



# Colorado Newsletter February, 2012

## 2011 Colorado All Service Academy Ball Report by Heather Frazier

The Twenty-Ninth Anniversary Celebration of the Colorado All Service Academy Ball was held on December 27, 2012 at The BROADMOOR's International Hall in Colorado Springs. This was a new room for the ball and the space was grand! It was an evening of military pomp and circumstance, wonderful food, energetic dancing, and good fellowship, all as a way to honor our sons and daughters who have chosen the path of the Federal Service Academies and those obligations. The Ball was the culmination of a year of hard work by the Ball Committee lead by Cathy & Bill Worsham of the USNA. And it was agreed this was one of the best balls ever.

General attendance was 450 people! The USMMA showed another increase in our attendance (102 at final count). There were 16 mid-shipmen. Linda Schmidt Chris Skogen was our point of contact this year and worked hard on the registration. Several other people contributed from the our club who contributed including: Linda Schmidt, Carol Smith and Heather Frazier. Although Carol's daughter, Sarah, is graduating this year, Carol has agreed to be our Chairperson as we prepare to host the 2012 event!

2010 Attendees: Sarah Smith (2012); Joshua Johnston (2012); Karl Heimbrock (2011); Adam Heimbrock (2015); Nathaniel Gorham (2014); Andrew Tulenko (2012); Nicholas Skogan (2014); Weston Cowden (2015); Kendall Lloyd (2012); Bernard Watson (2015); Preston Nicholl (2012); Adam Jerlow (2012); Jonathon Pike (2015); Alexander Miller (2015); Andrew Barela (2012); Diana Ormond (2015); Kathryn Schmidt (2013); and many of their friends and family.

The plans for the Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration of the Colorado All Service Academy Ball is about to begin. The United States Coast Guard Academy as well as ourselves will be the hosts this year. See page 2 for more details.... We need more volunteers to make this year special! There is one meeting per month March, April, May, August, September, October, November, and December. The meetings usually are on Sunday afternoon, last about 2 hours and are held somewhere between the Denver metro area and Colorado Springs. Please consider helping!



Dobson's at Military Ball



*2011 Colorado All Service Academy Ball  
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy*

Skipper's Scuttlebutt  
Happy Spring to All....

There have actually been quite a few things to report on since our fall meeting in October. That meeting if you missed it was our first official parents association meeting of the new academy year. It was held at the home of Victor and Diane Guettlein (Jeremy 2015) in Arvada. We had presentations from most all the committee chairs and heard some very interesting and comical stories about our midshipman and plebes as told by their parents.

Parent's weekend went well this year and most of the plebe families were able to attend. Chris and I attended a president's conference where many of the faculty discussed their areas of responsibility. That was followed up by a nice dinner meeting where we were seated next to the Dean and current interim superintendent Dr Shashi Kumar and his wife Beena. We also were honored to have the pleasure of personally getting acquainted with RADM Phillip Greene Jr. and wife Debby; unfortunately we found out a short time later that they would be moving on to other avenues. We had to wish them well and now once again we are searching for a full time Superintendent to run KP's day to day operations, a difficult task at that to find someone even half as qualified and connected to KP as Admiral Greene.

Speaking of connected, our very own Mary Jane and Rocco Fuschetto (National Parents Association Presidents) asked me to pass along some good news concerning the 2012 Kings Point budget report... KP will see an unprecedented \$85.2 million for 2012, a fifteen percent increase above 2011 funding levels, and the largest amount received since the Academy's inception.

The budget recently signed by President Obama includes:

- \$22.9 million for capital improvements--*up 53 percent from 2011*--including \$17 million to begin renovating the remaining barracks;
  - \$5.9 million from the capital improvement program dedicated to a multi-year facilities maintenance and repair program; and
- \$62.3 million for operations.

You can get the whole story as presented by MARAD's administrator David Matsuda by following this link.  
<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2011/11/usmma-budget.html>

After many exhausting hours, Secretary Linda Schmidt (Katie 2013) managed to get the roster completely updated and sent out in early December, if you did not receive, please shoot her or myself off an email. This is a mighty task trying to keep current on all the movement from year to year and tracking down all the birth dates, box numbers, company assignments as well as parent contact info etc. Thanks Linda!

Other committee Parents Association Officers and Chairs reporting in.....

Treasurer – Jolene Johnson (Grant, 2012)

Fund raising has been good this year 2011, with a great responds with the King Soopers gift cards, making \$1,461.55. We have taken in roughly \$565 in profit in Spyderco knife sales, \$35 jewelry sales, \$1016 in dues. Flag sales are in the red, due to paying out large upfront costs in inventory, we need to sell sell sell more flags.

