



Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Cadets (NJROTC) show young visitors how to fire the 20mm guns.

Where History Comes Alive

BATTLESHIP NORTH CAROLINA

Scuttlebutt

March 2009

Celebrating Volunteers Who Help Keep the Ship Afloat

Did you know that hundreds of volunteers saved the Battleship from the scrapheap in 1961? Adults and children in all 100 North Carolina counties banded together to raise money to prevent the Navy from selling the Battleship to a scrapper. They were emboldened by the vision of volunteers Hugh Morton and Jimmy Craig.

Crewmembers and spouses from Charlotte—the Jack Clements and Chuck Patys—volunteered to find fellow crewmembers to start a USS NC Battleship Association, a group that continues to share their stories and artifacts with generations of visitors.

WWII ship's officer and Bat-

tleship Commission Chairman Captain Ben W. Blee volunteered to write a book about the Battleship, produce a movie and an exhibit, and started a collection and oral history program.

Volunteer Darrell Adams fell in love with the ship and the crew. He serves as the volunteer editor for the crew's newsletter and keeps all of us in touch through the chat line.

Throughout her 48 years as a memorial and museum, the Battleship has depended upon gifted volunteers to propel her forward as a favorite tourist destination.

In this edition of the Scuttlebutt, we honor the men and

women who give so generously of their time and talents to restore spaces, put on public programs, and work in the archives. They are the unpaid staff, doing what they do out of love for the ship and crew and camaraderie.

We greatly appreciate our volunteers and all they do for the Battleship.

We have asked them to tell you about what they do. You will meet some of the various groups that keep the ship afloat such as the Living History Crew, the Wednesday Gang, the Radio Guys, and more. A list of volunteers may be found on page 7.



Volunteers and spouses enjoy the annual volunteer luncheon at Bluewater Grill, Wrightsville Beach. This year's luncheon will be on Saturday, March 28.

Friends of the Battleship sponsor this event. THANK YOU, Friends of the Battleship!

Docents: Telling the Battleship's Story

This past year we have been developing a new docent program to interpret stations and/or present full ship tours. The program's goal is to give the ship's visitors a different interactive learning experience. Currently, the ship's 200,000+ visitors take a self-guided tour reading the interpretive signs along the tour route. They learn about the ship's history, how each compartment was used, and enjoy crewmembers' memories.

The new program allows visitors to ask questions and participate in hands-on activities in order to gain more insight into the operation and life onboard the ship during WWII.

The core of the new program is volunteers who are also members of the ship's Living History Crew and live in the area. Others are new, local volunteers who spend many hours learning about the ship and doing research in areas that hold special interest to them. Together, we're developing quarterly events to interpret as many stations as possible: engine room, Kingfisher, 40mm guns, combat information center, galley, sick bay, crew's berthing and general tours of the "city at sea."

These volunteers have made it possible to develop and present Hidden Battleship in November, January and March.

These have been sold out tours and we are planning to develop additional, specialized tours for visitors.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer docent, just contact Kim Sincox or Mary Ames Booker in the Museum Department and we'll begin the process. You don't need to have served in the military and women are welcome! Our interpretive focus is about Life on a Battleship or the "City at Sea." If you enjoy interacting with the public in a friendly, easy style and sharing the history of the Showboat, this may be the volunteer spot for you!



Volunteer interpreters, L-R: Frank Glossl, Kim Goodin, and Gary Sigvaldsen

Contact Kim or Mary Ames:
museum@battleshipnc.com
curator@battleshipnc.com



L-R: Bob Huebner, Terry Kuhn, Mark McAllister, Ken Rittenmeyer. Not shown: Stephen Gregory.

“Serving on the NORTH CAROLINA is a way to preserve our common history and pay tribute to our nation’s veterans.”

