



Where History Comes Alive

## BATTLESHIP NORTH CAROLINA

# Scuttlebutt

June 2009

### Submarine Crew Visits Battleship and Wilmington

The Commanding Officer of the submarine NORTH CAROLINA and 16 crew visited Wilmington as part of their second Hands On Wilmington event. The Submarine North Carolina Commissioning Committee coordinated and sponsored this program. The crew visited Cape Fear Community College, Hoggard High School NJROTC and Easton Elementary School. The crew and a team from Wachovia Bank worked on a major landscaping project at New Hanover High School. The crew enjoyed a reception aboard the Battleship on Friday, 24 April.

Commanding Officer Wes Schlauder, Chief of the Boat Dave Collins and North Carolinians Matt Dooley and Wesley Cook participated in the Battleship's oral history project.

On Saturday the Commanding Officer, Leading Yeoman/Personnel Officer Matt

Dooley, Machinist's Mate John Hepburn, and Sonar Technician Wesley Cook arrived at the ship for a guided tour, including areas not on the tour route. Before starting the tour, they met Leo Bostwick, one of the WWII Battleship crew. Wearing their team t-shirts, the men explored the ship with great enthusiasm. They were having so much fun figuring out components in After Diesel (crewmember Pat Vella would be pleased to hear this) that it appeared they would not get far on the tour before running out of time.



They enjoyed examining the artifacts and document

in collections. They picked up some items



L to R: Schlauder, Dooley, Bostwick, Cook and Hepburn.

and commented on how some things were still very much the same. They posed in the brig, climbed in the motor whaleboat and up the fire control tower. It was a thrill to see them excited to be part of the Legacy of Ships named NORTH CAROLINA.



### JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Saturday, June 6th

#### Docent Day

Learn more about the Ship from stationed interpreters in the engine room, sick bay, 5-inch gun mount, gallery, gedunk and more!

#### Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7

#### Museum Ships Weekend

#### Tuesday, June 16th

Hootenanny 8 PM, Fantail. \$10 ticket at door.

### SUMMER HOURS

THE BATTLESHIP IS OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM. THE LAST TICKET IS SOLD AT 7 PM.

### Hootenanny Now in Its 9th Year!

Nine years ago, noted Wilmington musician and storyteller, John Golden, offered to host a hootenanny as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Battleship. The event was such a success that this June marks the ninth year.

The concert consists of easy-going folk and pop favorites played by area musicians This year's lineup consists of Fred Blohm, who sings classic songs

from the forties and World War II; Catesby Jones, singer/songwriter & lively guitar player whose songs have been recorded by Nashville stars; John Golden, singing folk; Kent Knorr playing the ukulele; Shane Lippard on mandolin; Doug Wall and his group, Masonboro Sound, plus a couple of surprise guests.

This year's Hootenanny will

be held Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> on the fantail. Come and enjoy good old time foot tappin', hand clappin', knee slappin', sing-a-long music under the stars. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Cash Only! Popcorn and Pepsi products will be available. The proceeds will benefit Friends of the Battleship. In case of rain the Hootenanny will be held in the Visitor's Center Auditorium.



### Secrets Uncovered



Electric Cipher Machine  
Courtesy National Cryptologic Museum, NSA

In late April, Cort Barnes joined our amazing and talented group of volunteers. Cort was a USNR-R Communications Technician (CT) in the late 1960s assigned to Kami Seya NSG in Japan. After his Navy service Cort continued to work for the government in communications. He expressed an interest in learning about the Battleship's radio operations and we quickly delved into the ship's Code Room.

The Code Room is located on the first platform next to Radio Central and it is on the tour route. Visitors peer through a window in the door and see a safe, burn bag, code book covers, and a recreated code machine.

In 2001, a video oral history was made of Herb Weyrauch. He was an officer in the Communications Division

and prepared the Code Room for use during the ship's fitting out in early 1941 and then was assigned to the Code Room during battle stations. Another oral history interview was filmed with John Batholomew, a radio man who was trained to maintain special equipment inside the Code Room.

Cort Barnes noticed right away that it would be exciting if the Battleship could exhibit a real coding machine, called an Electric Cipher Machine (ECM, Mark II). A few inquiries later and Cort was headed to the National Cryptologic Museum, NSA, in Ft. Meade, MD, to pick up a loan for the Battleship.

In the 1930s, two U.S. Army officers designed the first version of the code machine, called SIGABA. The device was secretly patented and shared with the U.S. Navy a few years later.

