



USMMA COLORADO

August 2004

REMINDER:
Deadline for Registration has been extended to August 27, 2004! Parent's Weekend registration and payment MUST be received no later than August 27, 2004. Don't miss this event of a lifetime!

DO YOU HAVE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR PARENT'S WEEKEND YET?

CHECKLIST FOR PARENT'S WEEKEND:

- ✓ **\$CASH\$**
- ✓ **Walking Shoes**
- ✓ **Hat**
- ✓ **Sunscreen**
- ✓ **Water Bottle**
- ✓ **CAMERA**

Survival Tips – Parents' Weekend

We hope all Plebe Candidate parents are planning to attend Parents' Weekend at Kings Point, Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12. It is so important to the kids! Not to mention fun and interesting for parents!! Who can't wait to see their Plebe in uniform? If you are not able to attend, be sure your Plebe has someone to leave Kings Point with - a roommate or friend, another Colorado family, or a sponsor family. Let Ann Hall or Judy Cramer know if your son or daughter will be alone, and they will be sure to stop by for a visit.

Book your hotel and Kings Point activities NOW. Hotels and events sell out quickly!! If you have tried booking a hotel by phone, and find it is sold out, try online at their website or at a site such as www.hotels.com. The websites often have reserved blocks of rooms not available by phone.

It can be HOT at Kings Point in September. Remember to wear a hat, comfortable walking shoes, and sunscreen, and carry a water bottle. Finding bottled water for sale can be a bit tricky at Kings Point!! **Remember your camera!!** You will be allowed into the barracks. Pictures of those well-organized quarters are priceless!! Find out your Plebe's schedule for the day and arrange a meeting place. The lawn by the grinder (asphalt area where they form up) or the flagpole are good areas. The Midshipmen will sit together at Beat Retreat, Acceptance Ceremonies and at the football game. Be sure to arrive early at all events, as seating is first-come, first-served. Try to make Colors (flag raising) one morning. This is a very memorable event. If your Plebe is agreeable, you can attend one classroom session. Tour the Simulator and the Kings Pointer if you have the opportunity! Be sure to visit the ship's store and all the state parents' organizations tables where great Kings Point logo stuff will be for sale. Most of the state parents' organization tables take cash only; the ship's store takes cash, checks and credit cards.

All Colorado parents will meet at 3:00 p.m. Friday, September 10, at the Colorado Parent's Club fundraiser table on the green near the flagpole. Maps of the campus are available on the Academy website, and can also be picked up as you enter the grounds. This is a great opportunity for Plebe parents to get to know one another, and to pick the brains of the "veteran" parents!

Our Colorado parents will once again be selling flag pins (US on one side, USMMA on the other) as a fundraiser. If you plan to attend Parent's Weekend, please contact Judy Cramer to sign up for an hour or so to man the booth! This is a great opportunity to support your Parent's Club, and can be accomplished while your M/N is in class, or otherwise occupied! Be sure to stop by the booth to visit and buy a pin. Show that pin off to other parents and direct them to our table!! This is our major fundraiser of the year; we hope to sell 500 pins.



**DON'T MISS THE
PARENT'S
MEETING AT 3PM
ON FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10,
AT KING'S
POINT!**



The Acceptance Day Ceremony, as part of the Regimental Parade on Saturday morning will mark the acceptance of the Class of 2008 into the Regiment. They will also be sworn in to the United States Naval Reserve. Friday night's BEAT RETREAT shouldn't be missed. This is an ancient military ceremony dating to 1554 when drum beatings were used to summon outlying troops back to camp. The Kings Point Beat Retreat will showcase the talent of more than 200 midshipmen, including the Regimental Band, the Color Guard and the Star Spangled Banner Brigade. The guest appearance by the Pipe and Drum Corps of the Nassau County Police Department will be great! Arrive early; seats go quickly!

Your plebe will be able to leave Kings Point with you after the football game on Saturday, returning on Sunday evening. Don't plan too many activities. Experience tells us he or she will want to sleep, visit with you, eat junk food and shop a little. Remember how few items he or she was allowed to take in July? After Acceptance, your Plebe will be allowed a few more creature comforts. Be prepared to haul some "stuff" (especially their favorite civilian clothes!) from home, as well as shop while in NY. He or she may need more personal hygiene items, school supplies, a fan, possibly an iron. If you can obtain a street map of Long Island ahead of time, your driving will be much easier. The Long Island (New York City to Montauk) and Nassau County maps have been invaluable! They are available at most gas stations and hotel gift shops, as well as at www.hagstrommap.com) A cell phone or calling card is a great idea - your Plebe will want to spend some time calling friends and family. Be sure to return your Plebe to Kings Point on time! Traffic can be a problem; we recommend dinner near the Academy.

