

Check Out This Month's

Scuttlebutt



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What's Happening on the Showboat?

Crossing the Brow

Visitors once again crossed the brow onto Battleship *North Carolina* on May 26. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Showboat had been closed for 10 weeks in accordance with Gov. Roy Cooper's Executive Order.



With the reopening, several new procedures are in place to help ensure the safety of ship's staff and visitors. Hand sanitizer and washing stations have been installed and the ship has increased the frequency that high-touch areas and restrooms are cleaned. Other new measures include limiting the number of visitors allowed aboard the ship and in the gift shop, only opening topside areas (main deck and above) for self-guided tours, and accepting non-cash payments (credit cards) only.

Because of the limited access, adult admission has been reduced to \$10. The ship is currently open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

If you are planning to visit the Showboat, you are encouraged to follow the "Three Ws" as defined by the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services - WEAR a cloth face covering; WAIT at least six feet away from others; and WASH your

hands frequently or use hand sanitizer. Visitors are also asked to postpone their visit if experiencing symptoms of illness.

It is recommended you check the Battleship *North Carolina's* [website](#) for the latest information prior to making final plans to visit the Showboat.

The Show Must Go On

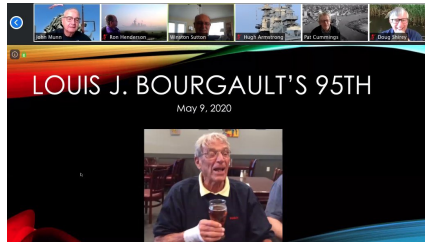
Even with volunteers and staff being absent from the deck of *North Carolina* during the shutdown, there was still work being done in preparation for the Showboat's reopening.

In early May, volunteers spent four days working out of

the back of their cars and pickups to paint 36 of the projectiles that line the outer perimeter of the Battleship's parking lot. Luckily the weather and tide cycles cooperated allowing Roger Wood, Wally Brooks, Pete McWilliams, and Ken Rittenmeyer to complete the project. The projectiles were last painted in 2016.



Training was also conducted on Zoom throughout May with Alex Dydula continuing his series of sessions centered on *North Carolina's* fire control systems, Ron Henderson completing his course of instruction for new Tour Guides and Ambassadors, and Joe Calla leading his Saturday morning Tour Guide/Ambassador Coffee Hour discussions.



One of the highlights of the Saturday morning sessions occurred May 9, when over 40 well-wishers logged onto Zoom to celebrate the 95th birthday of volunteer Louis Bourgaault. Having completed the Tour Guide/ Ambassador training course in October, Bourgaault, a former Marine and World War II veteran, has been a favorite of visitors to the Battleship.

"Louis has been a 'rock star' volunteer," said Kim Sincox, Museum Services Director for the Battleship. "Thank you for being part of our team."

Friends helping Friends

Be sure to reserve some time on Sunday, June 14 to drop by Trolley Stop Grill and Catering, 4502 Fountain Drive, Wilmington, for what has become an annual Flag Day fundraiser. For a fifth straight year, Trolley Stop, a steadfast supporter of the Showboat, will be hosting the fundraiser in partnership with Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina*. This year's event will run from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.



As in past years, Trolley Stop will be donating 50 percent of their food sales to Friends of the Battleship. Representatives of Friends will also be on hand to sell American flags that have been flown over the Battleship *North Carolina*. The flags, which will include a Certificate of Authenticity, signed by the Battleship's Executive Director, Capt. Terry Bragg, USN (Ret), will be available for \$34.95.

In addition to hosting the annual Flag Day fundraiser, Trolley Stop has been a regular participant at many other Battleship *North Carolina* and Friends events and over the past 5 years has donated over \$3,600 to benefit the Battleship.

We hope to see you June 14 to enjoy a hot dog and show your support for Trolley Stop, a great friend to the Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina*.

July 4th Fireworks Update



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Wilmington has postponed this year's July 4th Fireworks. We know this is one of our most popular member benefits however the safety of our members and the ship's staff is paramount. As soon we get word from the City of Wilmington we will update you as to the new date and details of the event.

This Month in Showboat History

On **June 13, 1940**, less than three years after her keel had been laid, Battleship *North Carolina* was launched at New York Navy Yard. Easing down the ways into the East River after having been christened by Isabel Hoey, daughter of North Carolina Governor Clyde Hoey, *North Carolina* was the first battleship to be built in

nearly 20 years.

A short seven years later, USS *North Carolina* would be back at the same Navy Yard in Brooklyn. Having served with distinction for four years in the Pacific, the Showboat returned to the East Coast following the Japanese surrender. After embarking Naval Academy midshipmen for training during the summer of 1946, the Showboat returned to the Navy Yard for inactivation and was decommissioned on **June 27, 1947**.