- Ken Rittenmeyer

The Wednesday Gang by Ken Rittenmeyer

For lack of a better name, the group of battleship volunteers meeting in the Ship’s library every Wednesday is called the “Wednesday Gang.” Operating within that portion of every military job description that says “and other duties as assigned,” the group works under the direction of Terry Kuhn in the Ship’s Maintenance Department.

Current members include Bob Huebner, a WWII vet who served on the USS Marblehead and the USS Midway; Ken Rittenmeyer, a retired Air Force Pilot; Mark McAllister, a Vietnam era sailor on the USS Saratoga; and Steve Gregory, a Vietnam era soldier in the US Army. Our leader,

Terry Kuhn, served on SSNs and SSBNs during his Navy service.

The recurring project is the semi-annual dipping of the Ship’s tanks to validate the quantity and location of the bunker oil and water on board. Associated with that is the weekly monitoring of the fuel/water separator to insure the purity of the water going into the county’s sewer system.

Another current project is the restoration of the Ship’s telephone system which will allow on-board communication for the staff and Living History Crew. Past projects have been running wire for the Ship’s fire alarm system and installing some of the Plexiglas in the doors of the compartments used by the Living

History volunteers.

The group also initiated the installation of low wattage, long life LED indicator light bulbs throughout the Ship, saving on maintenance and electrical usage. The group’s specialty is projects requiring lots of hands and not much muscle.

The Wednesday Gang, all retired from various post-service jobs, enjoy working on the Ship and contributing with others who share the common bond of military service. Serving on the NORTH CAROLINA is a way to preserve our common history and pay tribute to our nation’s veterans; those we knew and those honored veterans we’ll never have a chance to meet.

The Living History Crew: Interpretation & Restoration



(Top) Iain Burns explains the Combat Information Center. (Below) Rendering honors at the Battleship crew’s annual memorial service.

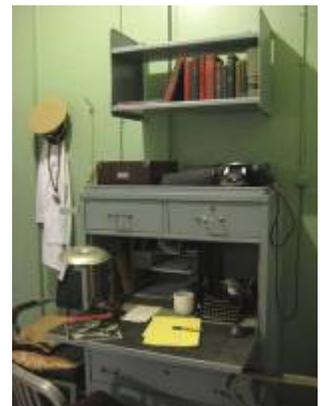
The Living History Crew (LHC) is a group of volunteers whose goal is to support the mission of the Battleship in educating the public about the role of the USS NORTH CAROLINA and her crew during World War II. This goal is primarily accomplished through “living history” activities on the ship and by assisting with shipboard restoration projects.

The Battleship has sponsored “Living History” weekends every year since 1997. The volunteers explain their roles as sailors and the duties specific to their ratings (jobs) aboard the battleship, and give insight into the crew’s daily life and routine. Living History volunteers conduct research in their particular areas (e.g. gunnery, engine room, signals), the U.S. Navy and traditions, and get “on-the-job training.” They hold

one training/work weekend a year (end of February) and will present Battleship Alive! to the public on May 1-3, Sept. 25-27, and Dec. 4-6.

LHC volunteers also help preserve and restore the Battleship. They have provided time, talent and funds to restore many compartments, including officer staterooms, Sick Bay, Ship’s stores, Combat Information Center, 40mm gun mounts and more. They also provide the furnishing details for the non-climate controlled compartments. They recently restored two of the medical staff’s staterooms on the tour route. (Medical Officer stateroom, right)

There are female volunteers in the organization, but they are not Battleship sailors. The Women’s Auxiliary interpret life on the home front during WWII.



Restored Radio Operations by Allan Pellnat

During the war years the primary means of communication for the ship's tactical and entertainment needs was radio. All operational and tactical messages into or out of ship were in encrypted format using Morse code via short-wave radio. The only voice communication was between the ship and "friendly" aircraft using VHF radio.

There were several radio transmitter rooms distributed around the ship for survivability reasons. The region on the public tour known as Radio Central was continuously manned by skilled radio operators seated before banks of receivers with their fingers poised over typewriter keyboards waiting for Morse code signals to pop out of their headphones (below).