Be sure to meet up with other Colorado parents on Friday at 3:00 for a brief Parent's Meeting. Judy Cramer and Ann Hall will be at Kings Point Thursday through Sunday. You can reach Judy at Kings Point on her cell phone at 303-810-4960 or Ann on hers at 719-661-4623. If you have any questions about Parents' Weekend, be sure to call Ann or Judy. Have a great time with your Plebe at Kings Point!

DRIVING TO THE ACADEMY:

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.

Parents, please note this change to classroom visitation requirements. From 0800-1440 on Friday, September 10, all classrooms will be open for visitation on a "space available" basis. This is your opportunity to visit the classrooms and observe the learning atmosphere at King's Point. Obtain your

midshipman's class schedule and have him/her ask the instructor if there is space for you to attend.

Additionally, there has been a change to the liberty termination times for Parent's Weekend!

1800 – Liberty terminates for the Class of 2008

1900 – Liberty terminates for the Class of 2007

2000 – Liberty terminates for the Class of 2006

2100 – Liberty terminates for the Class of 2005

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.

Welcome to our Plebes!!

Christopher Barber, 4th Co

Callie Beeler, 3rd Co

Robert (Duncan) Gills, 2nd Co

Brennen Halbach, 3rd Co

Kristen Hatton, 3rd Co

Eric Lowe, 3rd Co

Kurt Mast, 4th Co

George Matthews, 1st Co

Brittany Rossi, 3rd Co

Per Rychecky, 1st Co

Stephen Spindler, 4th Co

Robert Tenenholz, 1st Co

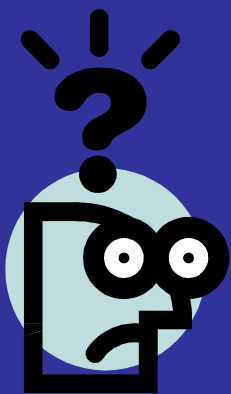
Dylan Tumblin, 3rd Co

David Vasquez, 4th co

Helpful Hints to Plebes

(Compliments of former Plebes!)

Now that you have survived Indoc, and begin your Plebe year at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, things in your life are going to change! In case you haven't already noticed, (from the time spent in Indoc and as the first few weeks of class commence) this is no ordinary college. Yes, while your friends and family will be home carrying on with their day-to-day lives, your struggle through four years of difficulty has only begun. The important things to focus on are the positives; these are the things that will keep you going when it seems as if you just can't make it. Knowing that school is basically free, you are 20 minutes from the most happening city in the world, that sea year is right around the corner, and that everyone else is dealing with the



exact same circumstances as you are, should be somewhat of a relief. After Acceptance Day, when you are entitled to some freedom on weekends, and the opportunity to go out and actually enjoy your Saturdays, things begin to look up. Working through your Plebe year will be a test of your mental and physical stamina and an excellent chance for you to learn more about yourself! The academic rigors will challenge you like you have never before been. It is essential to practice good study habits and time management. If you study well in groups, get classmates from your section to meet every night for a study session; if you perform better in an individual setting, make sure you get away from all distractions and places that could potentially disrupt your study time. The most important bit of advice is to seek out the tutors. They are there to help and to guide you through your course work with a much more personal touch than your regular professors can offer in the classroom setting. This brings up another good point. DO NOT be afraid to contact your professors for extra help! You will learn that the teachers at the Academy have your personal success in their highest interest. They want to see you succeed, but this can only happen if you have the desire to learn and make it apparent and you can, by seeking their help. There are always facilities available to you, whether it be one of the academic buildings in a classroom, or down in the ACE, a good place to study can be found, you must only seek it out. Your education here is truly what you make of it. It is up to you to determine your own future and success at this school. Good luck and always remember, ACTA NON VERBA.