They called the machine an Electric Cipher Machine (ECM) Mark II. Neither Germany nor Japan broke messages the machine sent or received during World War II. It was retired from service in 1959.

A display about the ECM and the Battleship's Code Room is on view in the Visitors' Center during the summer. And Cort Barnes is continuing to learn more about the Battleship's World War II radio communications so he can tell you, our visitor, all about it during your next visit!

*Note: The Museum Dept. is developing a new exhibit about the Legacy of the Ships Named NORTH CAROLINA for the visitors' center. Models of the NORTH CAROLINA ships remain on view along with pennants from the collections.*

### There's No Gas Gauge On A Battleship

Actually there is, it's just harder to read.

One of the seasonal tasks performed by the Wednesday Group is assisting Terry Kuhn of the Maintenance Department in the annual sounding of the tanks in the ship. There are about 443 tanks in the ship and approximately 2,300,000 gallons of various liquids in those tanks. The breakout is 126 Fuel Oil Tanks, 14 Diesel Tanks, 257 Void Tanks, 4 Lube Oil Tanks, 35 Clean Water Tanks and 7 Bilge Water Tanks. There is an estimated 1,400,000 gallons of oil/water mix and

900,000 gallons of water on board.

As the ship ages and seals deteriorate, the fluids sometimes migrate from tank to tank. Knowing the contents of each tank allows us to assess the integrity of those tanks. The measurements are taken with integral sounding rods accessed through small plugs in the deck - each tank having its own sounding rod. Sounding the tanks was an important task done daily when the ship had a full crew and fuel was constantly being used, replenished and transferred among tanks to trim the ship. Some tanks currently contain a

mixture of oil and water. The Battleship has acquired a machine that separates the oil and water. It's currently located on the 3rd deck, port side, just aft of where the torpedo hit. The water output is pure enough to go into the county sewer system and the oil goes back into the tank where a contractor can pull it out. Regular water samples are taken to ensure the purity of the water going into the sewer system. Since the contractor is paid by the gallon, the less water mixed in with the oil the better. The goal is to eventually remove all the oil from the ship.

*Ken Rittenmeyer is a regular Wednesday Group volunteer*

## From the Archives

"During bombardment today all personnel on the topside must carefully stay on the unengaged side when ordered to do so, as we expect return fire from the beach." *Plan of the Day, June 13, 1944.*

On that day, NORTH CAROLINA along with six other battleships began bombing the western part of Saipan and Tinian Islands in the Marianas Group in preparation for amphibious force landings on June 15th.

Firing commenced at 1100. (Photo above right) At 1200 minesweepers began sweeping Saipan harbor for mines. Each ship dropped out of

formation for one hour commencing at 1300 to recover, refuel and relaunch spotting aircraft. The fire from the island was very slight. The Battleship ceased firing at 1725 and retired westward.

Numerous large fires on the island indicated that quantities of enemy munitions, fuel oil storages and supplies were damaged or destroyed.

(Photo lower right) Several small craft along the coastline were also destroyed. The ship expended 360 rounds 16-inch high capacity ammunition and 2096 rounds of 5-inch/38 caliber ammunition. *Action Report-Bombardment of Saipan Island and the USS NORTH CAROLINA War Diary.*



## Battleship's Birthday Fund THANK YOU!

In April, the Battleship celebrated her 68th birthday and we launched the Battleship Birthday MWR fund. In the Navy and the Marine Corps, MWR stands for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. In our case, it is Museum Works Resource. This fund will be a

line item in the Friends of the Battleship budget. We extend a sincere thank you to the following who have contributed to the MWR Fund:

### WWII crewmembers

William Faulkner  
Sid Welvang

### Friends and Supporters

Charles and Susan Carter  
Robert Halsey  
Tom and Karen Hamilton  
William McGee  
Ken Rittenmeyer  
Pamela Schrader  
Charles Tope

## Museum Ships Weekend

Operating two stations aboard Battleship NORTH CAROLINA, the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club will participate in the annual Museum Ships Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, from 9am until 4pm. Sponsored by the Battleship NEW JERSEY Amateur Radio Club, 63 museum ships world wide will have HAM radio operators aboard ready to receive contacts from HAM operators.

The Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club will have two

modern stations operating through the ship's original cabling and antennas on 40 and 20 meter SSB (voice communications). There is also a potential for CW operation (Morse code) on 40 or 20 meters using the ship's original TDM-4 and TDE transmitters and RBC receivers.