The patch panels in Radio Central afforded great flexibility in connecting any transmitter or receiver to any operating position or antenna. This was the first radio area to be restored to its original appearance by volunteer Carl Filipiak and staff member Terry Kuhn in the late 1990s.

In 2000, the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club (ACARC) was invited aboard the ship to assist in the restoration of one transmitter and one receiver so that call sign NIBK could be heard on the air once again. Permission was

also granted for limited use of modern radio equipment with the ship's existing antennas for occasional participation in special events.

Working under the supervision of Terry Kuhn, two ACARC members, Carl Filipiak and Jack Jacobs (The "Radio Guys") began evaluating the radio equipment that remained on the ship. Much of it was scavenged for parts or completely removed at the time of decommissioning (1947). Their focus settled on Radio Room #2, two decks below the main deck and approximately amidships off the public tour route.

Radio #2 contained four of the ship's original transmitters. Three of these had been installed in early 1941 before the Pearl Harbor attack. The fourth was installed in mid 1944. The best prospect for restoration appeared to be the model TBM-4 shortwave transmitter, serial #10 built by the Westinghouse Corp. and put into service on 15 July 1941. TBM-4 was designed to put out a 500 watt CW (CW = Continuous Wave, an anachronistic term dating to before World War I that is still in use today to describe Morse Code transmission) or 300 watts of AM (Amplitude Modulation) voice signal.

Jack and Carl together with a few other occasional ACARC members logged over 360 volunteer hours taking this transmitter from stone cold for fifty plus years to on the air in CW mode in late November 2001.

On 28 January 2002 a tradition was established for the "Radio Guys" by making the first successful two way CW exchange using the TBM-4

with "Mac" McCullough a retired Navy Radioman 1/C who was a BB-55 crewmember. Operating under FCC Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) regulations the ship's old call sign now became NI4BK. Mac's call sign is W1SRR at his home in Wrentham, MA. The tradition since then is that the privilege of making the first two way exchange with each additional restored transmitter goes to W1SRR.

There is a bumper sticker that you might see if you happen upon a group of old radio buffs that says "Real Radios Glow In The Dark." The four large vacuum tubes in the TBM-4 leave little doubt that this is a real radio. The largest tube, the power output amplifier is half again as big as a gallon milk jug and requires 3,000 volts DC to put out that 500 watt CW signal. High Voltage safety practices are carefully followed for all restoration work.

The most common receivers aboard the ship bore Navy designation RBB and RBC and weigh in at more than 80 pounds apiece excluding their separate power supply. Their 1937 RCA design contains 15 vacuum tubes compared to a typical home entertainment receiver of that time that had just five. Despite the pre-war technology the restored units in use on the ship have proven to be as good as many modern shortwave communications receivers.

In just the past year we have restored the AM voice capability of the TBM-4. Two way voice communications will be limited. Few amateurs who restore vintage equipment still use the AM mode.

(Continued on page 4)



Radio #2 August 1941



Tuning radios in Radio #2, 1940s

Radio Restoration continued



L-R: Norman Clemmons, Allan Pellnat, Bill Usher, Terry Kuhn, and Jack Jacobs in Radio #2



The second transmitter restoration posed one major problem beyond the 50 years accumulation of dirt and corrosion encountered in the TBM-4. The few parts that were missing or damaged in the TBM-4 were readily replaced from spare parts bins aboard the ship.

The TDE put into service on September 25, 1944, had a gaping hole in its front panel where a tuning mechanism had been scavenged sometime in the past. A critical device for starting the motor driven high voltage generator was also a blank space with dangling wires. Fortunately a substitute motor starter was located off in one of those dark storerooms on the ship and installed by Terry Kuhn. The missing tuning components were donated by the Antique Wireless Association Electronic Communication Museum in upstate New York. The first two way CW contact with W1SRR was accomplished on 30 May 2006.