Annual USMMA Picnic

The USMMA Parent's Club Picnic was held at the home of Nelson and Ann Hall, 1370 Dancing Horse Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on a very rainy Sunday afternoon in June. Many thanks to Ann and Nelson for hosting this annual event. We had about 70 people, and it rained like crazy! There was standing room only in their house!

M/N Activities

Eric Cramer was an Experienced Drill Instructor (EDI), and Adam Hall and Laura Nichols were Assistant Drill Instructors (ADI's) for the indoctrination of the class of 2008. Adam won the award for Assistant Drill Instructor! Congratulations, Adam!

In other news, 2nd Company won the Honor Company award for indoc. Congratulations to all of you in 2nd Company!

Make sure you look carefully at the summer edition of the King's Pointer! It contains two articles on our Parent's Club; one on our February meeting and one on the planning for the All Service Academy Ball. Also included is a picture of the ASAB Planning Committee.

Colorado Parent's Club Officers

Co-Presidents

Ann Hall (719) 590-8819 and Judy Cramer (303) 530-5556

nelsonhall@earthlink.net and jcramer954@aol.com

Co-Secretaries



Diana Mikulak (303) 652-2442 and Dawn Cooley (970) 613-1051
kaspiffy@aol.com and Dawn.cooley@hfwholesale.com

Treasurer

Peggy Kirchner (303) 378-0791 dkirchner@aol.com

Newsletter

Lea VandenBoogaard (303) 651-3732 leav22@qwest.net and
Patty Barber (303) 740-7488 pbarber@cherrycreekschools.org

Activities Coordinator

Pat Sercel (719) 528-5156 son1wgfp@aol.com

Alumni Liaison Coordinator

Elaine Hopper (303) 307-9455 e_w_hopper@hotmail.com

Boodle Bags (October and February)

Ann Rychecky (303) 347-8979 arychecky@att.net

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A HISTORIAN AND VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH BOODLE BAGS! Please contact Ann Hall or Judy Cramer if you're interested!

Please think about what office you might be able to volunteer for next year. Our current officers will either be the parents of graduates or First Classmen next year, and will probably want to bask in that glow rather than performing all the behind the scenes work! Our Parent's Club has come a long way, and we'd like to continue to see it be successful!

Col. Dick Sargent is currently mentoring 12 candidates for the USNA/USMMA for the class of 2009. Col. and Dr. Sargent have been a great help in publicizing the maritime academies here in Colorado, and have provided invaluable assistance to prospective candidates!

Parent's Club Membership

We encourage all USMMA parents to become members of the USMMA Colorado Parent's Club. Membership dues are \$30/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

Joey Herd, 2007, finished his plebe year with a 3.2 GPA and has headed out to sea for the trimester. He's on the Green Cove, a RORO ship with an around the world route. Recently they were up and down the Eastern seaboard loading bulldozers, humvees, firetrucks, etc. at New Brunswick, Jacksonville, Charleston and Baltimore, and then headed across the Atlantic. They'll pass through the Suez Canal and then on to the Persian Gulf for offloading. From there, they'll head to Japan for onloading and then across the Pacific and through the Panama Canal. Probably some stops in the Caribbean before



returning to Baltimore.

Alicia Nix, 2007, is currently in San Francisco, with her ship due to be sent to South Korea soon. In that case, she will be re-assigned to the USSMV Greendale in Jacksonville, FL. The Greendale will circumvent the globe and will be back in November in time for Thanksgiving. Alicia will get to go through the Panama Canal, as well as many other ports of call along the way.

Adam VandenBoogaard, 2006, is once again making a Mediterranean run on a container ship. Current ports include Algeciras, Spain; Genoa, Italy and Gioia Tauro, Italy.

David Youngman, 2007, is in the midst of his first 4-month period on a ship. He's on the MV President Jackson, a diesel-powered container ship, which sails from Los Angeles to various Asian ports and the Pacific Northwest, and then returns to Los Angeles. He will also be working on a steam-powered ship before returning to Kings Point in November.

USMMA Campus News

Music Director Receives Prestigious Award

Captain Kenneth R. Force, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's Director of Music, recently received the National Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Medal of Honor.

Force was honored for his leadership, trustworthiness, service and patriotism. In addition, he was cited for making a lasting contribution to America's heritage.

A Floral Park, NY native, Force came to the Academy to head the music program in 1971 after serving as band director at Port Chester High School.