To receive a QSL card, send a SASE to Battleship NORTH CAROLINA - QSL, P.O. Box 4044, Wilmington, NC 28405.

For HAM operators working at least 15 different ships, you

are eligible for a certificate from the NEW JERSEY club. Send a copy of your log entries showing your contacts plus \$3 to cover shipping prior to September 30, 2009 to Margaret Burgess, KB2BRR/150 Schooner Ave./Barnegat, NJ 08005.

If you need more details please contact:  
Allan Pellnat, KX2H  
204 Love Grass Ct.  
Wilmington, NC  
910 799 1694  
[Kx2h@att.net](mailto:Kx2h@att.net)

Many Thanks to the volunteers who worked this year's Fabulous Fantail Film Festival:

Frank & Ann Glossl  
Kim & Cindy Goodin  
David Keefe  
Mark McAllister  
Ken Rittenmeyer  
Doug Sincox

And the North Carolina Symphony Event:

Paula & George  
Burn  
Doug Sincox  
John Whitley

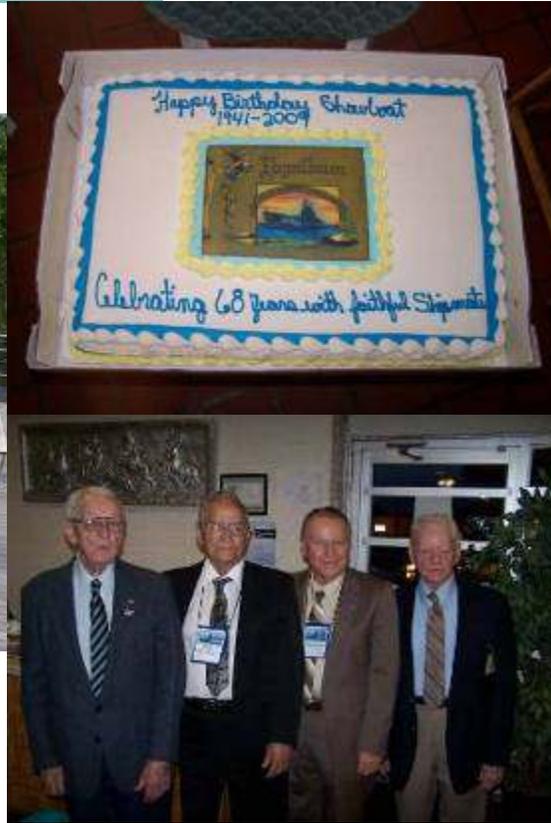
## Where History Comes Alive

BATTLESHIP NORTH CAROLINA

### Crew Reunion 2009



Above: group photograph following the Memorial Service.  
Right: Battleship Association Officers (L-R): Henry Okuszki, Fred Velletri, Lou Popovich, Leo Bostwick.



A special thank you to the Living History Crew and the Marine Corps Historical Company for their continuing support of the annual Crew Reunion Memorial Service. They provide uniformed personnel for the sideboys, the color guard, the choir, the chaplain, the honor guard and more. A fine round of applause for Angie's Catering who always does everything in their power to treat our crew with large amounts of TLC and it shows! Thanks, Angie, Eppy, and staff! Much appreciation to American Legion Post 10 for providing the bugler and to Michael O'Shaughnessy of Port City Pipes and Drums for the fine bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace.

### Explore and Discover! Battleship NORTH CAROLINA

- Business Office:** Director: Capt. Terry Bragg, USN (Ret.)  
Maintenance Director: Roger Miller; Comptroller: Elizabeth Rollinson  
Brooke Laton, Candy Edwards, Kim Mintz
- Museum:** Kim Sincox, Mary Ames Booker
- Maintenance:** Robert Hall, Terry Kuhn, Steve Lewis, Phil Southworth, Gary Pietak
- Programs:** Danielle Wallace, Shelly Robinson
- Ship's Store:** Leesa McFarlane, Cathy Shipman, Devin Buie, Tara Banks, Sabrina Porter, Michelle Sutton
- Night Watchmen:** Danny Bradshaw, Bill Parr, Brian Gibson
- Webmaster:** Randy Drew

Battleship NORTH CAROLINA, PO Box 480, Wilmington, NC 28402; 910-251-5797; [www.battleshipnc.com](http://www.battleshipnc.com)