



USMMA COLORADO

May 2005

Visit our Colorado Parent's Club website at: www.usmmaparents.com



Welcome Aboard Picnic 2005

- Who:** All USMMA Plebe Candidates, Midshipmen and Families
When: Sunday, June 26th, 2005
Where: Home of Nelson and Ann Hall (Adam, Class of 2006)
1370 Dancing Horse Drive, Colorado Springs (directions below)
RSVP: Ann Hall 719-590-8819

This is a great opportunity for you to meet the other new candidates and their families, as well as our Midshipmen who will be happy to answer questions and share their academy experiences and sea stories!!

AGENDA

1:00 - 2:15 Parents Meeting for all current Midshipmen and families

2:30 - 4:30 Welcome Party, Everyone

Hors d'oeuvres, dessert and drinks will be provided

Directions:

I-25 to Colorado Springs

Ext #149 - Woodmen Road, go West

At the 2nd light, Woodmen turns off to the right - continue on Woodmen (approx 2.3 miles)

Turn left on Carlson

Turn left on Dancing Horse Drive (first street), 2nd house on the left

SEE YOU THERE!!

The USMMA Parent's Club Picnic will once again be held at the home of Nelson and Ann Hall, 1370 Dancing Horse Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Sunday, June 26, 2005, from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for the incoming class of 2009 and



their parents to have their questions answered and concerns addressed by the current Midshipmen and their parents. It's also a great time for the class of 2009 to meet one another prior to Indoctrination. It appears that we have a large turnout from Colorado again this year: 14 plebe candidates!

Current Midshipmen: Please plan to bring an hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share. Also, Ann has requested that we RSVP to her with how many from each family will attend. This will help greatly with food and beverage planning!

Look for your invitation in the mail soon!

Welcome, Class of 2009!

Welcome to the USMMA Class of 2009!

Benjamin Arnett, Gunnison

Kalyn Badger, Colorado Springs

Joseph Bixby, Parker

Andrew Booth, Castle Rock

Darin Coleman, Grand Junction

Ben Crom, Colorado Springs

Bryan Day, Arvada

Jonathan Dufault, Colorado Springs

Jessica Fischer, Deer Trail

Alexander Frank, Thornton (in waiver process)

Christopher Messaros, Boulder

Michael Phillips, Berthoud

Tamera Reul, Arvada

Ashley Richardson, Centennial

Matthew VandenBoogaard, Longmont (Declined appointment)

Congratulations to you all! As parents and current midshipmen, we know how stringent the application process is. We applaud your efforts, and welcome you warmly into our Colorado USMMA family!

News of your appointments has been posted on our Colorado Parents Website. Dee Mikulak will be getting in touch with our new families in the near future, if you haven't already heard from her.



2005 All Service Academy Ball

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! 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. Look for more information will in the August newsletter!

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 taking on an office and contact Ann Hall (719-590-8819) to let her know what you would be interested in doing.

We are desperately in need of a 2007 or 2008 parent for President! We are especially interested in one who will be attending Parent's Weekend at Kings Point from Thursday through Monday. We are also in need of a co-president, preferably from a different class, so both won't be leaving at the same time.

Other offices to be backfilled include Treasurer and Activities Coordinator. We are also thinking that it would be great to have a Boogie Bag Coordinator, and a Parent Representative from each class.

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF AN 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.

A huge thank you to Dee Mikulak, Judy Tumblin, Judy Cramer and Lea VandenBoogaard for assembling the June boogie bags. We received many donations of food items and some very generous cash donations. In fact, we received enough to cover the cost of postage without dipping into our Parents' Club account! Goodies included homemade cookies, tea, candy, squirt guns, macaroni and cheese, animal crackers, cheese and crackers and much more! The bags were shipped to the Academy in plenty of time for pre-final studying.

M/N Activities

Christopher Barber, 2008, will attend Platoon Leadership Corp (PLC) with the USMC/OCS program in Quantico, Virginia, during the summer of 2005.

David Vasquez, 2008, will be a Drill Instructor this summer for the incoming class of 2009.

Congratulations to Colorado Midshipmen assigned as First Rotation Midshipmen Officers for the upcoming Academic Year: **Michael Mikulak**, Regimental Operations Officer; **Kimberly Sercel**, Regimental Training Officer; **Adam Hall**, Chief Engineer, Kings Pointer; **Eric Cramer**, 1st Company Training Officer; **David Yi**, 4th Company Training Officer, and **Adam VandenBoogaard**, 1st Company Logistics Officer.



Our Academic Stars

Congratulations to our graduates, Class of 2005: Edward Hine (Georgia), Charles Orr, Nathan Stabile, and Christopher Weaver (Nevada).

Adam VandenBoogaard, 2006, received a Gold Star for academic achievement during the winter term 2004-2005 (his second sailing period sea project).



Join the AMMV Organization!

We encourage all current and former Midshipmen to become a member of the new Colorado Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV). The objectives of the organization include maintenance of our World War II legacy, pursuing veterans' status for service in all subsequent military conflicts, and the restoration of our Merchant Marine as a major maritime power. All active, retired and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (including Merchant Mariners and USN Armed Guard), U.S. Maritime Service (including cadets), their direct family members and certain U.S. Public Service members are eligible to join. To ensure continuity of purpose, recruitment from several generations is emphasized.

