



USMMA COLORADO

February 2005



All Service Academy Ball

The 2005 Colorado All Service Academy Ball was hosted by USMMA and USCGA for the first time in 21 years. The Ball was held on Tuesday, December 28 at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. There were 460 total attendees, of which, the USMMA represented the greatest number of attendees for the first time ever with 143. This number was more than any of the other academies, including Air Force, which is situated right here in Colorado Springs!

Our honored guests for the evening included Admiral Joseph E. Stewart and Captain David and Janie Van Oss. The Colorado Parent's Club and the Midshipmen were delighted to have them as their guests, and were honored by their presence.

The entire evening went as planned and even the weather cooperated by staying in the 50's. There were around one hundred midshipmen and cadets, as well as proud parents and family members, many alumni from the USMMA, some World War II Veterans and their families in attendance. All attendees were served a meal of Chicken Wellington, provided by the Broadmoor, with all the trimmings. The excellent DJ kept many more people than usual on the dance floor, well after the designated time for the Ball to end at midnight. Since we were given a lodging rate at about One-third the usual rate, over 136 rooms were booked for the night of the 28th.

All in all, it was an evening to remember. All the midshipmen and cadets seemed to enjoy dancing and mingling with others from the various academies. USMMA and USCGA were certainly gracious hosts, and the consensus of the evening was – let's hold the ball here again next year, and for that matter, make the Broadmoor the annual location for the Colorado All Service Academy Ball!

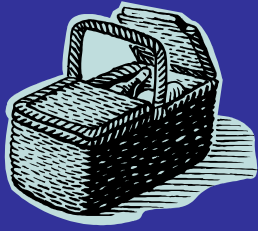
(This article was submitted by Ann Hall for the Spring Issue on the Kings Pointer. Look for it there along with a photo of our Colorado midshipmen!)

We're On The Web!

Thanks to Bob Rossi (Brittany, 2008), the Colorado Parents' Club has a domain and a web page at www.usmmaparents.com. He is serving as the webmaster and is open to suggestions. If you have any photos to include, particularly parents seeing their kids off at Indoc, Sea Year experiences, or the All Service Academy Ball, please email them to Bob for inclusion on our web page. Digital pictures are best, and Bob will help senders to resize them for quicker emailing, scans are good, and color photocopies are acceptable, depending on their quality. Bob can be reached at equinoxsolstice@hotmail.com.

VISIT US AT

www.usmmaparents.com!



Welcome Aboard Picnic 2005

Our 2005 Welcome Aboard Picnic for the incoming class of 2009 will be held on Sunday, June 26th at a location to be determined. Plan on a potluck this year. Mark your calendars, and watch your mail for your invitation! This was the only Sunday available between graduation and Indoc, without encroaching on the 4th of July weekend.

2005 All Service Academy Ball

Indications are that the 2005 Colorado All Service Academy Ball will be back at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, by popular demand. This year's ball will be on Wednesday, December 28, 2005. Mark your calendars for this gala event, as well. This is a great opportunity to spend an evening with your midshipman in full dress uniform. All of the other Academies are represented as well. The USAFA Parents' Club will be hosting this year's ball. If anyone would like to volunteer for the Ball Committee, please contact Dennis Sumner at dsumner@fcgov.com.

Miscellaneous Notes

Officers for 2005-06 school year are desperately needed. Many of our current officers will be parents of First Classmen next year and would like to "pass the baton" to those with younger midshipmen. Please consider running for an office and contact Ann Hall (719-590-8819) to let her know what you would be interested in doing.

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A HISTORIAN! Please contact Ann Hall or Judy Cramer if you're interested! We envision our Historian being a "Keeper of All USMMA News" and perhaps starting a scrapbook to be passed down to successive classes.

"Classic Cookies" located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, has generously agreed to donate 5 percent of any orders for our Colorado midshipmen to our Colorado Parents' Club. Cookies are baked fresh, and shipped via UPS or 2-day air. You can visit the "Classic Cookies" website at www.ClassicCookies.com or give them a call at (610) 388-6603.

The Parents' Club has additional pilsner glasses (from this year's ASAB) for sale. These beautiful glasses have the 2004 ASAB logo on one side, and the mottoes for each of the five service academies on the other side. They are available for \$3.00. To order, contact Ann Hall (719-590-8819).

