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NAUTICA ENTERPRISES INC  
Form DEFA14A  
July 03, 2003

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO. )

FILED BY THE REGISTRANT [X]

FILED BY A PARTY OTHER THAN THE REGISTRANT [ ]

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only  
(as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

NAUTICA ENTERPRISES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than Registrant)

PAYMENT OF FILING FEE (CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- 1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:  
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- 2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:  
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- 3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):  
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- 4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:  
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- 5) Total fee paid:  
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- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- 1) Amount Previously Paid:  
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- 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
- 3) Filing Party:

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4) Date Filed:  
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The Company has engaged Rothschild Inc. and Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. to act as its financial advisors in connection with the Company's annual meeting of stockholders scheduled for July 8, 2003. The Company has also engaged Rothschild to act as its financial advisor and to render a fairness opinion in connection with the Company's previously announced discussions with respect to the possible acquisition of the Company, for which Bear Stearns also has been engaged by the Company to render a fairness opinion. Rothschild and Bear Stearns will receive compensation for such services, including in the case of Rothschild a fee payable upon completion of a transaction.

### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements made herein and other written or oral statements made by or on behalf of the Company may contain "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on the Company's current expectations of future events and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that may cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, estimated or projected. These factors and uncertainties include, among others: the risk that new businesses of the Company will not be integrated successfully; the risk that the Company will experience operational difficulties with its distribution facility; the overall level of consumer spending on apparel; dependence on sales to a limited number of large department store customers; risks related to extending credit to customers; actions of existing or new competitors and changes in economic, political or health conditions in the markets where the Company sells or sources its products, including with respect to SARS; downturn or generally reduced shopping activity caused by public safety concerns; risks associated with consolidations, restructurings and other ownership changes in the retail industry; changes in trends in the market segments in which the Company competes; risks associated with uncertainty relating to the Company's ability to launch, support and implement new product lines; effects of competition; changes in the costs of raw materials, labor and advertising; the ability to secure and protect trademarks and other intellectual property rights; risks associated with the relocation of Earl Jean, Inc.; the risk that the cost of transitioning the Nautica Europe business to licensing or other key arrangements will be more than anticipated or that the Company will not be able to negotiate acceptable terms; and, the impact that any labor disruption at the Company's ports of entry could have on timely product deliveries. These and other risks and uncertainties are disclosed from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the "Forward-Looking and Cautionary Statements" section of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 1, 2003, in the Company's press releases and in oral statements made by or with the approval of authorized personnel. The Company assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of new information or future events or developments.