



USMMA COLORADO PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2008

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Since this is our first newsletter of 2008, we hope that your year is going well; spring is just around the corner and then comes graduation for the class of 2008. Our holidays certainly went by quickly and we were only missing our midshipman, David, who has been across the north Atlantic twice and is presently headed for the Middle East (sandbox!). For those of you who have a midshipman at sea, we certainly hope that things are going well. We are starting to realize that glitches, some small and some large, are part of sea duty.

The All Service Academy Ball was very successful. For those of you who attended, it was a very special evening for our midshipmen, alumnae, and families. We want to take this time to thank Momi Dufault, Judy Tumblin, and Carla VanDenBerg for their endless hours of work on the ball. They attended many meetings and were busy preparing up to the last minute so that the evening went smoothly. As many of you know, the ball in 2008 will be co-hosted by the USMMA parent's association (a.k.a., "us") and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy parent's association. Planning for the 2008 ball has already started and we will need LOTS of enthusiastic volunteers to pull it off. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work" and we hope you will all consider helping on this special event.

Our February 9th meeting of the parent's association was held at Tom and Linda Matthew's home in Castle Rock. We were very fortunate to have two World War II veterans join us. They were Engineers Mate First Class Curt Mast (grandfather of Kurt Mast, 08) and Master Sargent Charles Henry Seggelke (grandfather of Chris Barber, 08). They shared stories of their years of service and also answered many questions from the parents. We thank them for helping to preserve our freedom as a country and for spending the afternoon with us. Additionally, we enjoyed lunch, socializing, and a business meeting. Our next meeting will be our 'Welcome Back Picnic' in June to welcome the class of 2012. It is scheduled for June 21, 2008. Details will follow. We hope to see you all there. Have a wonderful spring!

USMMA COLORADO PARENTS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2008-2009

Our board members for 2008-2009 were elected at the February meeting. Their terms will begin at the June meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

President	Larry Jill Svoboda	David '10	303.431.7745
Co-Vice Presidents	Mike and Janice Mussler	Robert '11	303.258.7952
	Mike and Alesia Schirber	Jacob '11	970.493.3935
Secretary	Robyn Dodson-Coleman	Jerry '10	303.772.7785
Treasurer	Jeanna Ambrose (Jan. 08)	Patrick '10	719.836.9333

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Class 2010 Parents	Open		
Class 2011 Parents	Linda Anderson	Andrew '11	970.568.9258
Newsletter	Mary Jane Fuschetto	Ana '11	719.383.0797
ASAB	Momi Dufault	Jonathan '09	719.591.9533
Fundraising	Bev Halbach	Brennen '08	
		Nicholas '11	303.403.9292
Webmaster	Bob Rossi	Brittany '08	970.270.5162
Boodle Bags	Bonnie and Paul Diamond	Phililp '11	303.681.3322
Alumnae Liason	Judy Tumblin	Dylan '08	303.678.1181
Hospitality	Kerry Reul	Tamera '09	303.425.6452
Cards	Open		
Senior Gift	Open		
Membership	Open		

“TOP 10“ POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN MIDSHIPMEN GO TO SEA

Below are our current “Top Ten” we are trying to pass on to our next group of Cadets going to sea.

1. KP arranges flights from KP to assignment, assignment to assignment, assignment back to KP
USMMA CAN NOT arrange flights to homes.
2. There is NO guarantee of leave during sea period.
3. 1st time sailor goal is 110-120 commercial sea days.
4. 2nd time sailor MUST obtain the balance of days to bring commercial sea time to 300 days.
5. Chain of command for cadets is through the ATR:
ALL MATTERS REGARDING THE SCHOOL OR SEA ASSIGNMENT MUST GO VIA THE ATR
6. Work day is 8 hours/day, 7 days/week, 2 to 3 hours spent on sea project; cadet turns to for all extra-ordinary routines (docking, undocking, anchoring, etc.).
7. Sea Year Guide has answers to most questions:
READ THE SEA YEAR GUIDE! prior to contacting ATR with question.
8. CADETS ARE TREATED AS ADULTS while under our authority and are expected to act as adults on board ships.
9. Should have a credit card during Sea Year for convenience/emergencies.
10. From Dental Department: must have had the approved dental appointments and be cleared to go to sea.
When on their Sea Year, the cadet’s primary point of contact is the ATR. They are each assigned an ATR that follows them throughout both sea years. Each cadet is given a card with the work and office phones of all ATRs and me. Their ATR should be contacted first in all cases, routine and emergency. E-mail is the primary method for routine communication.

