



# USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee Newsletter # 25 December 2017

## Status of the Boat

Since the boat has been delivered to the Navy, it is now operational and conducting shakedown operations. They will be in port over the Christmas standown, but will be at sea most of the time after that until Commissioning.



food and beverage products.

- The boat will be open for tours until about 4 PM.
- In the evening there will be a no host dinner at the Marriott.
- If you are arriving early there are a number of interesting places to see in the area. More will be posted on our web site as we get closer.
- For donors at the Long's Peak Level and above, there will be several events on Friday starting in the morning about 10 AM. During the day we will have a series of tours of USS Colorado and selected submarine base training facilities. There will be a clambake at noon on the base. In the evening the Charmian's Reception is a very memorable event where a number of presentations are made to the crew.
- There will be party for the crew and their families on Thursday.

For a more complete description about Commissioning week events please see our web site.

## Commissioning Invitations

We have sent our first batches of invitations to the Navy and have one or two more to go. For those interested in attending, **requests for invitations will remain open on our web site until December 31st.** Invitations will be mailed out by the Navy in mid to late January. Recall that you must RSVP to the invitation to receive your tickets

## Commissioning Week Schedule of Events

We are working on finalizing the activities surrounding Commissioning. For the general public the Commissioning Ceremony will be at 11 AM on Saturday March 17th at Naval Submarine Base in Groton, CT. Instructions for parking will follow with your tickets after you have accepted the invitations.

- After the ceremony there will be a reception for all at the head of the pier. We intend to feature Colorado

## Travel and Hotel Reservations

The Committee has reserved a limited block of rooms at the Marriott at a rate of \$129 per night. To make reservations in this block visit:

<https://aws.passkey.com/qt/216202754?qtid=-84882caa48091ec8f7d76836e8dec45a>

AAA Colorado, a long term Committee Sponsor, will be assist with travel and room reservations for those interested and has agreed to waive the service fee. To have them assist you, contact either of the following:

Stephanie Portugal, 303-753-8800x8122, [sportugal@colorado.aaa.com](mailto:sportugal@colorado.aaa.com)

Kim Swanson, 303-753-8800x8124, [kswanson@colorado.aaa.com](mailto:kswanson@colorado.aaa.com)

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**USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee**  
[usscoloradocommittee.org](http://usscoloradocommittee.org)

**Commissioning Coin Design**

Design of the commemorative coin to celebrate Commissioning is complete and the first order has been delivered from the manufacturer. We are in the process of ordering a larger supply to have available for sale online as well as at the Commissioning. Donors at the Big Horn Sheep level and above will receive the coin as part of tier rewards. Donors at the Maroon Peak level and above will receive an entire collection of commemorative coins: Keel Laying, Christening and Commissioning with a special wooden base upon which to mount them.



**COLORADO Sailors participate in Toys for Tots**

PCU Colorado (SSN 788) sailors participated in the Toys for Tots program from Dec. 18 to Dec. 20 in Groton, Conn.

Members of Colorado's First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) came up with the idea to promote the charity during Colorado's recent underway. The crew was able to return to their home port with just a few days left to shop and donate in order to meet the Toys for Tots' delivery deadline for this year's Christmas holiday.

This is the first time Colorado participated in Toys for Tots," said FCPOA President Machinist Mate First Class Scott Gold. "Colorado is a new vessel; we are getting commission in March, so this is just the start of a tradition that will continue throughout Colorado's life span."

"Having the charity event was pretty impressive to see the crew come together in a short amount of time," said Gold. "As the season comes around next year we plan to expand our efforts to increase donations."

Crew members were able to donate two dozen assorted gifts and a \$200 cash donation to the Toys for Tots program

through the Thames River Detachment, Marine Corps League.

"We really appreciate the USS Colorado's donations and all the donations from Navy families and commands from Naval Subbase New London," said Detachment Commandant Patrick McMahon. McMahon said the effects of donating one gift helps tremendously in executing the goal of Toys for Tots.

Colorado's donations will be distributed to fulfill the local community request and will directly contribute to the missions and goals of the Toys for Tots Program to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to economically disadvantaged children. (Story and Photos by MC1 Steven Hoskins)



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