The kids have received Boodle bags each finals, we gave the graduating seniors gifts, and we donated to All Service Academy Ball, Cookie Cafe, NY Metro USMMA parents and received our Colorado charitable sales tax license, still waiting on the Federal.

Greeting Card Committee – James, Lisa, and daughter Courtney Ensz (Jim, 2013)

Birthday cards through December have gone out with words of encouragement, a clean military joke, and a thin, sweet treat. Christmas cards have also gone out for the 44 with some A. A. Milne ditties, a Christmas joke, and another thin, sweet treat. Courtney has hand written each of the cards and made sure they are all cheerfully adorned. She has put together an accurate list of all Colorado mids and we hope that they enjoy the cards. We will attempt to find more sea related cards but living in rural Colorado means relying on the internet for most purchases, but we will try. Thank you.

Boodle Bags – Jerry and Sheri Cannon (Casey 2013)

On 10/13/11, (First Trimester) we shipped 35 Boodle Bags. A plebe from each company volunteered to deliver the bags to the rest of the Colorado contingent. The contents of the bags included: Beef Jerky, Home-made Brownies, Fruit snack, M&Ms, Pop Rocks, Chewing gum, Twizzlers, Charm pop, Sweet tarts (assorted), Sunflower seeds, Sunday Comics, Sidewalk chalk, Lemon heads, Atomic Fireballs, Powder drink sticks and Trail mix. Estimated cost should be approximately \$350 which includes shipping  
Colorado All Services Academy Ball (CASAB) – Chris Skogen (Nick 2014)

The Colorado All Service Academy Ball will be held at The Broadmoor in the International Center in Colorado Springs on Saturday, December 29 beginning at 5:45 pm. The Ball is being hosted by the Coast Guard Academy and us. Hope you plan on attending this year and possibly help out in some same way.

This is also a wonderful holiday evening where parents can see their Midshipman in their uniforms and meet other Cadets and Midshipman from the other 4 service Academies.

New Look for the National Parents Association...

Having trouble finding the National Parents Association web page? They recently joined forces with the US-MMA Alumni Association you can now find them at [www.usmmaaf.com](http://www.usmmaaf.com) and click on the Parents tab.

The USMMA Colorado Parents Association welcomes new members.....

I want to introduce to you Mike and Lorene Roth (daughter Casey 2013) and to welcome them to Colorado and our family. The Roth's just moved to Westminster from Okinawa where they have been living for the last 3 years. Mike is recently retired Navy and Lorene is a teacher taking some time off. They had no parents association in Japan but were members of the Washington state chapter for a short time and are familiar with many of the programs and people we support.

Have a worry free Spring and feel free to drop me a line or email anytime!

Kirk Skogen (Nick 2014) 720-324-3779 [kskogen@auroragov.org](mailto:kskogen@auroragov.org)

## Dates to Keep in Mind

- June 23 Welcome Aboard Picnic looking good so far for availability at the school where we held the General meeting.
- Parents Weekend/Acceptance Day is later this year, Sept 14-16 2012 not over the three day Labor day holiday as was the past couple of years.
- FALL PARENT MEETING: In working with the Sky Ute casino today, they DO have availability for that three day weekend over Oct. 6, 7, and 8. Since it is still the fall leaf season throughout the first three weeks of October, we weren't able to negotiate winter rate prices, but we were able to negotiate room rates of \$99 per King size room per night and \$112 for two queen beds, instead of the regular fall price of \$140 per night. This includes breakfast each morning, an indoor "lazy river" pool, hot tub, fitness center, and all the new casino amenities. Every room has a balcony that either looks outside to the mountains or into the glass restaurant atrium. Also, Rocco has been working with the Southern Ute Tribe and they are so excited that we are coming that apparently they are offering to give us some "goodie bags" as a gesture of goodwill. We are planning lots of good food, fun activities and excursions! You can look up the casino facilities on the Sky Ute Casino website via any search engine. Please let me know as soon as possible if you want us to reserve a block of rooms for this weekend, as the casino hotel manager says October is always one of their biggest seasons and they are getting requests daily. We need to book this as soon as possible. Thanks! MJ



**Save the Dates**  
**Sunday, March 18, 2012**  
**because on**

**Saturday, December 29, 2012**

The Thirtieth Annual Colorado All Service Academy Ball will be held at the Broadmoor Hotel, International Center, Colorado Springs

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy Rocky Mountain Parents' Association and the U.S. Merchant Marine Colorado Parents Association are serving as co-hosts for the event.