A huge thank you to Pam and Terry Marshburn for assembling the February boodle bags. Pam and Terry received many donations of food items and some very generous cash donations. In fact, they received enough to cover the cost of postage without dipping into our Parents' Club account! Goodies included Pringles, Chex mix, cookies, homemade ribbon strips, cookies, candy, hot chocolate, cheese and crackers and much more! The bags were shipped to the Academy in plenty of time for pre-final studying. Admiral Stewart and Shirley Anthony (Parents' Coordinator) were included as always, and a lovely note from Admiral Stewart was received stating, "MIDSHIPMAN MICHAEL MIKULAK-- --AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG MAN---- BROUGHT ME A BAG OF SNACKS FROM THE COLORADO PARENTS AND I WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I



ENJOY THESE TREATS AND THEY'LL ALL BE PLEASED TO KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE PULLING FOR THEM. I THINK THINGS LIKE THIS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND I THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME AND EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE REGIMENT. ALL IS WELL AT KINGS POINT EXCEPT THAT IT'S STILL SNOWING. HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON. SINCERELY AND RESPECTFULLY, JOE STEWART"

Dee Mikulak and Lea VandenBoogaard will head up the June boodle bag effort, and would be pleased to accept your donations!

FAMILY EMERGENCIES - CONTACTING M/N AT SEA: We recently had a death in the family, and were at a loss as to how to contact our midshipman at sea. It occurred on a weekend, and first we agonized over whether or not to share the news. Once we decided that it would be better to inform our midshipman, we were unsure how to go about it. We first contacted the Midshipman on Duty (MOD) at USMMA and were told that the Academy would email our midshipman. This was not an acceptable option, so we continued researching on our own. We tried the shipping company's operations center, with no success. Realizing that we could contact our midshipman via email on-board ship, by simply including his name in the subject line, we sent an email to the ship with "TO THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN OR WATCH OFFICER" in the subject line. In the body of the email, we briefly explained the situation, gave a telephone number, and asked if there was any way for the midshipman to contact us. Within 10 minutes, we received a satellite telephone call from the ship's Captain. He personally went in search of our midshipman, and within 15 minutes, we had him on the phone. I sincerely hope that no other family has to go through this, but wanted to share the information...just in case.

M/N Activities

The Kings Point Mariners will be headed off to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Friday, March 4, to begin their baseball season. These are traditionally the first games of the year and always include their rivals, USCGA. An alumni barbecue is included, along with some Spring Break R&R. Colorado has 4 players on the baseball team: Adam VandenBoogaard (2006), Brennan Halback (2008), Robert Tenenholz (2008), and Dylan Tumblin (2008),

M/N Sarah Christenson (2007) is on the USMMA diving team. She has placed first twice and second four times in the 1-meter competition. In the 3-meter board, she has place first once and third four times.

Benjamin Hayes, 2007, competed successfully in the indoor track season. In various meets, he competed in the 800, 500 and 400 meter runs, 55 meter hurdles, and ran the anchor leg on the 4 x 400 meter relay. The 4 x 400 team qualified for the ECAC finals but he missed qualifying in the 500 by .06 second.

Our Academic Stars

Duncan Gills (2008), Kristen Hatton (2008), Brittany Rossi (2008), Dylan Tumblin (2008) and Eric Cramer (2006) received a Gold Academic Star for the 1st trimester. David Youngman (2007) received a Silver Academic Star, and the coveted Sea Year ribbon. Great job!





Farewell From the Cramer's

It is with great sadness that Jack and I say good-bye to the members of the Colorado Parents' Club. It has been a pleasure to know all of you! I have been honored to represent you at the Presidents Meetings at Parent's Weekend. I have received many compliments from Academy staff and faculty, as well as parents from other states. I agree with them that Colorado has fine, dedicated Midshipmen and friendly, supportive, caring families. I am proud of all that our club has accomplished! Please keep in touch; I always am interested in what our Midshipmen are up to! And, if your travels bring you to Lexington, KY, please look us up!! I bid you and your Midshipmen fair winds and following seas..... Judy Cramer (JCramer954@aol.com)

February Parents' Club Meeting

**USMMA PARENT'S CLUB OF COLORADO
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2005**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann Hall; Judy Cramer; Deni and John Nichols; Kimberly, Charles, Jordan and Mikayla Jacobs; Doug and Gaye Vasquez; Dawn and Kelly Cooley; Dave and Peggy Kirchner; Rob and Amy Beeler; Bob and Susan Gills; Bev, Mike and Nick Halbach; Lea VandenBoogaard and Byron Clark; Patricia Barber; Terry, Dan and Katie Lowe; Judy and Bill Spindler; Gary and Susan Keehan; Dee Mikulak; Rod Hayes; Kim, Frances and Jimmie Krack (candidate); Shanon, Bruce and Derien Jastrzebski (candidate); Pam and Terry Marshburn; Tom and Linda Matthews; and Col. Dick Sargent

Special Guest, Captain and Mrs. VanOss

Judy Cramer welcomed all and had everyone introduce themselves. Judy also broke the sad news that she and Jack are moving to Kentucky very soon!

