

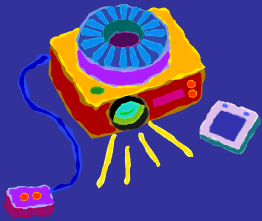


USMMA COLORADO

February 2006

Co Presidents: Carol Mast 303-271-0069
cpmast@comcast.net

& Judy Tumblin 303-678-1181
beaglescout@comcast.net



“Sea Year Explained” By Capt Van Oss

Our next parents meeting will be held February 12 and Captain Van Oss will be there to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the Sea Year program that all midshipmen will experience. You should have received the notice in your email. If you did not please contact Dawn Cooley Dawn.Cooley@hfwholesale.com. She might have the wrong email address for you.

Tentative Meeting Agenda:

2:00 PM Captain Van Oss – Sea Duty presentation

2:30 Questions and Answers

3:00 Parents Meeting

Minutes

Treasurer Report

Old Business

– Fund Raisers

New Business

– By Laws

– Fund Raisers

– All Service Academy Ball committee

– Open club positions

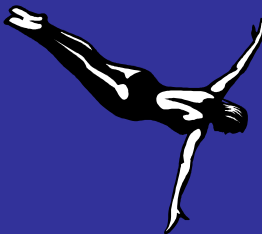
– Next meeting and location

See you there!

M/N Activities

SWIMMING

For 9 meets this season, through the end of January, Sarah Christenson took 1 first place and 6 second place awards on the 1 meter board (low board). Some of those meets did not have 3 meter board competitions. Of those that did, she took second place honors three times. Very often the 1st place honors on both boards are taken by another woman Mariner who has now qualified for State competition. At one of the meets before Christmas Sarah was voted Mariner of the Meet. This is a designation voted on by the entire team, both swimming and diving, for the person who contributed most to the meet. It is rare for a diver to be awarded that distinction because there are many swimmers that score more total team points than the divers do. The end of season championships will be held over the weekend of February 17th.





LACROSSE

The **Kings Point Men's Lacrosse team** will be in Colorado Springs over Spring break to play two of the top lacrosse colleges in the country. The team arrives Thursday March 10 and returns to the academy on the Monday morning red eye (Sunday night). They will be playing both games at Colorado College. Mark your calendars and come cheer them on! Kurt Mast, is the only player from Colorado.

Saturday March 11, at 2:30 PM They play Colorado College

Sunday March 12, at noon they play Whittier

Our Colorado Parents organization along with the USMMA Lacrosse Parents organization are sponsoring a casual feeding frenzy for the team, coaches, guests and those of us who want to show their support. Usually when they have their games back east the parents group shows up with food ala tailgate party immediately after the game. Ours is scheduled for after the Saturday game. Most of the rest of their time is already scheduled.

Does anyone know of a good place to have this party indoors or out? Pray for good weather if we have it outdoors. We also need some volunteers to help get the food, drinks, etc. All the stuff that makes for a great party. We estimate that there will be about 50 to 60 people including fans and friends.

Contact Carol Mast of Golden if you can help or donate or can arrange for a location. She is the point person on this shindig. You can reach her at cpmast@comcast.net or 303-271-0069 and please, leave a message.

Our Academic Stars

Three cheers for our midshipmen!!

Kalyn Badger was awarded a Gold Star for academics and has about a 3.75 GPA at this time. Her parents, Mike and Carla Badger, have decided that she really looks good in gold!

Jonathan Dufalt (class of '09) also received an academic "Gold Star" for the first term and was honored at the annual Academic Awards Ceremony at the Officers' Club in Melville Hall on Dec. 14. Read more about Jonathan in the Campus News section of this newsletter.

Here's another top notch student. Alex Frank received a gold academic start this term as well.

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.

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

Dylan Tumblin has completed his first sea duty; he was on the cargo ship Horizon Spirit. He did 3 legs on the same ship going from Tacoma, Oakland, Hawaii, Guam, Hong Kong, Taiwan and back to Tacoma. He has received his next assignment and will be shipping out March 7th on the Maersk Missouri cargo ship. This ship sails out of Charleston, Norfolk, Newark, Algeciras, Suez Canal, Jeddah, Salalah, Jebel Ali Dubai, Jawaharial Nehru, Salalah, and Suez Canal back to Charleston. He has accepted an internship for Detyens Shipyard in Charleston from August 29 until October 21.

Kurt Mast also finished his first trip. He had one round trip on an integrated Tug and Barge bulk sugar boat named the Maku Pohu from San Francisco to Hawaii. Then he flew to Cape Canaveral and spent a few weeks in port on the M/V Ascension before heading to sea. The captain deftly skirted 3 hurricanes. Two off the coast of Florida and one on the way back. That trip went from Florida through the Caribbean, down to Ascension Island south of the equator, up between the Canary Islands, to Poland and Sweden and back again.

