

USS Colorado Submarine Association January 2020 Newsletter



USS Colorado Submarine Association Supports the Boat

As part of Giving Tuesday, we helped promote donations that would go towards fulfilling a request from the boat or families. We had previously supported some of the activities of the Family Readiness Group supporting the crew. These efforts seem well appreciated by the crew and families. Here are a couple of their responses:

“From a wife of a sailor on the USS Colorado I cannot put into words what your donations have meant to us. I can say that we are forever grateful. Thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas and Happy New year!!”

A huge thank you from this family for all the support for the USS Colorado Sailors & FRG. We are so grateful! Merry Christmas, Happy holidays and Happy New Year.”

December Email

In December Association received the following email from the Commanding Officer:

From: Geddes, Jason M. CAPT

Dear USS COLORADO Submarine Association,

It is with a humble and gracious heart that the USS Colorado sends this message your way from across the ocean. With undying respect and admiration for the 788 Association, please allow us to say thank you for all that you all do to support the crew and boost morale onboard USS Colorado. With your gifts of physical presence at our many events sharing in our camaraderie prior to deployment, to your overwhelming support of our Family Readiness Group in supplying goods for preparing Single Sailor halfway night boxes, you have absolutely answered the call time after time.

Your Colorado crew has been deployed now for just over 3 months. In that time, we have steamed thousands of miles in support of our national interests and conducted multiple missions vital to national security, of which you should be proud. This cadre of warriors continues to sharpen their weapons, day-in and day-out, in support of freedom and democracy. Long timeframes without communication from back home makes for a difficult journey, at times, but the support you offer stays ever-present in our minds and provides yet another reason to continue fighting the good fight, getting better every day, and pushing the limits of our Sailors and their warship in defense of our country.

Port calls have not been plentiful, so we've had to make the most of our time getting creative underway to spark fun amongst the crew. Cribbage tournaments, video game tournaments, movie nights, and seasonal meals have all aided in esprit de corps and keeping everyone from losing their minds (but we're sure you remember how that goes). On Thanksgiving, the cooks put out two solid full-on Thanksgiving feasts with all the fixins. the best underway Thanksgiving meal we've ever had! Quite the spread it was. In the coming weeks we will have our Halfway Night celebration (wanted to spread the Thanksgiving, Halfway Night, and Christmas meals apart a bit). Lots planned for that and we'll be sure to send some photos of some of the fun as well.

Again, on behalf of the Officers and Crew of USS Colorado, please accept this heartfelt thanks to the entire 788 Association, with special thanks to Don Price and Rick Riessen for their continued personal efforts "on the deckplates". Take care!

We have attached a few photos you may find interesting.

Sincerely,
The COLORADO Triad



January Email

In January the Association received the following email from the Chief of the Boat (COB) Chip Alger

All is well from the deep. The last underway was a bit long for our tastes, but the men killed it on a daily basis, honing their skills and raising the bar tactically for the rest of the fleet to aspire to. Very proud of the men and their efforts as Steely-eyed Warriors of the Deep! Additionally, although our port calls have been few and far between, the men have represented the Navy and the State of Colorado on liberty as exemplary ambassadors, worthy of praise by John Q. Public. The TRIAD couldn't be happier with their professional demeanor and outstanding performance both onboard and out in town. I sleep a little easier at night as a result. :-)

Our Halfway Day celebration was delayed a couple of weeks due to operations, but the crew came out in force participating in many morale-building events. It was filled with crazy events (I even died my hair and beard to show the crew they could "let loose" a little; they were VERY surprised at the sight! All in all, the crew enjoyed a relaxing day of fun, which was much-deserved and needed. Of note, we had junior Sailors posing as acting "CO for the day" (along with XO, COB, and the 4 Department Heads, with full access to the Wardroom for meals). Other events included:

- a Derby Car race (where various divisions created small cars made out of materials found onboard with a slight up angle using gravity as propulsion),
- "COB's Back-9 Putt Putt Tournament" (using soft golf balls (to minimize noise), plastic putters, and make-shift obstacles throughout the forward compartment,
- standard "Corn-on-the-COB" and "Peas on the EDMC" type antics,
- cribbage and video game tournaments.

We also performed a traditional, but thoughtful, Blue Nose ceremony, which the crew thoroughly enjoyed. We sort of adopted the movie "Frozen" as our theme

along with Arctic trivia throughout. Lots of "warm-bodies" were converted that day.

Lastly, although we certainly missed our families back home over the Thanksgiving and Christmas periods, we got creative providing distractions such as amazing meals courtesy of CSSC Todd and his Culinary Specialists going above and beyond, providing both Thanksgiving spreads and Christmas dinners that rival 5-star restaurants, which was no small feat given the lack of provisions that we are allotted and the time that we've been underway at this point. Those meals (along with our normal high-quality ones) certainly play a role in maintaining the crew's morale at a high level, given our circumstances. On Christmas day, we had holiday movies playing on the Crew's Mess the entire day, awarded 4 Sailors with their dolphins, and "Santa COB" even showed up to wish all some good tidings (pics attached).

That's all for now. I trust all is well in the States where you are and the winter weather isn't creating too much of a nuisance on your daily routines. We'll keep in touch as we are able and look forward to hearing from you.

Take care!

Sincerely (and on behalf of the TRIAD),
Chip



Association Plans for 2020

The Association are planning several visits for our members to visit Groton in the first of 2020.

1. Homecoming from first deployment

We plan of several member attending COLORADO's homecoming from deployment in first quarter. It will be a several day visit where we help the FRG with preparations on pier, greet the boat on arrival and cook meals for the duty section.

2. Change of Command

Around the end of March, Association members are invited to the Change Of Command Ceremony to be held on the pier alongside the boat, weather permitting. On this visit are also scheduling a dinner with our members, CO, XO, COB and their wives and the CO and his wife. This will be a great opportunity for us to thank Capt. Geddes and his Jodi for their personal investment in the support of our Association.

3. Possible picnic with crew and families in May

This will be an all hands event similar to the picnics we attended this past May and April. We are quite sure this event will happen but must wait for the boat to return to confirm specifics.

Additionally, we have requested a crew visit to Colorado sometime after their return consistent with the ship's schedule.

If you would like to participate in these events to help demonstrate Colorado's support of our namesake submarine, consider joining the Association as a member.