If their assigned ATR is not available at the time of

their call, they should try again later that day. Also, tell them to be mindful of the day and time, especially if calling from overseas. The ATRs understand that sometimes there is only a small window of opportunity to make a call and they routinely field questions at night and on the weekends.

In the case of emergencies and we mean true emergencies, when the assigned ATR is not available the cadet should call one of the other ATRs. Since the cadets’ definition of an emergency is sometimes different than the academy’s, for example: wanting to know your flight arrangements over a week before arrival in port **is not** an emergency— However, arriving in port and not having received your flights **is** an emergency. By now the phone system may have already been upgraded so it can automatically help find an available ATR in an emergency.

The cadets are given a code word to include in a conversation or e-mail if they have a problem that they cannot discuss without fear of someone overhearing. This is not something they should use lightly because it sets gears in motion that move quickly to remove the cadet from that ship.

Lastly, we don’t mean that they should complain if they’re being told something they don’t like and they want to see if “Daddy” will say okay when “Mommy” said no—as parents, I’m sure you are all aware of this “oldest trick in the book.” The ATRs are dealing with hundreds of cadets and sometimes there are misunderstandings of intents or desires. Tell your students that ATRs appreciate it most when a cadet comes out and asks for something directly instead of beating around the bush and expecting them to figure it out.



Kurt Mast '08 on MSC ship somewhere between Australia, Singapore and Japan.

The United States Merchant Marine Academy men's swimming and diving team won the school's first Landmark Conference Championship in any sport on Sunday evening at the O'Hara Hall Natatorium. The Mariners accumulated 633 points. [Nicholas Halbach](#) was named the Landmark Conference Diver of the Year while [Sean Tedesco](#), [Kevin Ryan](#) and [Olga Wojcik](#) earned Landmark Conference Coaching Staff of the Year honors after leading the club to its ninth straight conference title.



Nicholas Halbach Courtesy of USMMA Swim Team Website

P.S. This must run in the family. Nicholas' mother, Bev Halbach, was 2 time national diving champion!! Gotta love those genes!

BOODLE BAGS HAVE BEEN SENT!!

A "Boodle Bag Assembly Party" was held at Jill and Larry Svoboda's house on Monday, February 18th. We gathered at 6:30 for drinks and snacks and to 'divvy up' the jobs. Those attending were Carol Mast (Kurt, '08), Robyn Coleman-Dodson (Jerry, '10), Paul and Bonnie Diamond (Philip, '11), Linda Matthews (George, '08), and Carla VanDenBerg (Aaron, '10). We had a great time talking about our plebes and midshipmen while drooling over the chocolates, slim-jims, hot-cocoa, and other snacks we couldn't eat. We had 13 boxes packed, sealed, and addressed by 7:50. It was a great time and as the saying goes....."many hands DO make light work"! Linda Matthews has graciously volunteered to coordinate the spring boodle bags so please contact her if you would like to help. You can reach her at 303-688-6495 or LindaLMathews@msn.com

USMMA ACADEMY ALERT SYSTEM FOR PARENTS

The United States Merchant Marine Academy has established a cell phone and email alert system for parents to inform you of any developing campus emergencies. This system will supplement a separate on-campus system for midshipmen, faculty and staff. Please read the letter from the Superintendent at http://www.usmma.edu/parents/AAS_Letter_from_SUPT.pdf

You can register for the system by going to <http://www.e2campus.com/my/usmma2/signup.htm> After registering for your cell phone OR email alert option, if you want both email and cell phone, go to

<http://www.e2campus.com/my/usmma2/index.htm>, Login using your newly created Username and Password then ADD the additional contact info under services (second tab on the top of page)



NEXT PARENTS MEETING

Our next meeting is the Welcome Back Picnic for all midshipmen and their families and candidates for the class of 2012. It will be on June 21, 2008. The time and place are yet to be determined.

Stay Tuned!!