Kristen Hatton is about to come home from her first Sea Duty. She has been on the Virginian, a MSC ship that delivered munitions and supplies to Kuwait. She has had a pretty good time, working with the 2 women mates and one is even a KP grad!

David Vasquez (2008) and Christopher Barber (2008) are about to return from their first Sea Duty aboard the Spica. USNS Spica is one of Military Sealift Command's five Combat Stores Ships and is part of the 36 ships in the Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force.

Newsletter Input

The next edition of the USMMA Colorado Parents' Club Newsletter will be published in mid-May. If you have any ideas for articles, Pictures to include, or any information that would be beneficial to parents or midshipmen, please foreware them to Patty Barber via email patricia_barber@comcast.net

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.

We still have 8 USMMA flags left. Buy one to have flying when you midshipman returns home for spring break! Only \$50 for this top quality flag. Judy Tumblin will have them at the next parents meeting.

USMMA In the News

2 Kings Point middies Super Bowl-bound

BY OLIVIA WINSLOW
STAFF WRITER

January 26, 2006, 10:23 PM EST

Two midshipmen from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point are to be part of pre-game ceremonies at Super Bowl XL in Detroit Feb. 5, the first time the academy has been asked to participate in this high-profile event.

"To have merchant marine officers to be recognized on such a national level, and to let people know about it, is well worth anything," said freshman Paul Fitzpatrick, 19, of Marietta, Ga.

He and fellow freshman **Jonathan Dufault**, 20, of Colorado Springs, both drummers in the academy's Regimental Band, are scheduled to play the drum cadence and accompany the Joint Services Color Guard as it marches onto the field for the national anthem.

"I think it's awesome to say I'm representing this academy" at such a major event, Dufault said.

Midshipman Timothy Kennedy, 22, of Hillsborough, N.J., a senior who is the regimental bandmaster, will accompany the two drummers to the Super Bowl. "It's a good opportunity for us to get out there and be noticed," he said.

Capt. Kenneth Force, director of music at the academy, said the academy's band has played on the national stage before -- presidential inaugurations, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Cotton Bowl, to name a few events -- but merchant marines "often feel left out" at events featuring Joint Armed Forces branches.

At the Super Bowl last year, for instance, Force said there was no merchant marine presence on a joint armed forces choir that sang the national anthem. He noted the Merchant Marine Academy is one of the five U.S. service academies, along with West Point, Annapolis, the Coast Guard and Air Force academies.

Force said almost 8,000 merchant marines died at sea during World War II, and that "our students are involved on the high seas right now and they're in harm's way." Force "worked behind the scenes" to make it known the merchant marine community was upset about last year's Super Bowl exclusion, he said.

"It was brought to our attention and we're moving forward with their inclusion," said NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy of the Merchant Marine Academy. "The NFL has a long tradition of supporting our military members."

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Local Resident Named Midshipman Officer at Federal Academy

Midshipman First Class Kimberly Sercel of Colorado Springs, Colorado, was selected to serve the spring term as the First Battalion Commander at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY. This position follows her previous duties last fall, as Regimental Training Officer for the entire regiment at Kings Point.

As the commander, Sercel is responsible for the overall supervision of the two companies that make up First Battalion. She is in direct command of approximately 450 midshipmen; from plebes, the Academy's freshmen, to the first class, the Academy's senior class. Sercel manages a six person staff to relay the Regimental Commander's intent, and oversees training, berthing and academic management, sea year preparedness, liberty, restriction and mast policies and procedures, among other duties.

A 2001 graduate of Air Academy High School in Colorado, Sercel is majoring in Logistics. At the annual awards ceremony held Dec 14, in Melville Hall at the Kings Point Officer's Club, she was awarded the Dean's List Gold Star, for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or better during the first term of the 2005-06 academic year. Her spring term extracurricular activities will also include captain of the Mariner's Women's Intercollegiate Swimming and Softball teams.

The daughter of Jonathan and Patricia Sercel of Colorado Springs, she received her nomination to Kings Point from Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell, (R) Colorado.

The United States Merchant Marine Academy, founded in 1943, is a federal institution operated by the Maritime Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Its mission is to train young men and women from across the nation as merchant marine and naval reserve officers and awards them a Bachelor of Science degree. Midshipmen are required to spend one year of the Academy's four year program training at sea aboard U.S commercial vessels. Midshipmen must then pass a comprehensive third mate written examination, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard, for licensing as a deck officer, QMED (Qualified Member of the Engine Department), or engineering officer.