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Peggy Kirchner presented a Treasurer's Report, club has a current balance of \$152.15. There are several pins available for sale that have already been paid for and will help rebuild this balance as well as the Welcome Picnic in June where membership dues will be paid.

Secretary: Dee mentioned with her son graduating next year that another person to co-chair with Dawn would be helpful, Dawn mentioned the roster that was available on the table for any needed updates to our Midshipman information.

Newsletter: Lea is in the process of the new newsletter and asked for all info to be sent to her by 2/25/05, there was also an email sent earlier in February asking for any news.

Activities: PINS AVAILABLE, if you are going to the academy or any of its functions and can take pins to sell that would be GREAT! Welcome picnic is Sunday, June 26th at a location to be determined. Mark your calendars!

Historian: still need a volunteer here

DISCUSSION:

Boodle Bags: are being prepared and mailed by Pam Marshburn and she expects to mail them by 2/22/05. Dee Mikulak volunteered to do the June bags.

All Service Academy Ball '06: Wednesday, 12/28/05, we voted (motion by Hayes, seconded by Kirschner, vote unanimous) for the Broadmoor again, hosted by the Air Force Academy. Discussion was held regarding any suggestions for improvement. A brunch for the next day was suggested, possibly a fund raiser for the CO parents assoc??

Thank you letters: Ann Hall read 2 letters from Admiral Stewart telling what a wonderful time he had at the ball and how the basket he received was "the best I ever got". Ann had also sent a group picture of all the kids at the ball to Admiral Stewart and he stated that he hung it in his office at Wiley Hall as a great reminder. Judy Cramer read a few thank you notes as well; Dylan Tumblin wrote thanking Jack for the program at the ball, John Gustine wrote thanking for his Graduation gift, Robert Tenenholz wrote thanking for his boodle bag and Shirley Anthony wrote thanking for her flag pin.

There was discussion regarding the low balance in the Club fund and if it was necessary to raise funds AND if we wanted to pay more of the Midshipman's dinner at the All Service Ball. A motion was raised by Kirschner to raise dues to \$35 and pay all of MN dinner, then Dahlin motioned to modify the previous motion and raise dues to \$40 and pay all of MN dinner. Beeler seconded, in a vote it was denied. Kirschner remade his earlier motion of \$35 for dues and pay all of MN dinner, Vasquez seconded and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Bob Rossi, has built a website for the Colorado Parents Association. www.usmmmaparents.com it has lots of info, is still in the development stage but will also be instrumental in the sale of our pins and the proposed (in discussion) new item of the Merchant Marine Academy flag. Discussion was held regarding using paypal on this site for the collection of monies to purchase our items, Hayes motioned to accept, Kirschner seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Captain VanOss's presentation

His title: Department of Professional Development and Career Services
Aka: Shipboard Training

Sea Year, "The World is our Campus"

Purpose: Invaluable experience in Shipboard Operations. Acquire competencies and professional attributes required to be an Officer

Sea Year Schedule:

2008 B split 6/21/05 - 11/6/05

2008 A split 10/28/05 - 3/12/06

Goal - 2 ships, 100 sea days

2008 B split 3/3/06 - 11/5/06

2008 A split 10/27/06 - 7/22/07

Goal - 2 semesters, 200 sea days and an Internship

Sea Year Guide is available online

Lubbers Line-a cadets guide to sea year, also available online

Sea Projects: Study of Construction, Operations and Administration of a commercial vessel. First out to sea = 6-7 credits, 100 days and 2-10 STCW operations. Second out to sea =13.5-14 credits, 200 sea days, 2-6 week internship and 3-11 STCW observations.

They work not more than 8 hours per day with another 3 hours per day on their sea project. They are allowed to work longer if there is a unique project happening on their ship.

Internship program: Intro to basic business organizations, 1-3 credits, 2-6 week duration with a written report or presentation.

Someone is always available not matter where you Midshipman is or day/night while at sea or in travel to port destinations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Cooley

Please forgive any inaccuracies or misspellings!

Parents' Club Membership

We encourage all USMMA parents to become members of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club. Membership dues are \$35/year and can be sent to Peggy Kirschner, P.O. Box 683, Indian Hills, CO 80454. She can also provide you with the Dues/ Membership form. Your Parent's Club can be a wonderful support group for new parents as well as parents of upperclassmen.

Where in the World is Waldo?

A Report on our Colorado Midshipmen at Sea

David Youngman, 2007, will begin the second portion of his Sea Year in early March on an MSC ship, USNS Laramie.

USMMA Campus News

USMMA Joins Homeland Security Consortium

2/16/2005 - The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy has accepted an invitation to join the National Academic Consortium for Homeland Security (NACHS).

NACHS is an alliance of leading colleges and universities that conduct research or offer educational programs related to homeland security and defense. The consortium currently includes 189 leading universities and colleges in 46 states, the District of Columbia and the Territory of Guam.

The primary mission of NACHS is to promote and support scholarship in the



field of homeland security, and to facilitate collaboration among academic institutions and faculty who are working in this area. NACHS also serves as an "academic strategic partner" to U.S. government agencies and other non-federal organizations responsible for aspects of homeland security.

The Merchant Marine Academy, operated by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration, is no stranger to homeland security issues. A faculty team there had the lead role in developing standards and curricula for maritime security training both in the U.S. and internationally. The domestic project was mandated by the U.S. Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002; Academy faculty partnered with counterparts in India to craft model maritime security courses for the United Nations' International Maritime Organization.

The curriculum at the Academy has been enhanced since 9-11 to include transportation security issues. Academy students are conducting applied research in this area. A number of Academy graduates in the last few years have been employed by the Transportation Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and in other security-related positions.

The Academy's Global Maritime and Transportation School, which offers a continuing education program, is providing maritime security training to professionals in the transportation field.

NACHS, which is based at Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, maintains a public, on-line, searchable data-base on homeland security research, education and training. The NACHS web site can be accessed at: <http://homelandsecurity.osu.edu/NACHS/index.html>

Newsletter Input

The next edition of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club newsletter will be published in May 2005. If you have any ideas for articles, pictures to include, or any information that would be beneficial to parents or midshipmen, please forward them to Lea VandenBoogaard via email (leav22@qwest.net) or regular mail (1127 Venice Street, Longmont, CO 80501) any time between now and May 1.

Presidential Inaugural Parade

Midshipmen from the Academy have participated in every presidential inaugural parade since President Harry Truman's parade in 1949. The Academy's group consisted of its band, color guard and a marching detachment.

On January 20, 2005, Colorado was well represented in the inaugural parade. Four of the students were from Colorado. M/N Chris Weaver, 1C was the drum major for the band. M/N Michael Mikulak, 2C was in the band. Both P. Chris Barber and P. David Vasquez were in the marching detachment.

Parents' Club Fundraisers

Our webmaster, Bob Rossi, has come up with several good fundraising ideas, and as was noted in the February meeting minutes, the Club voted to pursue using PayPal. This will enable us to sell our fundraising items on our website, and to offer a credit card payment option.

PayPal transaction fees (to us) for credit card are 2.9% plus \$.30 per transaction--there are no monthly, setup, or gateway fees. Our transaction cost would be \$.47 for a \$6.00 single pin purchase. Higher cost items do even better because of the fixed \$.30/transaction fee. It would be \$1.49 for a \$39.95 document frame. It can be used other ways--a \$20 boodle bag contribution by credit card would cost \$.88 (stamps alone are \$.37). We could also create a "Donation" box, e.g. \$10 which is "purchased", just like an item.

Bob is also researching a document frame for displaying the Congressional Nominations kids have received. Other ideas include Parents' Club Name Tags for other states, Acta Non Verba book sales, etc. We could possibly sell frames and take orders for name tags over Parents' Weekend.

Volunteer Urgently Needed

We urgently need a USMMA parent to attend "Academy Day" on Sunday, March 20, 2005, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Wings Over the Rockies (near the old Lowry Air Force Base. The event is hosted by our Colorado senators and representatives, and is an informational session for students and parents who are considering applying to the service academies. They want parents there to give a brief statement about their midshipmen's or cadet's experience at the academy - just basic information, i.e. "My son is in the class of 2006 at the Naval Academy. He applied to all 5 service academies, but the Navy was his first choice. He is majoring in mechanical engineering and plays on the racquetball team and is involved in Campus Crusade for Christ. He also sings in the choir. He wants to be a Navy pilot. His plebe year was really hard, and plebe summer was really hard. He has had to work very hard at USNA, but he really wants to be a Naval officer, so he hangs in there. He is getting a really good education, his classes are small and there is a lot of help for you when you are struggling with classes."- stuff like that. Afterwards they have an informal reception and they would like the parents to hang out to answer questions.

If you are interested, please contact Judy Cramer, as soon as possible, at (303) 530-5556.