



**June 2021**

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## What's Happening on the Showboat?

**Celebrating BB55 @ 60** – The Showboat has continued to see an upswing in visitors as activities in this unusual year slowly begin to return to some level of normalcy. With Memorial Day signaling the unofficial start of summer, Battleship *North Carolina* accommodated over 7,000 visitors during the extended four-day holiday weekend. Guests to the ship took full advantage of the opportunity to explore the Showboat, though a number of them opted for guided tours purchased online through the Friends website. Many of the Monday visitors took advantage of the special “6 for 60” topside tours offered as part of the ongoing 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Showboat’s arrival in the Cape Fear.

In addition to tours, many of Battleship *North Carolina*’s visitors took home an American flag that had been flown over the Showboat during the weekend. The Friends’ “Raise the Flag” weekend provides the opportunity for guests to take home the flag for a \$40 donation.

As of June 15, nearly 500 Showboat guests have enhanced their visit with a “6 for 60” tour and 115 American flags have become special keepsakes after being flown over Battleship *North Carolina*.

**Battleship 101 Returns** – A favorite event for both volunteers and visitors alike resumed June 12 as Battleship 101 made its 2021 debut. Approximately 50 Battleship *North Carolina* volunteers served as ambassadors and docents at a variety of stations along the Showboat’s public tour route to interpret and demonstrate various spaces, duties, and equipment, helping enrich the experience of visitors while touring the ship.



**Fireworks** – The annual Friends July 4th Fireworks event that will be held on the Showboat is quickly approaching with time running out to request tickets for this popular, members-only event. The deadline for ordering tickets is July 1.

Only **current** Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* members are eligible to order tickets with the number of tickets based on membership level. Expired memberships will have to be renewed before being able to order tickets to this year’s event.

Tickets will get Friends members and their guests on the Battleship Memorial property (Battleship Park, SECU Walkway, and Battleship),

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# C B D R\*

## Upcoming events on *The Showboat*

### 6 for 60 Tours

July 10-11  
August 7-8

### Raise the Flag

July 3-4  
August 14-15

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks

### Battleship 101

July 17  
August 14

You can now book tours in  
advance by clicking [here](#).

\*Constant Bearing, Decreasing Range

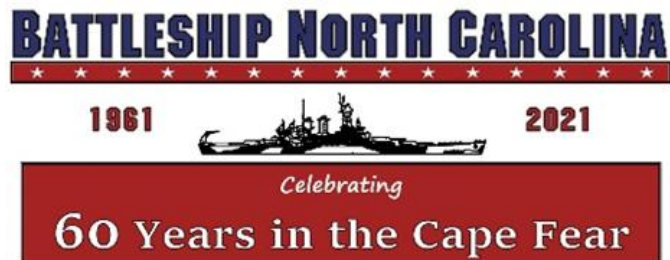
however, access to the ship on July 4<sup>th</sup> will be on a first-come basis. The actual number of people allowed on board the battleship itself has been set at 944. Once capacity has been reached, the SECU

Walkway and Battleship Park will remain available for members and guests to view the fireworks.

Parking permits will be required to access the Battleship parking area and are included in the same email as tickets.

If you have questions, please email the Friends business office at [info@battleshipncfriends.com](mailto:info@battleshipncfriends.com) or call 910-399-9117. Office hours are 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

**The Showboat Band, Part 2** – Learn more about the Showboat Band in the latest episode of The Showboat Podcast. Listen to former crewmember and musician Lloyd Glick talk about the daily life of band members during wartime and learn how today's bands meet their ongoing mission of representing the U.S. Navy around the world. [Click here to listen.](#)



**Hull Repair Nearing Completion** – The year-long effort that has been underway to replace sections of the Showboat's hull is nearing completion. With the steel plating replaced and the last of the hull penetrations sealed up, work has turned to pressure cleaning the remainder of the hull below the waterline and preparing the surface for paint.



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## This Month in Showboat History



**June 13, 1940** – Battleship *North Carolina* was launched at the New York Navy Yard in Brooklyn, New York. Christened by Isabel Hoey, daughter of North Carolina Governor Clyde Hoey, *North Carolina's* slide down the ways into the East River was the first time a new battleship had been launched since USS *West Virginia* (BB 48) splashed into the James River at Newport News, Virginia in **November 1921**.

