



# WEST POINT PARENTS' CLUB OF THE TEXAS PLAINS

## October 2003



Dear Parents,

Andy and I are back from a wonderful visit to West Point, although it went all too fast. We accomplished much in our time there: we made the rounds in the Admissions Department and at the Association of Graduates, we visited the Dean; we were graciously escorted to the C Store and other "off limits" sites by the Brigade S4, and we went on extended walking tours to recharge our "Gray Cells". But the very best part of the trip was spending time with "our" cadets, either at coffee in Grant Hall, at the games, or at our WPPC of the Texas Plains tailgate. The Class of 1968 Reunion was too much fun and it was so great to see so many of our old friends. Old being used figuratively, of course!

Please remember to send me your cadet and family news! This is YOUR newsletter but I need your help.

You may reach me by email at [ashaffer@swbell.net](mailto:ashaffer@swbell.net) or by telephone (432) 697-0813. We will see you all at the October meeting! Until then,

**GO ARMY!**

Betty Shaffer Admissions Representative USMA

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE AND TO CHECK IT FREQUENTLY!**

<http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-tp/index.html>



### FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK

Thank you to Kathy Navarro for her informative program about the Center for Enhanced Development at our last club meeting. The Center is available to all of our cadets, and is an excellent resource to enhance both the academic and physical well-being of our sons. We should all encourage our cadets to examine it closely. Good job, Kathy!

A thank you to Andy and Betty Shaffer for hosting a tailgate party for the cadets when they visited West Point recently. Rarely is there an occasion for the cadets from our area to get together, so this was a most welcome diversion for the boys. Most of the cadets were able to attend. Betty reports that they all seem to be doing very well. Mass quantities of food were consumed, and fun was had by all.

So far, there are 25 with our club going to the Army-TCU game this October 4. There is going to be an after the game gathering that night at one of the local restaurants. Details to follow. **Editor's note: due to extreme lack of organization by the editor, you all probably won't even get this before Oct. 4. I'm Sorry! Betty**

Andy Shaffer will give the program at our next meeting in Lubbock. "Lessons Learned from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars", will be an interesting and informative program. We are looking forward to it. All of you make plans to attend!

On Saturday, September 20, the All Academy Ball committee met at Permian Printing in Odessa to begin the preparation of the decorations for the Ball this December. I am only going to say that this years decorations are great. The Green Tree Country Club will never have looked so good! Susie Davis has surpassed herself with her decorating plans. A big thanks to Lynn and Susie Davis for opening up the print shop to us for a work day, and a big "Thank you" to all who attended. There will be more information about the Ball soon. Please make your plans to attend.

Carla and I are excited to be co-presidents of the greatest WPPC of them all!

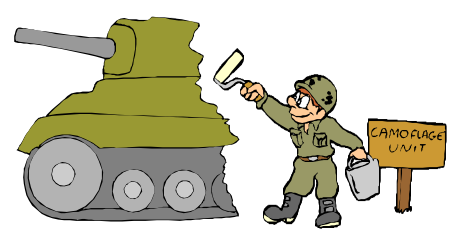
**GO ARMY!!! BEAT TCU!!!**

Joe and Carla Haston

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**ATTENTION TO ORDERS!**  
**WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS OCTOBER MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 3:30 P.M.**  
**HOME PLATE DINER**  
**5217 82ND ST.**  
**LUBBOCK, TX**



**PROGRAM: "LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS"**  
**Presented by MAJ (Ret) Hugh A. Shaffer, USMA '68**

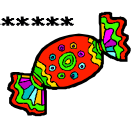
It's Road Trip time!! As a reward to Dan and Caron Thornbury and Wayne and Kristy Kostelich, for their faithful and dedicated service in always driving long distances for our WPPC meetings, this month the rest of us are Lubbock bound for our monthly meeting. It's a short two hour drive to Lubbock - plenty of time for some stimulating discussion in the car - or in the case of the Navarro's, on a motorcycle. The Home Plate Diner is located in a shopping center on the southwest corner of 82nd and Slide Rd, immediately west of the 7-11 store.

Our resident military expert, Andy, will fill you in on the "real" story of our Nation's on-going conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Who needs Fox News, MSNBC or CNN and all of their resident "talking heads"? Make your plans to attend so that you might better understand the military mission in these two wars and the lessons that we have learned to date.

As always, we will share cadet and graduate news. AND - we expect a full report on Plebe-Parent Weekend from our 2007 parents!

**BE THERE - and that's an order!**

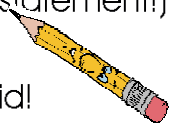
**AFTER ACTION REPORT ON OUR SEPTEMBER 2003 WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS MEETING!**



Thank you to all who brought boodle for our cadets and for our troops!  
 A special thank you to **Ron and Jamie Waters** for the donation for postage to mail our troop boxes. Thanks to all of your efforts, we were able to send multiple boxes of goodies to our soldiers in Iraq.

**A HUGE "THANK YOU" TO ALL WHO HELPED ON SEPTEMBER 20 IN WORKING ON DECORATIONS FOR OUR ALL ACADEMY BALL!! SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE GUYS WHO TOOK THE DECORATORS (SUSIE DAVIS!) VISION AND ENGINEERED, DESIGNED, PLOTTED, SAWED, PAINTED, ETC. TO BRING IT ALL TO LIFE AND MAKE IT WORK! AND - WE HAD FUN!**

- Lynn and Susie Davis for not only the vision, but for opening Permian Printing and feeding us
- Carla and Joe Haston for bringing goodies from The Bakery, helping with lunch and getting us organized
- Charles and Betty Frisbie for doing any job that was asked of them
- Wayne and Kristy Kostelich for building, surging, sewing, sawing, hammering.....
- Kathy Navarro for her impeccable drawing skills which thankfully did not involve fusing.....
- Jim and Nellie Oliver for being Jack and Jill of all Trades (sorry about that thumb, Jim!!)
- Reis and Paula Ritz for their never ending talents in construction, sewing and design (an understatement!)
- Carol Willis for her tracing skills (does that come from being a school teacher?)
- Andy "Chief Engineer" and Betty "Grunt Work" Shaffer for just doing what the boss said!





# ALL ACADEMY BALL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

from Paula



We have had our first work day and a lot was accomplished. Susie continues to amaze us with her decorating ideas and how she can take one man's trash "figuratively speaking", add some paint and make something really pretty. The ballroom will be beautiful!

All of our committees are busy and as Dec. 27 gets closer the busier we will be. If you are not on a committee and would love to join the fun, contact us and we'll put you to work.

We are still raising money for the Ball. Wayne Kostelich and Charles Frisbie reported on their fund raising activities and it looks promising from these two men! Remember that this is an area in which everyone can participate.

We are really excited to have **CPT John Thurman**, USMA 2000, as our guest speaker. John is one of our own and what an honor to have him speak. Thanks to Betty, Andy and COL Hayden for making this happen.

It will soon be time to begin reminding your cadet to bring home his Full Dress Gray uniform (yes - with gray trou!) and not to plan any ski trips until the 28th :-)

Keep your eyes open for door prizes for the cadets and midshipmen. I found a couple of great deals over the internet that we could not pass up.

We will have the option again this year to pay for your tickets with your credit card. That way you can bring your whole family. More information will be available soon.

Thank you for all of your help with our Ball - **Paula**

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**PLEBE PARENTS PREPARING FOR PPW!!**  
anticipation-

This is a commonly asked question, so just in

**Question:** Is it appropriate to give a gift to my cadet's mentor (sponsor)?

**Answer:** This is a very personal issue and a gift is certainly not expected. The mentor has volunteered time to assist your cadet out of an appreciation for the difficult life he/she leads and from a genuine desire to help. That said, a gift would be very much appreciated, especially for the thought that it represents. Items that are representative of the part of the country are always nice . . . maple syrup from Vermont, cheese from Wisconsin, etc. (Who wouldn't like something from the Lone Star State???)

## **CADET AND GRAD BIRTHDAYS!**

2LT Tye Graham	October 13
2LT Erik Thorvilson	October 7
Cadet Zach Frisbie	October 31

## **MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!**

Debbie Christenson	October 19
Carla Haston	October 6
Jane Glover	October 13
Kathy Navarro	October 28
Betty Frisbie	October 12



# CADET NEWS

## HOOAH USMA CLASS OF 2007!!!



Our newest cadets at West Point, the USMA Class of 2007, have not lost any time in getting involved with events and activities at West Point. Beast was barely a memory when these four young men went to work and jumped full speed into cadet life. And they obviously figured out early that if you choose your activity wisely it will mean travel which equals weekends away from West Point. Congratulations to our plebes! We are SO proud of you!

**Cadet Terrel Culp** has been selected to serve as a Manager for the Army Basketball team. A part of Terrel's official duties is to assist in hosting a tailgate prior to all Army home football games. Of course, Terrel will travel with the Army basketball team. But more importantly (for a plebe), Terrel now enjoys the benefits of sitting at a Corps Squad table for meals!!

**Cadet Zach Frisbie** has been selected as a member of the elite Model UN Team at West Point. Selection for this team is highly competitive; each team will assume the role of a country and will debate an issue. West Point's model UN Team travels all over the world for this competition. In his spare time, Zach has become quite ingenious in plotting and executing Spirit Missions for C-4. Our resident Old Grad, Andy, is so pleased to see that some things in The Corps never change!

**Cadet Jorge Lopez** is a member of The Corps of Cadets Spirit Band and plays the trombone in the band. Jorge hadn't played the trombone for some time, but why let a little thing like that dissuade you from an activity that will mean travel away from West Point! He was successfully chosen to be in the band and Andy and I can attest to the fact that Jorge is a great addition to the Spirit Band, which is the Army Pep Band that attends all athletic events!

**Cadet Zach Oliver** made the two man Sailing Team at West Point. To be appropriately impressed by this feat, you all should know Zach had only been on a sailboat one time before trying out for the team!! But once he learned that the team travels, Zach must have adopted the motto of the USMA Class of 1968, "No Task Too Great" and impressed the coach with his wide range of sailing abilities! He will now attend sailing competitions up and down the Eastern seaboard, which is enough to make any plebe happy. Why shouldn't a cadet from Monahans, Texas be on the Army Sailing Team?

Way to go, guys! We knew that the Class of 2007 would prove to be a great class, destined to take its place in West Point lore and history!

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**IN ANTICIPATION OF BRANCH SELECTION FOR THE CLASS OF 2004, THE FOLLOWING IS A BIT OF HISTORY ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.** Branch Night is huge event in the life of a cadet. The Firsties march down to Eisenhower Hall, wearing BDU's, and sit by company with their TACs. They are each given an envelope with their branch insignia in it, and in unison, they open them. The branch insignia is then pinned onto the collar of BDU's. This is a very emotional night for the Firsties, as they realize it is the beginning of their being split up. Their commitment and loyalty to each other is great, and the friendships that cadets build in four years are rather unique.



# USMAPS News

## USMA Class of 2008



**Cadet Candidate David Guerrero** is doing great at USMAPS, although he reports that his upper body strength has greatly increased due to the number of push-ups that he was required to do over the summer. David has opted to do fencing as his intramural sport at USMAPS. No matter that Odessa High School didn't offer fencing - David obviously recognizes the advantage of being able to point sharp objects at upperclassmen once he arrives at West Point next summer. **En garde!**

**Cadet Candidate Cole White** reported to your editor that he thoroughly enjoyed his visit to West Point for the Army-Tulane game. Never mind the score at the football game, Cole had a great time staying in the barracks with an Army baseball player and is more anxious than ever to arrive at West Point to man first base for the Army baseball team. Cole said he visited a chemistry class while at West Point and that it was a sense of high school *deja vu* when he saw Cadet Zach Frisbie in that same class. Cole is doing great in academics at USMAPS. **GO ARMY BASEBALL!**

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### ADMISSIONS TEAM REPORT

#### WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS CADET OUTREACH PROGRAM

by Betty Shaffer



Andy and I were delighted to have so much time to spend with "our" cadets on our recent visit to West Point. We can report to you, with first hand experience, that the guys are doing fine and still have those smiles firmly in place. We had known for some time that we wanted to have a party for our West Texas cadets while we were at West Point for the Army/UCONN game. But we didn't know how to execute that wish and it took the Brigade S4, Cadet Dustin Navarro, to tell us how to do it. Upon Dustin's suggestion, we contacted Grant Hall and ordered nine feet of submarine sandwich(!). We then gave Andy's sister, Mary, the task of assembling the "fixins" and paper goods to host a tailgate. Thankfully, Mary and her husband, Jim, live in Wyckoff, NJ which is within spitting distance of West Point, and they love cadets! We emailed all of our West Texas cadets prior to leaving home and arranged to either see them at the game, or on post during the week. As is normal for our cadets, they all responded before we left and so we knew just where and when to find them. Although Cadet Adam Christenson was gone for the game, we were able to meet him for coffee in Grant Hall and hear all of the news about his summer adventures in India. Cadets Scott Thornbury and James Gibson each had plans to attend a concert the night of the game (Dave Matthew Band for Scott and Toby Keith for James). We knew that we couldn't compete with that, but they both came up and sat with us for a portion of the game.

The people sitting around us at Michie must have begun to wonder about us, as no fewer than fifteen cadets made their way up to our seats in the "nosebleed" section to sit with us. Cadet Terrel Culp came armed with a huge bag of M&M's and stayed the whole game. It is amazing that you can actually squeeze over 17 people into only four seats in the stadium! Cadet CodySam Davis came up, drafted Terrel and Zach Frisbie to go and get the sandwiches after the game, relieving the "Old Grad" and the "Gray Hog" of having to do that in the post-game crowd. We all reassembled in the parking lot of Eisenhower Hall for our post-game WPPC of the Texas Plains tailgate party. Andy and I had his sister, Mary, and her husband, Jim, with us and we cannot begin to tell you how impressed they both were with your sons - and our cadets. After that party they both understood why Andy and I are so committed to our Admissions work and filling Andy's space in The Long Gray Line with outstanding cadets. Joining us for the post-game tailgate were Cadets Michael Blanco, Terrel Culp, CodySam Davis, Zach Frisbie, Blu Kostelich, Jorge Lopez, Dustin Navarro, Zach Oliver and a friend, Robert Scheiern and his classmate, Matt, Alan Willis and a friend, and Trey Russell (who some of you might remember as the GREAT dancer from our first All Academy Ball). We may not be paid much in actual dollars for our work in Admissions, but the hugs and kisses that I received that day more than made up for it. To see all of our cadets assembled, talking, laughing, sharing stories and watching out for each other put smiles on the faces of Andy and me that won't be erased anytime soon. You probably cannot fully imagine how much we love your cadets, and how extremely proud we are of them and the place that they have taken in The Long Gray Line.

The Reunion of the USMA Class of 1968 was nothing short of wonderful. The ties that bind us all to each other will last through this life and into the next. We are so very proud to know that in a small way we are helping to continue the honor of The Corps by filling The Long Gray Line with cadets as special as your sons. With love, Betty and Andy