



USS Colorado (SSN 788)  
Commissioning Committee  
Newsletter # 23  
October 2017



**Commissioning on Track for March 17th**

Although we do not have yet have official confirmation of the Commissioning date, all indications are that it will be on March 17th. Our understanding is that the date has been vetted by all appropriate parties and that it is up for final approval by the Secretary of the Navy.

Meanwhile sign-ups for invitations remains open on our web site. We will submit our first list to the Navy about 100 days before Commissioning, early December. Invitations will close out about a month later and invitations will be sent out about six weeks before the event. 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/)

**Colorado Completes Sea Trials - Delivered to the Navy**



Future USS Colorado was “delivered to the Navy on September 21st. During the previous week Colorado was at sea again for her third major trial, INSURV. During this trial, the Navy’s Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) evaluates the material readiness of the submarine to determine the quality of construction, compliance with specifications and Navy requirements, and to determine if builder responsible equipment is operating satisfactorily. Correcting some minor issues, Colorado was “delivered” to the Navy on the

21st. This means that the construction period is complete and the Navy considers the ship operational. The boat will enter a shakedown phase for the next several months before Commissioning and then reenter the shipyard for a Post Shakedown Availability where any material issues that arise during shakedown will be repaired.

**Change of Command to be Held for CDR Franklin**

CDR Ken Franklin, Commanding Officer PCU Colorado (SSN 788), will be relieved by CDR Reed Koepp in ceremonies at Naval Submarine Base, Groton, CT. on November 3rd. The ceremony will be held at Pier 6 North starting at 10 AM. CDR Franklin is the first Commanding Officer of Colorado, having reported with the first major increment of the crew in the fall of 2014. At that point the boat was a series of hull sections being built in Quonset Point, Rhode Island and Newport News, Virginia. CDR Franklin has seen the boat all through construction, sea trials and delivery to the Navy. This is a most demanding period for the crew. He has orders to Italy.

CDR Koepp reports to Colorado from Executive Officer of Nuclear Power Training Unit, Charleston, South Carolina. For complete biographies of both officers, see the Leadership Page of our web site.

The Change of Command Ceremony is the traditional naval ceremony that marks the formal transfer of authority and responsibility of command between two officers.



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**BB-45 Sailors to be Honored at CU**

Two WWII veterans of the Battleship USS Colorado (BB-45), Jack Paris and Ken Jones, will be honored at University of Colorado Boulder at Veterans Day Events. On Friday November 10th they will be recognized at the annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. The Keynote Speaker will be Rear Admiral "Rick" Snyder, Director of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (J5) at NORAD. Afterwards there will be a reception in the University Memorial Center Veteran's Lounge. The University Memorial Center (UMC) is CU's student union and a living memorial honoring the service and sacrifice of Colorado veterans. It contains artifacts from previous USS Colorado's, including the ship's bell and stern pilot wheel from BB-45. At this reception, a Challenge Plaque that will be presented to SSN-788 upon Commissioning, will be unveiled. The plaque is being donated by the local Ironworkers Apprenticeship and Training Department. The plaque contains the words of Battleship Veteran, Ken Jones, to the crew of the submarine. The are:

*"We the crew of USS Colorado (BB-45), challenge the crew of SSN-788 to wear the name with dignity, to wear the name with honor, and to wear the name with pride. We hope that all of your voyages will be totally successful. We pray that you will never have to fire your weapons in anger, but if you do, be ready and prepared to give 'em hell. Fair winds and following seas."*

The veterans will also be honored at the USC - CU football game on Saturday.

**Crew Members Complete October Visit to Colorado**

PCU Colorado crew members recently completed another visit to our state. Visiting us this time were LTJG Anthony Matus, MMA2 Tristan Newton, ITS2 Nicholas Sylvia, and ETN2 John Warren. They arrived on Monday October 9th and on Tuesday morning they visited Doherty High School in Colorado Springs where they presented a flag flown over the boat during sea trials for placement in the schools military Hall of Honor. Afterwards they were hosted to lunch at the El Paso Club by the Trustees of the Colorado Thirty Group. After lunch, with the help of the crew members, the Colorado Thirty Group presented a plaque of the ship's crest to the Colorado Springs City Council. The plaque is a replica of the one that the group presented to the boat at

the Christening and is now mounted in the Wardroom. In the evening they had dinner with several Committee members at Front Range BBQ in Colorado Springs.



On Wednesday MMA2 Tristan Newton went to Cherokee Trails High School in Aurora and visited the Industrial Arts Class taught by Paul Clinton. The class is making "Plankowner" plaques for the commissioning crew. In the Navy members of the crew who are present at Commissioning are designated plankowners. Tom Mustin of CBS4 Denver interviewed Petty Officer Newton, two of the students in the class and Mr. Clinton for a piece that showed on the five o'clock news. The students stated how proud they were to be making the plaques for the crew.



After the visit to Cherokee Trails, Petty Officer Newton joined the other members of the crew who started their day in Fort Collins. The crew had visited Fossil Ridge High School and Fort Collins High School in the morning where they made presentations on STEM education and Navy life. At lunch time they made a presentation to the local Rotary and Mayor Wayne Troxell read a proclamation in their honor. In the afternoon they made an all school presentation at Liberty Common High School before heading to Left Hand Brewing in Longmont for a tour and some refreshments. Later they also visited the monthly meeting of the Rocky Mountain Base of the US Submarine Veterans organization where they were greeted warmly.



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fore attending the Navy Ball in Colorado Springs at night. The theme of this festive event was USS Colorado. About 180 persons attended the celebration of the Navy's Birthday. All seemed to have a good time and enjoyed meeting the sailors. The Springs Mayor John Struthers was the featured speaker. The sailors headed back to Groton on Sunday.



Thursday the crew was interviewed by KRDO Radio in the Springs and then attended a County Commissioners meeting where a proclamation was read in their honor. They also visited Mesa Ridge High School, Widefield High School and Truman Elementary School. In the evening Mr. Leroy Landhuis of the Landhuis Company and member of the Colorado Thirty Group, hosted a reception at the El Paso Club in their honor. About forty people were present to meet the sailors and ask questions about their experiences. Many made donations to the Committee to help fund Commissioning week events.



On Friday the sailors were again in Colorado Springs. They had an early phone interview on Nash FM 95.1 followed by school visits to Panorama Middle School and Pikes Peak Elementary. In the evening they attended a reception at the Pioneer Museum where a birthday cake was cut in honor of the Navy's Birthday. After the reception, a number of supporters joined the sailors for a lively dinner at Paravicini's Italian Bistro in Colorado Springs West End. The highlight of the evening was the crew members serenading the patrons with a rendition of Anchors Aweigh.

The crew did some sightseeing in Denver on Saturday be-



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