National dues for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2005, are \$15.00. Membership will entitle you to receive the excellent AMMV quarterly magazine. If interested, please call or email F.O. (Clarke) Valles for an application form. Clarke is a USMM WWII veteran, and can be reached at (303) 377-5716, or clarkeandlou@juno.com.

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.

Two-year associate memberships are offered to other family members (such as grandparents), friends of Colorado midshipmen, and USMMA alumni and alumni parents.

Additionally, thanks to Webmaster, Bob Rossi, you can now pay your annual dues via credit card on our USMMA Colorado Parents website!

Where in the World is Waldo?

A Report on our Colorado Midshipmen at Sea

Ben Hayes, 2007, is on an MSC oiler, the USNS Walter S. Diehl. He met the ship in Japan and they are now somewhere in the Persian Gulf.

Communications has been quite limited. However, crossing the Equator and the stories of how this event was celebrated in the "old days" made an impression.

Alicia Nix, 2007, was aboard the USSMSC Zeus out of Pearl Harbor. After she and her shipmate reported aboard, the Captain gave everyone five days shore leave. In Hawaii! When they finally got off of the beach, the Zeus, (a US Navy



sub tender), was on a classified mission. Alicia got to go through the Panama Canal and was allowed to contact us when the Zeus reached it's home port in Norfolk, Virginia. Then it was Virginia Beach and other places for a while.

Next, she reported aboard the USSMSC Mount Baker, (a US Navy munitions ship) and sailed for parts unknown. Again another classified mission. So we have not heard from her for two weeks. She said the life aboard these Naval Ships is quite different and the food is much better than the container ship she was on last year.

Alicia and her brother Matt conspired against the Air Force, so she got to do her two weeks internship before she sailed, this time with him. Matt is the OIC of Security Forces Training & Resources at Cheyenne Mountain (NORAD) in Colorado Springs. So she spent time in the Cave with Matt and also got qualified expert on a couple of weapons. God help us all! What a special time it was for her to be mentored by her brother. We even got to have her home for a few days!

David Youngman, 2007, is currently on the USNS Laramie in the Mediterranean Sea. In June and July of 2005, he will be involved in a 6-week internship in San Diego, California at NASSCO. Following his summer internship, he will return to the sea, and then do another internship, this time 2 weeks in duration, at the Naval Air Warfare Center in Patuxant River, Maryland.

Newsletter Input

The next edition of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club newsletter will be published in August 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 and Patty Barber via email (leav22@qwest.net and pethelb@earthlink.net), fax to (303) 651-4134, or regular mail (1127 Venice Street, Longmont, CO 80501) any time between now and August 1.

Parents' Club Fundraisers

Activities Coordinator, Pat Sercel, will be selling flag pins and name badges at the Welcome Aboard Picnic in June. Pins are also available on our website, at www.usmmaparents.com.

Two fundraising additions to our website are the Sierra Trading Post and Spyderco Knives.

The Sierra Trading post is offering 5-10% of your order total to be donated to the USMMA Colorado Parent's Club, on purchases made through their link on our website. Additionally, there is a link to a coupon, valid through July 15, for 10% off all purchases over \$125.00. The Sierra Trading Post is a great source of outdoor apparel and gear.

Spyderco Knives, of Golden, is offering top quality marine and rescue knives at a greatly discounted price to our midshipmen and their families. Additionally, a portion of each order will be donated to our Parent's Club.



Parents' Weekend 2005

Parents' Weekend registration packets will be mailed sometime in July 2005. If you do not receive a packet or need an additional form, please visit the Parents Page at the USMMA website, www.usmma.edu.

Please be advised that the modest \$10.00 per person Registration Fee is MANDATORY FOR ALL ADULTS - Tickets cannot be processed without this fee which covers all administrative costs for the weekend. Refunds cannot be honored.

USMMA Campus News

USMMA Ranked Among Nation's "Best Value" Colleges

4/27/2005 - The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) is one of the nation's "best value" undergraduate institutions, according to The Princeton Review. The New York-based education services company chose the USMMA as one of the 81 schools it recommends in the 2006 edition of its book, "America's Best Value Colleges" (Random House/Princeton Review, \$15.95), now on sale at many bookstores.

The book is a guide to schools with outstanding academics and low costs. (Tuition at the USMMA, a federal service academy, is borne by the federal government in exchange for a service commitment following graduation. Specified student fees do apply.)

The Princeton Review selected the schools for the book based on data obtained from administrators at more than 350 colleges and surveys of students attending them. The Princeton Review used over 30 factors, balancing academics with cost, in evaluating the colleges. The result: The 81 schools selected for the book represent great college education deals, according to the Princeton Review editors.

The USMMA also appears in the college rankings of the Princeton Review's "The Best 351 Colleges: 2005 Edition."

The Academy is operated by the Maritime Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Visit our Colorado Parent's Club website at: www.usmmaparents.com