Work has just begun this year to restore the TBK-7 transmit-

ter that was installed 16 May 1941. It is essentially an earlier version of the TBM-4 and will serve as a backup for it. The ACARC restoration team members handling this project are Jack Jacobs, Bill Usher, Norman Clemmons and Allan Pellnat. The team has a combined experience base of over 100 years in radio and telephone work. On 10 February 2009 power was applied to this unit for the first time since decommissioning. The tubes lit up and the high voltage motor generator set started up. We look forward to another first contact with W1SRR later in the year.

Along the way the Radio Guys also assisted in repairing and restoring the RBO entertainment speaker system that today plays CDs of 1940s radio programs throughout the public tour areas. The RBO receiver originally used for crew entertainment is in Radio #2 reconditioned and operable but not currently in use for this purpose.

Two of the current team of four Radio Guys are Bell South retirees so their experience has been put to use in repairing and restoring the internal dial telephone system. The ship's original c1939 200 line Western Electric type 701 PBX (Private Branch Exchange) system remains in place, filling the small compartment. But a modern 30 line solid state PBX hanging on one wall now does the switching job. It too will soon be replaced by a larger capacity modern system.

The Battleship's Living History Crew volunteers now have a restored 1947 radio phonograph combination that they use to play vintage 78 RPM records thanks to the Radio Guys.

The original project of restoring one receiver and transmitter has obviously expanded thanks to the continued efforts of the Wilmington ham radio community. ACARC members now regularly put NI4BK on the air every year on Pearl Harbor day and in July for a shortwave radio event known as Museum Ships Day. Amateur radio club stations aboard museum ships throughout the world attempt to communicate with each other and the rest of the world wide amateur community. On March 1st they participated in the North Carolina QSO party in which the world focuses on communication with just North Carolina ham stations.

These special event operations are operated from Radio Central. They are accomplished using voice transmission with modern electronics connected to one or more of the ship's vertical whip antennas located high on the superstructure. With the recent addition of restored RBB and RBC receivers in operating positions in Radio #2 an all original equipment station can be put on the air in CW Morse code mode. When hams and especially retired Navy operators across the country hear NI4BK in Morse code they flock to make two way contact with the Showboat and exchange QSL postcards confirming their contact. ACARC has exchanged QSL cards with three other museum ships, 47 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, six Canadian Provinces and 18 foreign countries. NI4BK will be on the air again for Museum Ships Day 2009, 6 & 7 June operating from Radio Central on the public tour route. We welcome everyone to stop in and say hello!

A Battleship Volunteer by Chuck Paty RM2/c

Editor's Note: Chuck Paty has been a faithful and enthusiastic BB55 booster ever since he was a crewmember. On their honeymoon, Chuck insisted that he and Sue find the ship in Bayonne, NJ, where she had been decommissioned in 1947, and pay their respects. We asked Chuck to talk about his volunteer efforts through the years. We use his crew roster and Day by Day book constantly. He is a fantastic source of information.

In 1959, I was invited by Earle Gluck, President of WBT Radio and TV in Charlotte, to speak around the city to raise money for the return of BB55 to North Carolina. I began by appearing on Jimmy Kilgo's television program in Charlotte.

In 1961, when I first saw the Battleship across the parking lot on Eagles Island, my romance with this lovely lady was rekindled. I tried to think of what I might do to assist the Ship's staff.

I began to compile an index book that listed every man who had been assigned to the ship along with a few facts about that individual. This list was done by searching the Battleship's Daily Log. One or more pages were created for each day listing the names of the people arriving or leaving the ship. This was one source for my database.

The second source was a 3x5 index card file created from cards sent to me when I was Secretary and Treasurer of the USS North Carolina Battleship Association from 1962 to 1966. These cards were sent by LCDR John Karrar, who at that time was sta-

tioned at the National Records Center in St Louis. Karrar had been a Pharmacist Mate assigned to BB55 earlier in his career. The data from these cards was incorporated into the database. These files generated three bound books which were sent for reference to the Ship's Collections Department. Over the years these files have been updated a number of times.