The 2012 CASAB Committee will begin the planning at their first meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 2:00—4:00 PM  
Location TBD



At the first meeting of the 2012 Committee committees are determined and initial plans are made.

Committees to volunteer for are: Publicity, Fundraising, Decorations, Favors & Coins, Printing.

Pernardia Rivers (USNA) has gotten our checking account straightened.

We are now looking for a treasurer to take over the position.

We are going to pursue a 501 (C)(3) IRS classification — if your parents club has anyone that would offer us guidance the committee would appreciate it.



There will be further meetings on May 20,  
August 19, September 16, October 21,  
November 11 and December 2, 2012

Please consider joining us on this important committee—we'd like to Make this a night for our Midshipmen to remember!



Please contact us if you have any questions -

Mary Alice Fell (information above) or

Carol Smith (USMMA, Sarah 2012)

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From <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2011/11/usmma-budget.html#more>

". . . That's why I'm happy to let the Kings Point community know that the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy will be seeing a 2012 budget that provides an unprecedented \$85.2 million for the service academy. That's a 15 percent increase above 2011 funding levels, and the largest amount received since the Academy's inception.

The budget signed last week by President Obama includes:

- \$22.9 million for capital improvements--*up 53 percent from 2011*--including \$17 million to begin renovating the remaining barracks;
  - \$5.9 million from the capital improvement program dedicated to a multi-year facilities maintenance and repair program; and
- \$62.3 million for operations.



The budgeted amount for Academy operations is 6 percent higher than 2011 and should help Kings Point better meet the instructional, operations, and administrative requirements of the school. It also includes \$250,000 for up to 5 additional staff members to support and manage the Capital Improvement Program and facility maintenance.

As [I've said before](#), DOT will do whatever we can to restore this jewel to its rightful place among the nation's service academies. Since then, we have confirmed our willingness to make good on that pledge. In the first few months of this Administration, we worked for a \$12 million budget increase for operations and capital improvements, and we created a blue-ribbon panel to study the institution's long-term needs. We followed that by launching a systematic effort to improve all of the facilities at Kings Point.

Since [2009](#), we have been steadfast in our effort to provide the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's cadets the faculty and facilities they need to prepare for effective maritime service. The 2012 budget for the Academy is one more step in that ongoing effort, and the entire Kings Point community will be stronger for it. . . "

I never saw this information circulated--I just came across the link today while looking on the USMMA.edu website.

If you want to read the full article it is at:

<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2011/11/usmma-budget.html#more>

Linda Schmidt (Katie Schmidt, 2013)

## Notes from our Mids

Donald was assigned with the MSC (Military Sealift Command) on a fuel tanker in Region #7 (I believe) which includes the Persian Gulf to Singapore area. He spent the first month and a half in between Dubai and Bahrain which was extremely hot. Avg temp in the engine room was 120 degrees.

Most of the time was spent out at sea learning the engine room and systems, not to mention working on his sea projects. He was able to go deck side to see them fuel/replenish an aircraft carrier which he said was a sight to see. They were in Dubai during Ramadan so things were limited but he did go ice skating as well as swim in the Persian gulf. When in Singapore he met up with some classmates who were also in port with another ship. They visited several sights, one being the Hard Rock Cafe' and riding the worlds tallest ferris wheel (which you stand up in). Donald and Anthony (his sea term partner) also went to the Singapore Zoo, Bird Sanctuary and Universal Studios.

Donald is looking forward to next sea term and new experiences in other parts of the world.

Submitted by Donald Dodge's family.



Patrick Smith, Donald Dodge, Andrew Terselic, Anthony Franza



Donald with some wooden statues at the Singapore Zoo

### Updates on Mids:

Here's an update for you: Derien Jastrzebski ('11) is working for Military SeaLift Command (3rd Deck Officer) and is assigned to the USNS Grapple '255 salvage tug stationed in Norfolk, VA. Phil Diamond ('11) is the 3rd Eng aboard and today another Kings Point grad, Andrew Zeller ('11) is coming aboard as another 3rd Eng. After a Jan. shipyard assignment they will be taking off in February for a 6 month tour down the western coast of S. America, going thru the Panama Canal. OK, that's all the news I know, good luck with the newsletter.