**June 1, 1942** – Captain George H. Fort becomes the third Commanding Officer of USS *North Carolina* when he relieves Captain Oscar C. Badger in what was described by one crewmember as “an unusual and impressive” change of command ceremony.

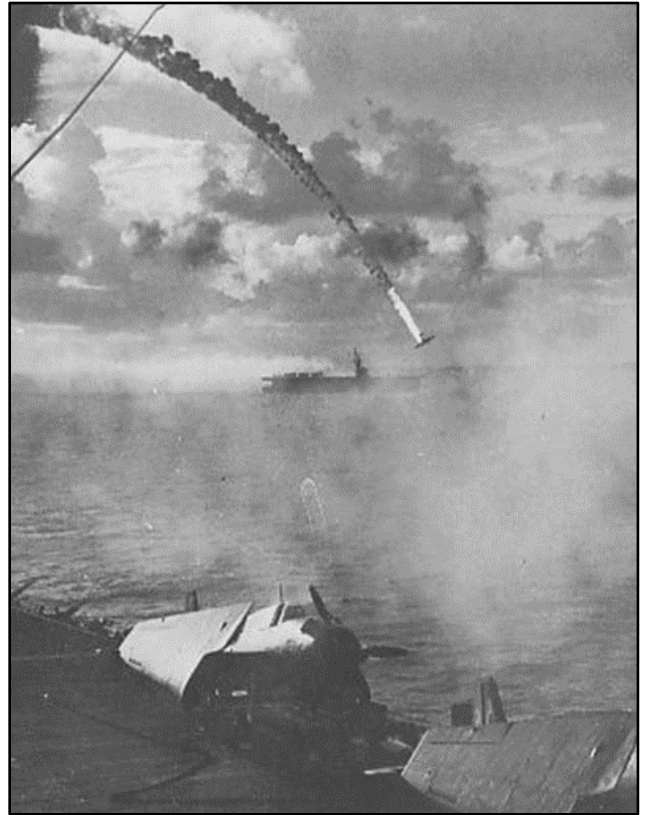
According to the crewman's account, “The crew was assembled on the forecastle in dress whites and the formal orders were read. Then Captain Badger strode down to the starboard forward gangway and was piped over the side. He then descended to a waiting boat powered by oars only and handled by the heads of departments. As they rowed Captain Badger away, the 16-inch guns were trained to the starboard and waved an up and down ‘goodbye’ to him. This particular exercise was not performed again for any other departing Captain. He was deeply loved and respected.”



June 1, 1942 - Captain Oscar Badger departs USS *North Carolina*

**June 5, 1942** – As one of the most significant naval battles of the war was being waged in the vicinity of Midway Island, USS *North Carolina* gets underway from anchor at Hampton Roads having taken on stores and other supplies in preparation for her transit to the Pacific. Transiting the Panama Canal **June 9-10**, the Showboat prepares to join the Pacific Fleet and strengthen American efforts against the Japanese.

**June 1944** – The month of **June 1944** found U.S. forces preparing for the invasion of the Marianas Islands. On **June 13**, *North Carolina*, along with the battleships *Washington* (BB 56), *South Dakota* (BB 57), *Indiana* (BB 58), *Alabama* (BB 60), *Iowa* (BB 61), and *New Jersey* (BB 62) were tasked with the bombardment of Saipan and Tinian Islands, providing cover for minesweeping operations and preparing for amphibious forces to land during the following week.



With the invasion of Saipan well underway, attention was turned to the Japanese counter-offensive advancing from the vicinity of the Philippine Islands. On **June 19** aircraft from the U.S. carriers engaged Japanese carrier-based and land-based aircraft with the opposing fleets separated by over 300 miles. Japanese aircraft approaching the American fleet were met with a hail of anti-aircraft fire from the assembled naval firepower of Task Force 58.

Referred to by some as “The Marianas Turkey Shoot,” an after action report summed up the scene noting that “the battleships, cruisers and destroyers ahead put up a tremendous barrage which, together with the burning planes all around the horizon, created a most awesome spectacle.”

