



# WEST POINT PARENTS' CLUB OF THE TEXAS PLAINS

## August 2003



Dear Parents,

Andy and I hope that all of you have had a good summer and have been able to enjoy some time with your cadets. For the parents of our new cadets, we hope that you have been excited about the adventures of your new cadets and haven't been too distressed by the "I hate Beast" letters!

If you notice a shortage of cadet and graduate news, it's because you all haven't sent me anything. Please remember to send me your cadet/graduate/important family news by the 15th of each month so that I may get it into the newsletter for all to share.

If any of you belong to organizations that would like to have a presentation about West Point, please notify Andy and me and we would be delighted to make such a presentation. We are always on a quest to increase knowledge about the United States Military Academy!

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 August meeting! Until then,

**GO ARMY!**

Betty Shaffer Admissions Representative USMA

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**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**

A big **"THANK YOU"** to all who agreed to be mentors at our last meeting. We believe the mentor program will be invaluable for all of us. If you have any kind of question or concern, bring it up with your mentor. They will help you in every way that they can!

Thank you to Cadet Dustin Navarro. While on leave, Dustin attended the last meeting of the club, and provided insight about life as a cadet. He was able to give tips to all of us to make us more aware of cadet life and how we should respond to the concerns and problems (and successes!) of our cadets. It was certainly good to see Dustin, and we wish him well as he goes into his Firstie year.

As you are going through the grocery store, please add a few items to your cart to send to the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, more than ever, it is important to show our support for our soldiers. If you need a list of requested items, please contact Betty or Muff Fregia. They can also give you addresses for mailing those boxes.

We hope that all of you are marking October 4th on your calendars. It is the ARMY vs TCU football game and our club plans on being well represented. If you have not attended an ARMY football game it is quite an experience! We will have a group number for ticket purchases that will allow individuals to purchase tickets and sit together as a group. Details on hotel and other activities for the weekend will be coming out soon.

Carla and I are excited to be co-presidents' of the greatest West Point Parents' Club of them all!

**GO ARMY!**

Joe and Carla Haston

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**LAST CALL FOR 2002 REGISTER OF GRADUATES!** The Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy has a few remaining copies of the 2002 Register of Graduates. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Register (known forever to Andy as "The Stud Book"), it is a complete listing of every graduate of USMA and the Bicentennial edition has a wonderful history of West Point. If you are interested in obtaining a copy so that you can engage in a match-off of West Point trivia with Dan Thornbury, the copies are for sale through AOG for \$50. Please contact Karen Armstrong, Circulation Manager at (800) 232-4723, Ext. 1625. And good luck against Dan!



**ATTENTION TO ORDERS!**

WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS AUGUST MEETING  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 AT 2:00 P.M.  
GARCIA'S RESTAURANT  
COLORADO CITY  
**PROGRAM: ARMY 101**



Please make your plans to join us in Colorado City for our August meeting. Are you confused about Army lingo? Do you fail to see any difference between a pontoon and a platoon? Do you think that "Division strength" refers to exceptional math skills? Do you think that a 1st SGT is simply the person who got there the quickest? Are you unable to distinguish those little things on shoulders that signify rank and so just greet all Army personnel with a friendly "Hey!?" Well, you're in need of help - you need Army 101! Our resident Old Grad (Andy) will lead us in removing the mystery of military rank and structure. Come join us and then impress your cadet with your newly acquired wealth of knowledge!

In addition, as always, we look forward to hearing cadet and graduate news. We are particularly excited about hearing of the exploits of our USMA Class of 2007 New Cadets!

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

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**IMPORTANT USMA EVENTS**

- August 10                    CFT Returns
- August 12                    CBT Returns
- August 16                    Acceptance Parade
- August 17                    Affirmation
- August 23-24                Ring Weekend for



**OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO PARENTS OF NEW CADETS**

That much anticipated day for your new cadets is fast approaching. Is it the March Back signifying the end of Warrior Forge? Is it Acceptance Day Parade? Is it the start of academics? **NO** - it's the ability to receive **BOODLE** after August 16!! This is not an advertisement, but a great boodle company run by Shari Broesler and a group of Army wives is **A PIECE OF CAKE & COMPANY**. You may email them at [pieceofcakeandco@aol.com](mailto:pieceofcakeandco@aol.com). The website address for menus and prices is [www.pieceofcakeandco.com](http://www.pieceofcakeandco.com). Or, you can get flyers from Betty.



**ALL ACADEMY BALL 2003**

Wayne Kostelich, Fund Raising Chairman, has emailed the fund raising letter for each of us to use for our own fund raising efforts. If you do not receive email, please call Wayne and he will provide you with a copy of the letter saved on a floppy disk.