My next volunteer project was to create a book titled BB55 Day by Day. These pages, in chronological order, were taken from the Ship's Daily Log, which documents the ship's location and activity on each and every day.

Supplemental to that book I created a series of color navigation charts which show the courses the ship followed throughout her commissioning. Following that is a section containing all the BB55 Action Reports.

In 1997, (crewmember and volunteer) Paul Wieser and I held classes to "indoctrinate" the Living History Volunteers and twice, in uniform, joined as part of the Living History Crew, slept aboard and ate in the mess decks for the first time in 52 years.

I spoke to the Charlotte City Club, a prestigious club of leading business men, on behalf of the Teak Deck Fund drive for BB55 and solicited money from several businesses for individual contributions.

In November 2000, I joined Kim Sincox, Angela McLeaf, and Cindy Ramsey on a trip in the Ship's van to do research in the National Archives in College Park MD. We were also accompanied by the

Drew brothers, Randy and Steve.

In 2001, Kim and I took some "show and tell" items to Winter Park Elementary School and gave a presentation. The students had combined geography with maps, English lessons, etc. and made notebooks which were very well done. Their theme was the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA and they asked us excellent questions. We showed a locker from the ship and they never believed we had to stow all our clothes in that "little thing"!

In 2003, My wife and I were invited to join Capt Dave Scheu, Randy and Steve Drew on another research trip to the National Archives and after a day at the Archives, Capt Dave, Randy, Steve and I went to the Naval Historic Center at the Washington Navy Yard to research their files.

In April 2008, the UNC PBS TV station "moved" into our living room with cameras, lights and staff to film a short interview which may be shown in 2009. I am always happy to get the SHOWBOAT some attention!

I want to speak a loud 4.0 to the former crew of BB55, to the Ships staff, all the wonderful volunteers who still "serve aboard" and all the Living History Crew who three times a year, at the order, "Bring Our Ship Alive!"

Chuck Paty, RM2c

Note: In January, 1942, Chuck Paty reported aboard the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA and served aboard her throughout the war.



Chuck and Sue Paty, ready to go on their honeymoon, 1948.



Chuck Paty with Angela Crews, former Associate Curator, sitting in the ship's jeep.

The Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Cadets (NJROTC)



Proud cadet at the top of the fire control tower, a favorite spot for many people.

If you take a Hidden Battleship tour, you will climb inside the fire control tower to enjoy a spectacular view.

"I think the best part about doing Battleship clean up is knowing that you are helping to preserve a piece of history for future generations to enjoy."

- Jonathan Brewer

"The Battleship NORTH CAROLINA gives our students real hands on experience aboard a once working vessel. The history of the ship is tremendous, but the real privilege is having the ship here in Wilmington and knowing it is up to us, the community, to keep her here and in safe condition for millions to enjoy. We are humbly honored to have the opportunity to bring as many as 30 cadets to work on the ship for a week; contributing more than 400 hours each year. The cadets know that their labors are preserving American History."

CWO2 David Foster USCG (Ret), Eugene Ashley High School NJROTC Instructor

"I think the best part about doing Battleship clean up is knowing that you are helping to preserve a piece of history for future generations to enjoy. We also get to learn about the history of the ship

and what life was like for the sailors aboard the ship. We get to chip paint, restore surfaces and also get to see a part of the ship that has not been seen in years."

C/ LTJG Jonathan Brewer

I think that the best thing about the Battleship clean up is the fact that we are helping the community. We help clean up the Battleship so that they can open new parts of the ship for tourists to enjoy. We get to meet new people from the community."

C/ENS Leo Leonard

The best part about the Battleship clean up is the experience itself. It is a lot of fun to work on the ship. Meeting new people and doing something to help restore the monument is very rewarding. The best part though is the tour at the end of the week, where we get to go from top to bottom on the ship.

