry & JaNell	50.00
11/18/14	Robinson, Tommy	102.00
11/21/14	Kronenwetter, Jim	25.00
12/01/14	Ward, Donald	20.00
12/04/14	Nautilus Alumni Assoc.	4,323.88
12/04/14	Turner, Richard	200.00
12/04/14	Keehn, Kenneth	100.00
12/08/14	Michnowicz, Victor	150.00
12/15/14	Holland, Annette	1,000.00
12/27/14	Fogarty, Frank	100.00

TOTAL \$7,438.88**

* Donation was made in prior fiscal year and not identified as a NEAF donation.

** This total will be transferred to NEAF in January 2015 and is not included in NEAF balance above.



Nautilus Scholarship

The *Nautilus Scholarship* honors crewmembers of both *USS Nautilus (SSN-571)* and *(SS-168)* by awarding undergraduate scholarships exclusively to a spouse, child, grandchild, great grandchild, or stepchild, step grandchild or great step grandchild of a current or former crewmember of either submarine who has served honorably aboard for thirty (30) or more days.

Additional information regarding the *Nautilus Scholarship* including an Application Check List and Scholarship Application Form is posted on the NAAI website at www.ussnautilus.us. Those of you who do not have online access may request these forms by contacting the NAAI Secretary (see page 2).

Applications will be accepted for school year 2015/2016 this fall. Completed applications must be received by the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation (DSF) no later than March 15, 2015 in order to be considered. Applicants are encouraged to use the Application Check List. The NAAI Treasury will provide for an annual \$1000.00 *Nautilus Scholarship* while the Nautilus Educational Assistance Fund (NEAF) continues to grow.

Donations to the NEAF may be made either to NAAI Treasurer, Bob Childs, 610 Woodland Drive, Clinton, TN 37716 or directly to DSF, 4966 Euclid Road, Suite 109, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 or online at DSF's homepage www.dolphinscholarship.org/.

In all cases please note your check or online donation for "**NEAF**" OR "*Nautilus Scholarship*" so the monies will be placed in the proper fund. Please see a list of our most generous donors on the left.

Celebrating The Birth Of The Nuclear Navy

Naval History Blog, Jan 8

The director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program will host a ceremony Jan. 9 at Naval Reactors' Washington Navy Yard headquarters celebrating one of the first major milestones of the Navy's nuclear propulsion program.

Adm. John M. Richardson, joined by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert, and the Department of Energy Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, will honor the 60th anniversary of the world's first nuclear-powered warship, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), getting underway on nuclear power. It was on Jan. 17, 1955 at 11 a.m. when Nautilus Commanding Officer Cmdr. Eugene Wilkinson announced "UNDERWAY ON NUCLEAR POWER."

In addition to being an engineering marvel, Nautilus was the first in a long line of nuclear-powered ships to serve the U.S. Navy with an outstanding record of more than 155,000 million miles safely steamed on nuclear power. Just as important, she represented a huge leap in American energy security, increasing strategic independence, sustainability, and operational capability.

Getting Nautilus "underway on nuclear power" was a remarkable accomplishment that began with the concept of harnessing the power of splitting uranium atoms in 1939 by scientists at the Naval Research Laboratory. That concept became reality when then-Capt. Hyman G. Rickover, an engineering officer, signed onto the project in 1946. Just six years later, on June 14, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed the keel of the first nuclear-powered submarine.

It was Jan. 21, 1954 when Nautilus was launched at Electric Boat Shipyard, Groton, Conn. The boat was commissioned a few months later, Sept. 30. For a video of the 60th anniversary of the commissioning, please click [here](#).

Nautilus' career was a record-setting one, including being the first submarine to cross the North Pole - under the ice - on Aug. 3, 1958. After 25 years and four refuelings, Nautilus was decommissioned in 1980. Two years later, the first nuclear-powered submarine was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior.

After undergoing historic ship conversion in 1986, USS Nautilus continues to serve her country at the Submarine Force Museum in Groton.

Secretary's Report - continued

This duty lets me hear from a lot of people that I don't already know. I heard from one who shared a story of his "welcome aboard as a "19-year old boot non-qual". Another member shared the same family name as mine and we compared notes as to which family was the first to arrive in America. And another is the brother of a shipmate sadly lost on Scorpion. They all compel me to reflect. The downside is that I can't always continue these conversations. I hope to pick them up again when time permits.

Let me point to a few areas where I think your suggestions can help me do a good job. Please let me know what you think and I'll share your thoughts with the BOD.

Health Issues: I have forwarded several messages of shipmate's illnesses to you through all-hands e-mail. The primary thought is that this can help others with similar issues. I receive some replies to these that might be helpful to all or just to the person with the illness. I struggle some with what to forward and what not to. Because age-related problems are a reality for many of us, I will do my best to keep all of you appropriately informed. Any suggestions will be appreciated.

E-mail Options: I would like to hear your recommendations for e-mail options that can handle 600-addresses and offer plenty of file-folders for saving e-mails. My home Gmail doesn't appear to have the capacity so I communicate to you from work using Microsoft Outlook. I'm technically limited so your help would be appreciated.

Nautilus Scholarship: As you know, this Scholarship came to life in 2009 through the vision of Frank Holland. Its purpose is to honor Nautilus crewmembers on Eternal Patrol. I believe it honors all of Nautilus crew as the "First and Finest" and the highest traditions of the U.S. Navy,

A progress report was presented at the Cleveland Reunion, including photograph and bio of the five student scholarship winners and a contributions status. Since then, Joseph P. Lee has become our 6th award winner. I must share with you that the Nautilus Scholarship has become dear to my heart. These wonderfully talented young folks working in a variety of fields can't help but remind all of us of our early years and aspirations.

Contributions are now more than half way to the \$85,000 Endowment level which means the fund can generate enough income to fund each annual scholarship and maintain the principal. Donations have come from (a) large supporters, (b) many smaller but meaningful contributions, (c) earnings from Tommy Robinson's compilation of Nautilus stories in *Steely Eyed Killers of the Deep*, and (d) alumni annual dues in excess of operating costs. I'm hoping our annual fund drive will bring us to Endowment in the next few years. I have ideas brewing on how we can do that. Please share your thoughts.