



SIXGUN - Fall 2025

Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association

President's Message – Tom Brinkman: Summer has come and gone! Our family had a very nice vacation at the Outer Banks, North Carolina. Fall is here and our recent trip to Williamsburg, Yorktown and Jamestown VA, was great fun for this history buff! Winter is not too far off and plans are being made for the holidays. Speaking of plans, our family is making plans for our reunion at Wilmington North Carolina. I hope everyone else is too! Hope to see you all there! TIL then, safe travels, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Vice President's Message – Robert Dykes: Hope everyone has had a great summer and are staying healthy. I broke down and bought us a real Hot Rod, a cherry 1969 Chevy Impala SS 427 Convertible. We are attending 'Cruisin' the Coast (Ms). One of the largest car shows in the United States. This time of year, Mississippi has some great weather cruising with the top down. Hope to see everyone in April.

Secretary's Message – Barbara Auty: This year marks the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy. It was established by the Continental Congress at the beginning of the Revolutionary War in 1775 when they purchased two armed ships to attack the British supply ships. The Continental Navy was disbanded after the war due to a lack of funds. The permanent U.S. Navy was established in 1794 with the Naval Act, primarily to counter Barbary pirates. The official birth date is October 13, 1775. Happy Anniversary to all our veterans.

Chaplin's Message -Joe Friend: The Sperry Chaplain hopes everyone had a nice summer and is looking forward to fall. I pray that you and your family have remained healthy and happy since the last reunion. Jo-Ann and I did a cruise out of New York. We sailed to Nova Scotia, Labrador, Greenland and Iceland. It reminded me of the time that the Sperry sailed from Philly to off the coast of Halifax while I was on the ship. The food, drink and entertainment on the Viking cruise was a lot better than was on the Sperry. On the trip we saw 10 story icebergs around Greenland. We needed an Ice Pilot to guide the vessel around the large bergs (shades of the Titanic). It is ironic that Greenland is 80% ice, and Iceland is mostly green. This was a Viking thing. The Vikings wanted settlers to go to Greenland and not Iceland, so they named the ice island Greenland. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2026 reunion in North Carolina. Take care.

Webmaster – Gary Chesser: Our hearts have been heavy with sadness since Linda Quehl Friedrich called on October 2nd about the passing of Charlie Quehl. Charlie, Rose, and the gang welcomed me, Linda, Manfred and Theresa Hilberer into our first reunion 20 years ago in Norfolk and made us feel like family. Charlie and Rose were true examples of selfless servants who inspired me and others who drew near to them. We will always remember them. Ann Marano’s posted another tribute to Charlie on the Sperry Facebook page: “We have lost a longtime member and trustee of our association. Charlie Quehl, along with his wife Rose (Deceased 2020), were pillars of the association for decades. It was their generosity that initiated the suitcase auctions at our reunions. What they started on their own years ago still brings joy to all each reunion. We would like to send condolences to the entire Quehl family and want to thank them for all the love, generosity, and friendship throughout the years.”



Gone but not forgotten. We pay tribute to these deceased shipmates:

Charles J. Quehl (54-55), Robert J. Downing (54-56), Ronald J. Rempert, Sr. (61-65), Richard J. Roskoph (65-67). Fair Winds and Following Seas to our shipmates.

Treasurer’s Report- Ron LaPlaca:

DATE	CHECK TYPE	MEMBER OR PAYEE	DUES YEAR	DUES PAID	SHIP STO.	INC. EXP.	TRANS.
BEGINNING BAL							\$14,161.76
JUNE 2025							
6/17/2025	9024	BELLANT-SMITH - ASSOC DUES	2025	\$10.00		\$10.00	
	DEPOSIT			\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$14,171.76
	EXPENSE	NO ACTIVITY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,171.76
2ND QTR ENDING BALANCE							\$14,171.76
JULY 2025							
	DEPOSIT	NO ACTIVITY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,171.76
7/17/2025	1140	MAIL MANAGERS - SUMMER SIX GUN		(\$563.58)	\$0.00	(\$563.58)	
	EXPENSE			(\$563.58)	\$0.00	(\$563.58)	\$13,608.18
AUGUST 2025							
8/11/2025	1236	VRIESEMA -DUES	LIFE	\$100.00		\$100.00	
8/11/2025	1236	VRIESEMA, B - ASSOC	2025	\$10.00		\$10.00	
	DEPOSIT			\$110.00	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$13,718.18
	EXPENSE	NO ACTIVITY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,718.18
SEPTEMBER 2025							
		NO ACTIVITY					\$13,718.18
3RD QTR ENDING BALANCE							\$13,718.18

Reunion Coordinator – Ann Marano:

2026 Reunion in Carolina Beach, NC April 12 – 16, 2026

Courtyard by Marriott Carolina Beach Oceanfront

100 Charlotte Ave, Carolina Beach, NC 28428 - Phone: (910) 458-2030



SAVE THE DATE! Start planning now. It will be here before you know it.

The 2026 reunion is another joint reunion with the USS Conway CVA and is being planned by the USS Conway's Reunion Coordinating committee.

The usual reunion registration form will be in the January 2026 edition of the Six Gun. The room rate for King/2 Queens will be \$124.00 + taxes per night. Breakfast is NOT included. All rooms are ocean view.

To reserve a room, call 910-458-2030 to make reservations directly with hotel staff. The rate is also good for 3 days after the reunion ends (not before) due to the Easter holiday the previous week.

STAY TUNED for all of the details of what has been planned including a Welcome Party on Sunday with Pizza and salad, a visit to the USS North Carolina Battleship with a catered lunch in the ward room for Monday and a Cape Fear riverboat cruise with a catered lunch for Tuesday. A buffet dinner at the hotel is planned for Tuesday night with our Fun and Games night to follow dinner. A Banquet dinner and Two Bell ceremony is set for Wednesday night. All these events will be on the registration form in the January 2026 Six Gun edition.

I know firsthand how much work goes into the planning of our reunion. I hear every time how much fun everyone had and I am sure this reunion will be no different. Please don't miss out. We look forward to seeing each, and every one of you there.