



### Crew Visit to Colorado

During the period from June 5 through the 10th, we were honored to have a visit to the state by the Commanding Officer and four crew members from USS Colorado. Commander Garth Storz and his wife Jeanne were accompanied by the Supply Officer, Lieutenant Devin Graves, the Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Mark Shipley, Sonarman First Class Nicolas Polonsky, and Sonarman Second Class Colton Johns arrived on June 5th. After settling in, the Association took them to the Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant for dinner

On Monday they started the day with a visit to the Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera in her office where she welcomed the crew to the state. Following that the crew got an extensive tour of the Capitol including a visit to the dome. After that the group proceeded to History Colorado a few blocks away where they had lunch. Dr. Kurt Juergens, Curator of Military History for the Museum, then took the group for a behind the scenes look at some of the military artifacts not currently on display to the public. The visit was capped off by a presentation by the crew that was open to the public followed by a Question-and-Answer period. About twenty people took part.



In the evening the Association hosted a reception for the crew at Balistreri Winery. Balistreri was the winery that made the sparkling wine used in the christening of USS Colorado back in 2016. They did a great job with the hors d'ouvres and a full array of their wines for tasting. The crew



## USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association

[usscoloradosubassoc.org](http://usscoloradosubassoc.org)

once again made a presentation to and answered questions for the almost 50 people in attendance.

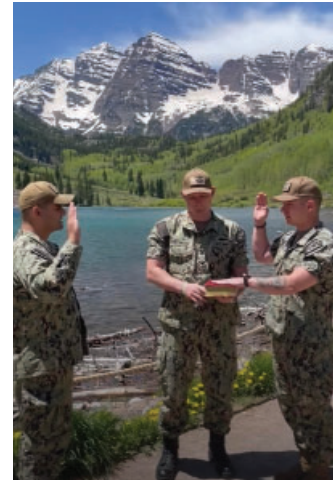
On Tuesday the crew headed to Colorado Springs where the first event was a tour of the United States Air Force Academy. After meeting with the Commandant, Brigadier General Paul Moga, the crew spent about an hour and a half on a guided tour of the facilities. In the afternoon they visited with RADM Bernacchi, Director Strategy Plans and Policy (J5), US Space Command at Peterson Space Force Base where they received a mission brief on the Space Force.



In the early evening the Colorado Thirty Group, a group of business leaders dedicated to supporting military installations throughout Colorado, hosted a reception for the visiting crew at the Penrose Room of the Broadmoor. Christian Anschutz welcomed the crew on behalf of the Thirty Group and the Commanding Officer presented them with a plaque.



On Wednesday the crew met with the mayor of Colorado Springs, John Struthers, and the City Council where a proclamation was read in their honor. From there they headed to Aspen over Independence Pass, having lunch in Buena Vista enroute.



t

Thursday was another busy day for the group. They started with breakfast and a presentation to the Rotary Club, followed by a call on the Mayor and Council Members at City Hall. They then took the gondola to the top of Aspen Mountain where Petty Officer Johns reenlisted in the Navy. In the afternoon they visited Aspen Museum and took a walking tour of the city before departing for Glenwood Springs where they checked into the Hotel Colorado. In the evening they attended a reception with local elected officials and community leaders.

On Friday it was breakfast with Glenwood Springs Chamber of Commerce and City Council, and a tour of the town and local history museum before heading out to DIA for their return flight to Groton.

All in all, it was a great visit. We were proud to show off our great state to these fine sailors and were happy to introduce them to many of our Colorado citizens. We look forward to the next time we can host another group of the crew.

### Ship's Picnic

On July 8th the boat held a picnic at the Navy recreation area Admiral Fife State Park. In attendance were crew members, their families and guests along with the incoming CO, CDR David Beam and his family. Having extended an invitation to the Association, members Alan Buck, Bill Rinz, Stephanie Carlino and Rick and Donna Riessen joined the event.

The event ran from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. Besides great food and plenty to drink those attending played softball,

USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association

[usscoloradosubassoc.org](http://usscoloradosubassoc.org)

## USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association

[usscoloradosubassoc.org](http://usscoloradosubassoc.org)

bags, and horseshoes. The Family Readiness Group hired an ice cream truck to provide dessert.



### Join the Association

If you are interested in more actively supporting the crew and families of USS Colorado, consider joining the USS Colorado Submarine Association.

[usscoloradosubassoc.org/join-us](http://usscoloradosubassoc.org/join-us)



### Change of Command

CDR Garth Storz will be relieved as Commanding Officer of USS Colorado by CDR David Beam in ceremonies at the Naval Submarine Base on August 5th. CDR Storz took command in March of 2020. His next assignment will be at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. CDR Beam reports to COLORADO via the PCO training pipeline and previously served as Executive Officer on USS Vermont (SSN 792). Several members of the Association are planning to attend the change of Command Ceremony.



CDR David Beam



## USS Colorado (SSN 788) Submarine Association

[usscoloradosubassoc.org](http://usscoloradosubassoc.org)