



### Commissioning Date

We have been anxiously awaiting confirmation of a commissioning date by the Navy. We had been working towards a target date of October 21st, but were recently informed that March 17th, 2018 is the most probable date for Commissioning. The commissioning will now occur near the end of the post construction shakedown period instead of before. This was done to provide margin in event any construction issues arise during the upcoming sea trials and to provide more lead time for planning / contracting our commissioning events. While we are disappointed that the commissioning will be delayed, it gives us more time to plan a great celebration!

### Ship's Bell

One significant impact of the delay in commissioning date is on the Ship's bell. The Battleship Colorado (BB45) Association has commissioned renowned Colorado sculptor George Lundeen to create a ship's bell with year of commissioning and a special inscription from the BB45 Association. In anticipation of a fall commissioning, the bell had been cast with the year 2017. It looks like that will have to change. We are investigating recasting the bell.



### Crew Moves Aboard - John Fielder Pictures Installed

On June 23rd, USS Colorado passed two significant milestones. The first was the Habitability milestone. That milestone means that the ship is acceptable for the crew to live

on board and that the mess is now open. Earlier this week the pictures that John Fielder donated to the boat were installed in the crew's mess area, so the ship is truly taking on the character of our state. The second milestone is "In Service" which means the crew is now responsible for the safety and security of the boat, damage control, and they man the in-port forward watches of Petty Officer of the Deck and other armed watchstanders. They will hold morning and evening colors and ringing on-board of senior officers (with the standard-issue bell for now). For more pictures visit our web site.



### Sea Trials

The crew has been busy recently with their preparations for sea trials. Just in the last few days, the crew has completed all the final testing and certifications to take the boat to sea for the first time on sea trials. After successful completion of a series of three sea trials, over a period of about six weeks, she will be delivered to the Navy.

### Commissioning Invitations

With the delay in the anticipated commissioning date, we will continue to collect names for those wishing an invitation to the Commissioning. We will submit our first list to the Navy about 100 days before Commissioning, or early December if the March 17th date holds. Invitations should close out about a month later and invitations will be sent out some time after that, my guess is about six weeks before the event. Recall that the commissioning ceremony is

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

an official U. S. Navy event for which there is no admission fee, however, due to security reasons and limited seating, admission is by invitation only. The Navy will send out the invitations to the ceremony and you will need to respond to that invitation to receive your tickets to the event.

The link to this form is:

[usscoloradocommittee.org/sign-commissioning-invitation/](http://usscoloradocommittee.org/sign-commissioning-invitation/)

If you are a contributor at the Long's Peak Level or above you will also receive invitations from the Commissioning Committee for the other committee organized events. This will include the Chairman's reception on Friday evening, and the Platform Briefing event on Saturday morning before the Commissioning ceremony. We will be reaching out to all in this group regarding these events. It is not too late to join at this level and participate in these special events.

### Plankowner Plaques

It is traditional to recognize crew members attached to the command at commissioning as "Plankowners". It is the Committee's intention to present plaques to each of the crew commemorating this milestone. Our plaques will be manufactured by students at Cherokee Trails High School. Paul Clinton's Technology Student Association will create about 150 plaques for crew members. Those crew who have transferred prior to Commissioning will be presented similar plaques as "Honorary Plankowner" and well as donors at the Maroon Peak level and above. We thank them for their efforts. This is another great example of Coloradans supporting our namesake submarine.

### Commissioning Coins

Another benefit of the Maroon Peak level of support is a set of commemorative coins honoring the construction and commissioning of USS Colorado. The Committee has already produced coins commemorating Keel Laying and Christening and is now in the process of designing a coin for Commissioning. Before that design can be finalized of course, we will need to know the approved date of Commissioning. The coin sets will be supplied with a wooden base holder. These will also be fabricated by students at Cherokee Trails High School.



### Erie Air Fair

Our Committee had a booth at this year's Erie Air Fair on August 12th. We brought information about the boat and also had merchandise for sale. There was great interest from the attendees; we handed out well over 100 brochures and sold over \$200 in merchandise. Many thanks to Committee members who helped make this a success: Dick Cooper, Chris and Bruce Nielsen, Florence Mackin, Wil Zurline and Dan Puleio.



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