In late **May 1942**, USS *North Carolina* was in Casco Bay, Maine when orders were received to head to the Pacific to bolster the strength of the American fleet. Getting underway from Casco Bay on May 28, *North Carolina* transited to Hampton Roads to prepare for her voyage to the Pacific. The Showboat departed Hampton Roads on **June 5**, and transited the Panama Canal **June 9-10**.

During a **June 24-26, 1986**, joint reunion of crewmembers from the Battleship *North Carolina* and the Japanese submarine I-19, a fragment of the torpedo that struck the port side of *North Carolina* on September 15, 1942, was presented to the attending Japanese crew. A brass plaque on the presentation box containing the fragment read, in part, "Returned to I-19 June 24, 1986, with apologies for damage done to it when we hit it."



[Click Here](#) to read an account of the reunion, as reported in the Navy's "All Hands" magazine.

Did You Know?

In addition to being designed to comply with the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1936, the two *North Carolina*-class battleships had one critical design element that could not be breached - in order for the ships to transit the Panama Canal, they had to fit within the 110-foot wide locks of the canal. **The beam of *North Carolina* and *Washington* was 108 feet** -- as were the beams of the eight battleships that followed.

Though the ability to transit the Panama Canal significantly reduced the time and distance it took to move between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, a tremendous amount of fuel was required to operate the Showboat. The fires in the boilers which generated the steam that drove the turbines that drove the four massive propellers, were fed from tanks storing **1,925,109 gallons of bunker C fuel oil**. That was enough fuel to take *North Carolina* 6,000 nautical miles traveling at 25 knots (321 gallons/mile) or 13,000 miles at a much more fuel-efficient 15 knots (148 gallons/mile).

Additionally, *North Carolina* had over **220,000 gallons of diesel fuel** available for her small boats and diesel electric generators, and had nearly **8,500 gallons of aviation fuel** on hand for the Kingfisher float planes that flew from her deck.



USS *North Carolina* receives fuel from USS *Neches*, Nov. 30, 1944.

Talk Like a Sailor

UNREP

Short for Underway Replenishment, UNREP is a method for refueling and reprovisioning ships without having to anchor or make a port call. Ships, typically traveling 12-18 knots, pull alongside each other, within 80 to 160 feet. Cables and fuel hoses connect the two ships together, and everything from food, munitions, fuel and people are transferred between them.

Because of her tremendous fuel capacity, it was not uncommon for *North Carolina* to have one of the many smaller ships of the task force alongside, receiving fuel and making it possible for U.S. naval forces to stay in the fight by remaining at sea for extended periods of time.

Bravo Zulu

Originally a message transmitted by hoisting the Bravo and Zulu signal flags meaning "well done". It is still widely used, both verbally and in written form as "BZ", to recognize a job well done.



"Bravo"

"Zulu"

Have You Read?

From time to time we will offer recommendations for, and comments about books members of the Friends have on their reading lists that might provide insight into the time and lives of those who served in uniform while USS *North Carolina* was in service.

From June 4-7, 1942, while USS *North Carolina* was preparing to deploy to the Pacific, one of the most significant naval battles of the war was taking place at Midway.

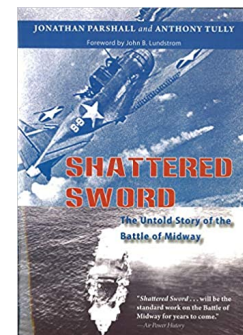
Retired Rear Admiral Ron Henderson, a member of the Friends Board of Directors, recommends "Shattered Sword" by Jonathan Parshall and Anthony Tull as *the one* book to read about Midway.

"Detailed research and a modern interpretation put to bed many myths and untruths about this turning point in the Pacific," according to Henderson.

Pat Marriott, one of the Showboat's tour guides and docents, agrees that "Shattered Sword" is the best book about Midway. "But," he adds, "there are other books about Midway by well-known historians, with different perspectives."

Two selections on Marriott's list are "Miracle at Midway" by Gordon Prange, and "The Battle of Midway" by Craig L. Symonds.

According to Marriott, "Anything written about Midway is likely to be stimulating, interesting, and



controversial."

Now, More Than Ever

The Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* rely on income from memberships and tours to help support Battleship *North Carolina*. With the ship recently closed for 10 weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the current limitations on access and activities, our revenue stream has seen a dramatic drop from previous levels.

In addition to the support provided through your membership, donations from supporters like you provide funding for exhibits, interpretation, artifact acquisition and conservation, and educational programming. While these times are difficult for all of us, we ask those of you who can help, please consider making a donation to the Friends in whatever amount you can.

[Click Here to Donate](#)

We thank you in advance for your generosity and support in these most difficult times.

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