Under his leadership, the Academy's band has performed in two Macy's Thanksgiving Day parades; at the dedication of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans; at the 2002 U.S. Tennis Open; aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2 off the coast of Normandy for the 50th anniversary of D-Day; and mostly recently to welcome the Queen Mary 2 to New York City.

As a composer, Force has written "A Cantata on George Washington's Inauguration in 1789," "Dr. Martin Luther King Cantata," "First Lady March" for the 2001 visit by Hillary Rodham Clinton to the academy, and "Heroes of New York," a march dedicated to the individuals who risked their lives to save others after the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center.

Force led a successful community fight in 2000 to save the historic Kings Point former home of showman George M. Cohen from local developers. He is President of the Board of the famous 93-year-old Goldman Memorial Band, which continues to provide free summer concerts for thousands of New York metropolitan area residents. He also volunteers his services as a substance abuse counselor at Gracie Square Hospital in Manhattan.

Force was recently elected to honorary membership in the prestigious



American Bandmasters Association, a group of some 260 renowned concert band teachers and instructors. Last year, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Usdan Center.

The DAR Medal of Honor was presented to Force by Mrs. Frances T. Pattarini, the organization's New York State Regent. The DAR award was created in 1972.

Newsletter Input

The next edition of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club newsletter will be published in November 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 (leav22@qwest.net) or regular mail (1127 Venice Street, Longmont, CO 80501) any time between now and November 1. Feel free to share your Parent's Weekend stories!



Hints to Track M/N at Sea

Thanks to the Hayes family for this useful information!

This might help some of you "follow" your son or daughter. Because the ship that Ben is on is collecting weather data for NOAA we were able to figure this out.

1. Find the call sign of the ship: By clicking on the "sorted by platform name" link and finding the ship's name.

<http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/GTSP/document/codetbls/calllist.htm>

2. You can now go to this site and find the ship's location. You will need to have an approximate idea of where the ship is in the world to select the correct area to look in. The ships are identified by call signs only.

<http://www.oceanweather.com/data/>

3. For individual route tracking, this site will let you follow the ship. From this page, select Ship Search and then down to Select Specific Ship by name or call sign and you can find the one ship you are wanting to follow. (This link takes you to the Sea Land Integrity's info - I couldn't get to a more generic link.)

<http://www.sailwx.info/shiptrack/shipposition.phtml?call=wpvd>

Good luck hunting!

Parent's Club Meeting

The next local Parent's Club Meeting will be at the home of Jack and Judy Cramer, 6917 Hunter Place, Boulder, CO. It will be held on Sunday, October 3, from 2-4 p.m. We will follow the meeting with the assembly of Boodle Bags. For those of you new to Kings Point, Boodle Bags are gift bags of cookies, candy, snacks and drink mixes sent to our M/N right before finals, to help get them through study time. Please plan to bring one item (enough for 33 M/N) to include in the Boodle Bags. Anything pre-made or "just add water" works well.



Driving directions follow. If necessary, you can reach the Cramers by phone at (303) 530-5556, or email at JCramer954@aol.com.

Directions from Denver (I-25 via US36)

Merge onto US 36 West
Exit onto Foothills Pkwy/CO-157N towards CU Stadium
Stay on Foothills Pkwy. It becomes CO-119 (Diagonal Hwy).
Continue on CO-119 towards Longmont.
Turn right at stoplight at N. 63rd.
Turn left onto Lookout Rd.
Go past the King Soopers shopping center.
Turn right onto Idylwild Trail.
Turn left onto Harvest Rd.
Turn right onto Hunter Place. First house on the left (6917 Hunter Place).
Please park in the driveway if possible.



From Denver or Fort Collins (via I-25)

Exit at CO-52 (exit number 235) Dacono/Fort Lupton
West on CO-52.
Stay on CO-52 approximately 10 miles. It is also called Mineral Road. You will be heading west through farmland. You will think you are lost.
Turn left at N. 79th Street. (If you miss it, you will cross CO-119 (Diagonal Hwy. Turn around at IBM, cross back over the CO-119, and turn right on N. 79th)
Turn right onto Lookout Road.
Turn left onto Idylwild Trail.
Turn left onto Harvest Road.
Turn right onto Hunter Place. First house on the left (6917 Hunter Place).
Please park in the driveway if possible.