C/SCPO Cleave Cardwell

2008 EUGENE ASHLEY NJROTC CADET VOLUNTEERS.

All cadets have earned at least 20 hours of community service aboard the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA and have earned the Battleship Community Service Medal.

Abreu, Dylan
Bell, Kandice
Bland, Michael
Brewer, Johnathan
Brown, Denetta
Cardwell, Clint
Chinn, Brandon
Curie, Matthew
Curie, Mary
Dolfax, Shane
Forcinito, Chris
Gammon, Emily
Gammon, Austin
Johnson, Zachary
Kuffel, Claire
Lee, Miranda
Leeder, Joseph
Leonard, Leo
Leonard, Ryan
McKinney, James
Melvin, Kaitlin
Motes, Christian
Motes, Daniel
Russ, Nolan



Where History Comes Alive

BATTLESHIP NORTH CAROLINA



Thanks to all our Volunteers!

Leo Bostwick
Jonathan Brewer
Martine Bullard
Adam & David Cain
Dave Carpenter
Kevin Cerasulo
Norman Clemmons
Carl Filipiak
Frank Glossl
Kim Goodin
Stephen Gregory
Floy Hamilton
Helen Harrington
Sion Harrington
Haunted North Carolina
Joe Hood
Bob Huebner
Andy Huf
Jack Jacobs
Michele Jamet
David Keefe
Clint Lewallen

Mark McAllister
Chuck Paty
Allan Pellnat
Richard Riano
Ken Rittenmeyer
Lindsey Robinson
Elizabeth Robinson
Gary Sigvaldsen
Doug Sincx
Jo-el Smith
Bill Usher
Jo Anne & John Wallace
James Weber
John Whitehead
John Whitley
Andrew Whitley
John Whitley
The Marine Corps Historical Company volunteers
The Living History Crew members
The NJROTC Cadets...
And the "Ghosts"



Explore and Discover! Battleship NORTH CAROLINA

Business Office: Director: Capt. David Scheu, USN (Ret.); Director: Capt. Terry Bragg, USN (Ret.)
Maintenance Director: Roger Miller; Comptroller: Elizabeth Rollinson
Brooke Laton, Candy Edwards, Kim Mintz

Museum: Kim Sincx, 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

A Special Message from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources



N.C. Department of Cultural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary

Dear Friend of History:

This is a challenging and exciting time for the Department of Cultural Resources and I am honored to have the new opportunity to work with Governor Bev Perdue, who values and respects the importance of Cultural Resources.

We are fortunate to have strong supporters like you who appreciate that knowledge of the past is fundamental to understanding who we are and where we are going. You know almost better than anyone how vital arts, culture, and history are to the well-being, quality of life and economic health of our state. It is gratifying that the past year 19 million people participated in Cultural Resources programs – from the State Library, Archives and History, Museums, Historic Sites, the North Carolina Symphony and the North Carolina Arts Council.

There are challenging financial issues facing North Carolina...and Cultural Resources.

We need to be thoughtful as we navigate our way. This economy *will* turn around, and when it does our cultural community needs to be healthy and robust, with fresh ideas and new ways to reach children, adults, residents and visitors. And now, more than ever, we will depend on the private sector, and friends like you, for help.

We have a great story to tell about the positive impact of the creative industry on the vitality and growth of our state. More than 159,000 people in the creative sector earn wages of \$3.9 billion, contributing financially to their communities. The creative industry accounts for 4% of the state's workforce – more than in the biotech industry — and helps recruit and retain business, and grow jobs.

Strengthening K-12 history education is one of Cultural Resources' foremost goals. We cannot afford to lose this focus or allow our important work to be depleted, but instead raise the cry to stay strong as North Carolina works through these tough times.

Working together, we can make Cultural Resources stronger than ever. Let's insure that our story is one that our governor can be proud to tell, our legislators can value, and our citizens can appreciate. I am proud to be a part of Cultural Resources, and I hope to make you proud as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda A. Carlisle".

Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary