



November 2003

USMMA COLORADO

Volume 1, Number 2

Colorado Parents' Club Earns Distinguished Chapter Award!

Distinguished Chapter Award

At the 2003 Presidents' Conference held during Parents' Weekend in September, our Chapter was presented with a Distinguished Chapter Award.

The intent of the award is to recognize those Parents' Association Chapters whose distinguished service is characterized by the effectiveness of their activities, programs, and significant contributions in support of the Merchant Marine Academy and its Regiment of Midshipmen, and enhancements to the image of Kings Point. Chapters do not compete against one another.

The period of activity on which the award is based is the academic year (July 1 to June 30). The awards are then announced and presented at the annual Presidents' Conference in September.

To be considered for the award, our chapter had to engage in certain essential activities, each of which has a point value. It is necessary to accumulate a minimum of 1750 points as outlined in the National Handbook, Chapter 7. The National Handbook is included on the CD distributed to all incoming Plebes by the USMMA Parents Association entitled "What do you mean - He doesn't have Telephone Privileges??? This is his MOTHER!"

Judy and Ann proudly accepted this award on behalf of all the Colorado Parents Club members.

Indoc Photo CDs Available

Photo CDs of both 2006 and 2007 Indoc are now available through the Parents' Program Office. Supplies are limited. The 2006 CD costs \$10.00, and the 2007 CD costs \$20.00. Make your check payable to "Midshipmen Morale Fund" and mail to:

Shirley Anthony
USMMA Parents Program Coordinator/Special Projects Manager
Wiley Hall
Kings Point, NY 11024

For expeditious processing, note on the envelope that a CD order is enclosed.

We Ought to be in Pictures!

The Colorado Parents' Club picture (from the Welcome Picnic) is featured in the Fall 2003 edition of the Kings Pointer, on page 74.



**Great memento
of Indoc for your
midshipman!**



Help Us Support the NY Chapter!

A motion was passed at the October 5 Parents' Meeting that each Colorado family would donate \$15 to support the New York Metropolitan Parents' Club for all they do on campus. They support all the Academy students – not just the New York students – with ice cream socials, a holiday party, Christmas tree, finals week snacks, etc. Additionally, members of the New York Parents' Club have offered any assistance needed in the event any of our midshipmen become ill while at school. Contributions are voluntary, but please consider how much this club does for the entire regiment! Please send your check to our Club Treasurer, Peggy Kirchner, P.O. Box 683, Indian Hills, CO 80454. Our Colorado Parents' Club is challenging all the other Distinguished Chapters to have 100 percent participation in this important endeavor!

Parents' Club Membership and Fundraisers

We encourage all USMMA parents to become members of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club. Membership dues are \$20/year and should be mailed to Peggy Kirchner, at the above address. The Parents' Club is a wonderful support group for new parents as well as parents of upperclassmen.

Our Parents' Club is selling lapel pins/tie tacks with the combination US/USMMA flags for \$4.00 each, or three for \$10.00. Postage is included in the price. Proceeds from the sale of fundraiser items benefit the USMMA Colorado Parents' Association.

To order, send your check or money order made payable to "USMMA Parents' Club of Colorado" to:

Pat Sercel
850 Point of the Pines Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

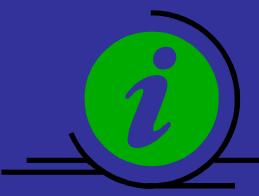
An interesting note on our flag pins....At the USMMA 60th Anniversary celebration, one of our Colorado Midshipmen presented one to Andrew Card, White House Chief of Staff. An additional pin was given to Mr. Card, with the request that it be presented to the President. Keep your eyes peeled during televised Presidential events. Perhaps one of us will spot our flag pin adorning the lapel or tie of George W. Bush!

Where in the World is Waldo?

A Report on our Colorado Midshipmen at Sea

Eric Cramer (2006) departed on October 31 aboard the Sealand Liberator. His ports of call will be Los Angeles; Oakland; Dutch Harbor, Alaska; Yokohama and Nagoya, Japan; Busan, South Korea; and Shanghai, China.

Adam Hall (2005) arrived back from Djibouti, East Africa on August 19th, at San Jacinto Port in Houston. He had been on this journey since June 9th. The temperatures in Africa were in the 120-130 degree range, and Adam seldom got off the ship. On August 23rd, Adam was assigned to the Sealand Achiever, and headed to Rotterdam in the Netherlands, then Bremerhaven, Germany, and Felixstowe, England. He has completed his second trip and arrived back in



Houston on October 27, having completed his 300 days. What a relief! (If not for Adam, at least for his parents!)

Mike Mikulak (2006) is currently in the Pacific returning from Busan, South Korea. He is expected in Los Angeles on November 12, and will immediately return to the Academy. His parents, Dee and Pat, have enjoyed his e-mail and brief notes of some pretty interesting experiences in the Orient, and in riding out typhoons at sea. Although, they will not see him until the Christmas holidays, they are very eager for him to be back on U.S. soil.

Kim Sercel (2006) completed two tours with APL, with port calls in Alaska, Japan, Korea, and multiple ports in China. Following that, she worked in Alameda, CA, on a pre-positioned ship. She returned to King's Point on November 7th.

Adam VandenBoogaard (2006) is home for Fall Break after completing 3 tours on the M/V Endurance, with stops at New York, Norfolk, Charleston, and then Salerno, Cagliari and LaSpezia, Italy; Haifa, Israel; Izmir and Kumpourt, Turkey; and Alexandria, Egypt. When asked what his favorite country was, he replied emphatically, "The U.S.A.!" He will return to the Academy for the Winter trimester on November 11.

Our Academic Stars!

Congratulations to Eric Cramer for receiving the Academic Gold Star for the 3rd trimester.

Congratulations to Adam VandenBoogaard for receiving the Academic Silver Star for the 2nd trimester.

All Service Academy Ball

The All Service Academy Ball will be held on December 27, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center, 7800 East Tufts Avenue, Denver, CO, 80237. Parents need to be on the lookout for their invitations. The midshipmen will receive a separate invitation, sent directly to the Academy. This is a great opportunity to spend an evening with your midshipman in full dress uniform. All of the other Academy's are represented as well. RSVPs must be received no later than December 18. The Parents' Club covers the ticket cost for all midshipmen. Captain Van Oss, Director, Department of Professional Development and Career Services (Shipboard Training) will be attending. We'd like to see a good turnout from our Colorado delegation! Dress for the event is formal and the bowtie is preferred for male midshipmen.

Good Information – Keep on Hand

Mail will get to your midshipman more quickly if addressed as follows:

M/N _____, Class Year

USMMA, Box _____

300 Steamboat Road

Kings Point, NY 11024

Friendly Taxi (516-487-8000) is the most cost-effective taxi service to and



from Great Neck (about \$30 from LaGuardia, including tip). It is helpful to have the directions with you, as many taxi drivers are unfamiliar with the Academy. We suggest that your midshipman cut out and carry the following directions:

FROM LA GUARDIA OR JFK AIRPORTS

Long Island Expressway (I-495 East) to Exit 32 (Little Neck Parkway). North on Little Neck Parkway.

Go about 3/4 mile on Little Neck Parkway and turn right on Northern Blvd/25A.

Proceed east through village of Little Neck and many traffic lights to intersection with Great Neck Road. (There is a Shell gas station on the right, a four-story, brown office building on the left, and two left turn lanes here. You want to be in the left turn lanes.)

Turn left on Great Neck Road and continue straight at second traffic light (Great Neck Road bears to the right).

Continuing northwest, the road is now Bayview Avenue which changes names further to West Shore Road.

At end of West Shore Road, turn right onto Kings Point Road.

Left at the next stop sign onto Steamboat Road to Academy front gate.

Both Midshipmen and parents can reach the Midshipman of the Day (MOD) at (516) 773-5282. This number is to be used by parents for emergencies only. Any M/N who will be late reporting to the Academy must report via telephone to the MOD prior to their assigned report time.



“Acta Non Verba”

A wonderful book of photographs by Mary Jane Fuschetto (mother of Angelina, class of 2001), “Acta Non Verba” is available through the Academy bookstore for \$39 plus shipping. True to the USMMA motto, the words in the text are few. The 129 photographs of Academy life speak more memorably than words. For family and friends it is a chance to see what they may not experience. For midshipmen, it is an opportunity to remember past challenges and successes.

If we act quickly, we can receive a quantity discount through our Colorado Parents’ Club. Call Judy Cramer as soon as possible to order the book for \$31.00. Delivery will be in time for Christmas.

Sad News

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Nicholas Calderelli of Allentown, PA, a member of the Academy’s class of 2007, early in October. Nick was killed in an automobile accident involving a drunk driver. Please keep Nick’s family, the USMMA class of 2007, and all affected by this tragedy in your thoughts and prayers! The Colorado Parents’ Club sent condolences to the family and a donation to the Nicholas Caldarelli Scholarship Fund. Cards may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. George Calderelli, 1971 RIVERBEND Road, Allentown, PA, 18103.

New Members to Add to Roster

We have a few additions for our Colorado Midshipmen Roster. Dee Mikulak will be sending out an updated roster of midshipmen, and an updated parents’ listing, both via e-mail and hard copy. Please welcome: Edward Hine and Nathan Stabile, 2005; Jordan Brown, 2006; and Alicia Nix, 2007, and their



parents to our Colorado Parents' Club. The families of M/N Hine and M/N Brown are not new to the Academy, but are new to Colorado.

USMMA in “The Princeton Review”

The USMMA is one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review, the New York-based company known for its test-prep and education services. The Academy is one of 351 colleges featured in the 2004 edition of The Princeton Review's annual college guide, “The Best 351 Colleges.” The Academy is described as a place of “excellent leadership training” with “small classes” and “dedicated professors.” The Academy is ranked tenth among all colleges surveyed in the category, “Professors Bring Material to Life” and fourth in the category “Relations With the Local Community are Good.”

WANTED: Historian

The Colorado Parents' Club is in desperate need of an historian! Our Club has come a long way in a short period of time, and it would be beneficial for all of us, if someone would volunteer to keep a scrapbook for us. The scrapbook would be a way for all of us to look back on our accomplishments as a club, and would also help incoming parents and club officers.

Parents' Club Meeting Minutes

A Parents' Club Meeting was held Sunday, October 5, 2003. Many thanks to Judy and Jack Cramer for opening their home for the meeting. Jack and Judy extend their sincere appreciation for the GREAT turnout! Minutes of the meeting, provided by Club Secretary Dee Mikulak, follow:

The October USMMA Colorado Parents' Meeting was held at the home of Jack and Judy Cramer.

The Co-Presidents, Ann Hall and Judy Cramer, shared much of the detail from the President's meeting held just before Parents' Weekend in September. The academy's firm stand on not tolerating any sexual harassment was discussed at length. The key points are 1) issues will be addressed and handled quickly, and 2) secondary offenses will not be charged until the sexual harassment issue is dealt with and closed. This is clearly a different approach than the other academies. Neither the Coast Guard nor the USMMA are being investigated for the handling of sexual harassment issues.

Some things to remember and help our children stay focused:

- Keep licenses updated and be sure to send notifications to MARAD. This is easy to forget after graduation.
- Sea Project – Don't get behind! This is very important towards meeting graduation requirements.
- Internship – Two week requirement any time after the first sea duty.
- Primary goal is ACADEMICS; Secondary goal is sports and extra-curricular activities
- Required Sea Days: Deck=330, Engineer=300

Colorado received a “Distinguished Chapter Award”. This is based on our involvement as a group. Activities are assigned a point system and we met the point criteria! This includes things like picnics, newsletters, fund raisers, alumni club, historian, etc. As our group gets larger and parents get more involved, we can continue to receive this award.

Thanks for all your help to date – there will be more committees and fun to be had!

Colorado All Service Academy Ball - The ball in 2004 will be co-hosted by USMMA and Coast Guard. All parents wanting to get involved now will certainly make next year much easier. Please contact either Judy Cramer or Ann Hall to find out how to sign up and share your talents. The ball in 2003 will be held December 27, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center @ 7800 East Tufts Avenue, Denver CO 80237. (303) 779-1234. Invitations will be sent out soon. Please note, the All Service Academy Ball is considered formal and the bow tie is preferred for the male midshipmen.

If your son/daughter gets ill while at the Academy, please contact Ann Hall. She can get you in touch with a NY USMMA parent to check in on your child, and keep you informed of their health and well being.

If you have to get in touch with your child, you can go through 1) Midshipmen of the Day (24-hour service at 1-516-773-5282) or 2) Chaplain (1-516-773-5239). The MOD is the preferred choice.

There was a motion, passed for each family to donate \$15 in order that Colorado USMMA Parents may support the NY Metro USMMA Parents group for all they do on campus (ice cream socials, etc.) for all students – not just NY students. This is voluntary. Please send your check to Peggy Kirchner.

The meeting was adjourned and Fall Boodle Bags were assembled. The boodle bags were packaged by company and sent to a plebe for dissemination. There was a bag included for Adm. Stewart and Shirley Anthony (Parent Coordinator).

Winter Boodle Bags will be coordinated by Pat Sercel.

We have 2 new families moving to Colorado. Rosters will be updated and distributed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diana Mikulak, Secretary

The next Parents' Club meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 15th. Captain Van Oss, Director, Department of Professional Development and Career Services (Shipboard Training) will be in attendance, and will be able to answer the many questions you must have. Details on time and location will be provided at a later date. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

Colorado M/N Sports & Activities

On August 21, 2003, the Regimental Band participated in the fifth annual Quebec City International Festival of Military Bands. The band changed the guard on Friday, August 22, at the Citadelle de Quebec, the only circular fortifications remaining in North America. This prestigious ceremony is usually only performed by the Royal 22nd Regiment's own band. Also on Friday, the band moved to Expo Quebec, a large fair in town, for a street performance. On Saturday, the band again changed the guard at the Citadelle de Quebec. This performance, however, was cut short due to weather. Saturday evening brought all twelve bands together under the roof of the Colisee Pepsi. This concert featured music from each of the five nations represented (United States, Canada, Belgium, Sweden, and The Netherlands), and lasted over two hours. The closing parade on Sunday included each of the twelve bands playing individual selections along the parade route, then joining together at the Chateau Frontenac for a final concert.



A huge thank you to all of the parents who supported our Midshipmen and Parents' Club by attending Parents' Weekend in September! Thanks also to all of those that contributed goodies and/or time to the Fall boodle bags!



Here's a look at all of our midshipmen (minus the ones at sea). Thanks to Judy Cramer and Peter Myers (2004) for pulling this off!



Newsletter Input

The next edition of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club newsletter will be published in February 2004. 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 (lea@csd.net) or regular mail (1127 Venice Street, Longmont, CO 80501) any time between now and February 1.