Shannon O'Connell



Universal Studios Singapore,  
Sentosa Resort World  
( Anthony & Donald)

## Notes from our Mids

This past several months my sea partner, Alex Cline, and myself had the opportunity to sail aboard the M/V Maersk Sea-Land Charger. The Charger is a 292 meter A1 Champion Class container ship, powered by a 50,000 HP Sulzer diesel engine, with a



MIDN NICK SKOGEN, MIDN ALEX CLINE, in Dutch Harbor, Alaska home of the Deadliest Catch.

cargo capacity of approximately 4,000 containers. We traveled on a run going from the west coast, Long Beach and Oakland California, sailing up to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and then over to Japan and South Korea. We were on board for 70 days and even though we hardly had any port time, the few times we went ashore we had a blast. I look at Facebook, and hear from friends back home, and I cant find a single person from my graduating class of over 700, who has had the opportunities that I have been afforded because of Kings Point. All through out plebe year we are taught about different vessels, basic navigation, basic engineering and so on, but its not until you go out to sea for the first time that you really learn about the maritime industry and what it takes to become a merchant mariner. The coolest experience that I have from sea year is sailing through Hurricane Talas. For almost 3 days we were sailing through 30+ foot waves and the ship was tossed around like a pin ball in a pinball machine. Now that I'm back at Kings Point for 2nd tri, I am itching to get back out and sail around the world to see what new and exciting adventures await.

My first sailing period embodied how unpredictable the Maritime industry truly can be. Heading east towards Egypt and the Suez Canal, my ship, the *Prestige New York* was expected to make a 60 day trip beginning in Beaumont, Texas, dropping cargo off in the Middle East, then returning to Texas. However, as the ship neared the Suez Canal, rumors of an additional month being added to the trip began to circulate amongst the crew. As it turned out, Liberty Maritime had decided to send our ship even further east to Korea and Japan, before returning stateside. From our last port in Oman, off the southern tip of Saudi Arabian peninsula, the ship traveled through to Korea, Japan, and then returned to Texas via the Panama Canal and Jamaica. These extra 34 days at sea allowed me to not only learn exponentially more about the engine room and its systems, but also introduced me to two cultures I was previously unfamiliar with. Not to mention circumnavigating the globe in just over 90 days.

Very Respectfully,

M/N Nate Gorham 3/C  
Class of 2014 3rd company





Christopher Lucero, 2014—1st Rotation Sea:



Josh's internship KEWY N.A.S 005

## USMMA Presents Letter of Appreciation to American Legion Encourages Juniors in High School to Apply for Scholarship



Alex Miller Presents Letter of Appreciation to Ron Olson American Legion Post 1

High school juniors are encouraged to apply for this opportunity. Alex Miller a freshman of the United States Merchant Marine Academy presented a letter of appreciation to Ron Olson at American Legion Post 1. Alex received an early nomination to attend his first choice of Service Academies. He is pictured above in this United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) uniform. The nomination process to attend one of the five Service Academies is very competitive. The same is true about receiving the top scholarships from a top university. One of the considerations for a Service Academy or College applicant is the attendance of Boys State / Girls State sponsored by the American Legion. About 200 Colorado high school junior boys attend during the summer before starting the senior year. For high school juniors, the absolute deadline for submission is May 1, 2012. Details at: [www.colegionboysstate.org](http://www.colegionboysstate.org)

### **Service Academy and College Selection Boards Value the American Legion Program**

The American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S.

high-school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State. Participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. The program is a hands-on training session in local and state government, voting, the legislative process, patriotism and the rights and duties of all citizens of the United States.

### **Letter of Appreciation Presented over Christmas Break January 2012**

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy insures that the best students are selected to serve the nation as shipboard officers and as leaders in the transportation field. USMMA graduates must meet the challenges of the present and the future. Alex Miller was one of 292 national candidates to receive an appointment and attended Indoctrination on 7 July, 2011. With Indoctrination Training completed, academic classes began on 25 July. Candidates were accepted into the Regiment of Midshipmen on September 5, 2011 (Golden Eagle on uniform). Students graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree, a Coast Guard License as a Third-Mate or Third-Assistant Engineer, and a commission in the Navy Reserve or an active-duty commission in any of the five service branches (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard).

They can also receive a commission into the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Applications to Service Academies are very competitive. Those applying for appointments or scholarships will find Boys State (and Girls State) is highly valued. Alex was also offered a full president's scholarship from Creighton University. Alex feels that his education and service at Most Precious Blood, Bishop Machebeuf, and the Colorado Civil Air Patrol along with the American Legion's Boys State was instrumental in preparing for the application process and receiving an early nomination. He encourages all high school juniors who desire to leadership careers in the services, medical, industry and government to consider the American Legion's opportunity.