By the end of the Battle of the Philippine Sea on **June 21**, the Imperial Japanese Navy had lost three aircraft carriers, 476 aircraft, and nearly 450 aviators. The U.S. forces lost 130 aircraft and 76 aviators during the three-day battle but lost no ships.

**June 15, 1945** – With the Showboat in Pearl Harbor for repairs and upkeep, Captain Byron H. Hanlon becomes USS *North Carolina*’s eighth Commanding Officer, relieving Captain Oswald S. Colclough.

**June 27, 1947** – USS *North Carolina* and her sister ship USS *Washington*, are decommissioned in a joint ceremony conducted at the Navy Supply Depot in Bayonne, New Jersey. The Showboat would remain inactive in the reserve fleet until stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on **June 1, 1960**.

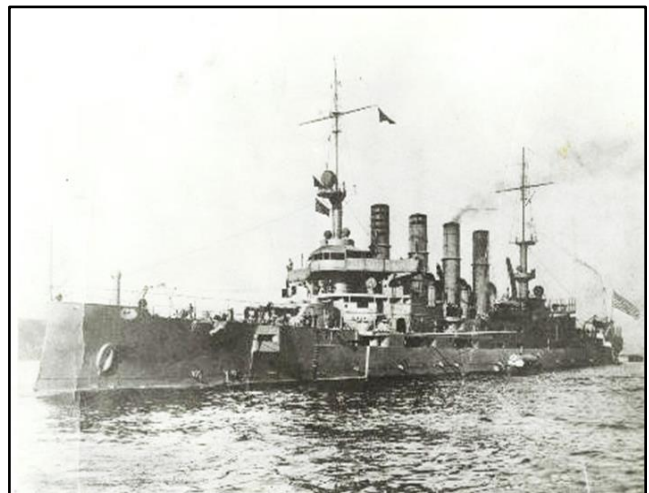
## Did You Know?

The first U.S. Navy ship to be named *North Carolina*, a 196-foot, 74-gun ship of the line, was commissioned on **June 24, 1824**. Under the command of Master Commandant Charles W. Morgan (the rank Master Commandant was shortened to Commander in 1838), USS *North Carolina* served in the Mediterranean and Eastern Pacific until March 1839 when she returned to New York Navy Yard and served as a receiving ship until her decommissioning in 1866.

The second ship to be named after the Tar Heel State that served in the U.S. Navy was the Tennessee-class armored cruiser USS *North Carolina* (ACR 12). The 504-foot cruiser was commissioned on **May 7, 1908**, and served principally in the Atlantic and Caribbean, though she did make a couple of deployments to the Mediterranean.

USS *North Carolina* was renamed to USS *Charlotte* on **June 7, 1920**, to allow the name *North Carolina* to be used for a new *South Dakota*-class battleship being built at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

On **February 18, 1921**, less than a year after being renamed, USS *Charlotte* was decommissioned. The new *South Dakota*-class battleships, including the *North Carolina*, were never completed, having fallen victim to provisions of the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922.



## Talk Like a Sailor

**1MC** – One of the many communication circuits aboard the ship, the 1MC is the general announcing circuit and should be heard in nearly every space and on every external speaker on the ship.

**Bandit** – An aircraft positively identified as hostile.

**Bogey** – An unknown aircraft which could be friendly, hostile, or neutral.

Every  
Thursday is

**BATTLESHIP  
THURSDAY**

Show your support.  
Wear your  
“Showboat” gear.

## Support the Showboat

**We're Always Looking for New Friends** – Do you know someone who has shown an interest in Battleship *North Carolina*? Why not make them a new Friend? Memberships start as low as \$45 per year and help to increase the impact of all of the Battleship's programs – its artifact acquisition, support of exhibits, research, restoration projects, and commitment to education.

**Amazon Continues to Make Friends Smile** – Amazon shoppers continue to designate the Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* as the beneficiary of AmazonSmile's .5% donation of eligible Amazon purchases. In the first quarter of 2021, the Friends received \$136.98 through the program – that's the equivalent of three Friends memberships at the Lieutenant (JG) level.

It's easy to designate the Friends to receive a donation from your Amazon shopping. Click the logos below to learn how and then keep shopping and keep Friends smiling.



Friends shop. Amazon gives.

**Scuttlebutt** is published monthly by

Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* for its membership.

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