We had a number of graduates last May and this could affect the fund raising efforts. May I encourage the parents of current cadets represented and USMA and USMAPS to get involved in the fund raising effort. It does not require you to go knocking on doors. Personalizing the letter Wayne has provided and sending it to family, friends, and business associates is all that it takes. Remember that we are a 501-C-3 organization and some of your employers may have a "matching" donation program. Please check into that possibility.

Due to the strict privacy restrictions on the academies releasing information on their cadets/midshipmen and parents, it could prove to be more difficult in obtaining the names and addresses needed to mail the Ball invitations. **KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN** for information in your area of cadets/midshipmen attending any of the five service academies. If you learn of anyone, please call the family, explain the Ball and ask for their name, address, and information on their son or daughter.

Sometimes it is difficult to be "hands-on" involved in the Ball but helping in the fund raising and scouting for cadets/midshipmen is vital to having a successful Ball.

We wish to thank all of you in advance for all of your help.

Paula and Reis Ritz  
Co-Chairmen, All Academy Ball 2003





If you did not pick up your Club Directory at the Candidate Picnic, you may get your copy at the club meetings.

Please include these corrections to your Directory:

**Christenson:** area code is 432

**Lopez:** Cadet Jorge's birthday is December 27

Jorge's (dad Jorge!) birthday is July 27

Patricia's birthday is July 18

Home email address: JGLPVL83@nhimail.com

Javier, younger brother

Catalina, younger sister

**Oliver:** area code is 432

**White:** Jeff and Dana White

home address: 8212 W CR 56; Midland, TX 79707

home phone: (432)697-5918

**Ritz:** Reis's email address should be reisritz@cox.net

After our cadets declare majors and others receive their email addresses, new pages will be printed and distributed.

I would like to make two scrapbooks. One of graduates and one for the first two years of our Club. Each year the President could assign someone to do a scrapbook for that year so that we have a history of our club.

Would everyone please bring photos of their cadets and West Point related family events from 2000 - 2002 to our next club meeting. I will scan the photos and return them as soon as possible. I REALLY don't want this to be a "Ritz album", so please bring or mail me your pictures.

I also want graduation pictures from all graduates represented in the Club.

A big thanks to Mary and Jack Blake for being the first graduate parents to provide me with pictures from Banaise's graduation. They were wonderful! I really liked the idea of renting a tour bus to transport family members (you'll see what I mean when the album is ready for viewing!).

Thank you!

Paula

## A FULL REPORT ON THE ADVENTURES OF "NEW CADETS" ALETA AND GARY HACKER by Gary Hacker



Although our cadet suggested that we intentionally made mistakes to give the cadet Cadre practice in making corrections, I found myself trying to achieve perfection in every situation. I failed early on because I could not walk as fast as the cadet who led my group to the A Company area, and received many "suggestions" that I walk faster. Fortunately, they were not assessing pushups as penalties.

Aleta received some "special instruction" because she could not do an "about face" correctly. She reported to the same Cadet in the Red Sash so often that he actually laughed when she reported for the "last time". She was especially impressed with the briefing about "tattoos, piercings and other body mutilations" in which she had to stick out her tongue and pull down her lower lip for inspection. While those body parts were within regulations, she had on one too many rings and a bracelet that was not within the regs at all.

The night before the practice, we had dinner in the dining room at the Hotel Thayer and "Phil" was our server. During the medical briefing at the practice, when it was time to fess up to food allergies, I was directed to report to the SGT at the desk at the front of the room. He took one look at me and asked if we didn't know each other from somewhere. Recognizing "Phil", I reminded him that we had met at dinner the night before. That got what turned out to be the last laugh of the day.

Although we had great respect for the young men and women who had gone through R Day, our experience increased that respect even more. Especially when we discovered how difficult it was to remember that the company greeting was "Strike Fast", or was it "Strike First", or maybe "Strike Hard". Anyway, it was "Strike (something)".

Aleta and I received special recognition for traveling the longest distance to take part in the R Day rehearsal.

Very Respectfully,

New Cadets Gary and Aleta Hacker



# CADET NEWS



**Cadet Andrew Hacker** was pinned with his father's Airborne wings on June 20 at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Immediately after Airborne graduation, he flew back to West Point where he was assigned as the Regimental Athletic SGT for First Beast Detail, and was responsible for planning and conducting the Army Physical Fitness Test and Warrior Competition for the new cadets.

Andrew also was assigned (at the last minute!) to D Company to replace a squad leader. His platoon leader was Abilene's **Cadet Michael Watson**.

**Cadet Scott Thornbury** survived his CTLT experience at Ft. Bliss and returned home 'almost normal' according to his dad. Scott attended the Change of Command Ceremony for LTC Dan Karbler, whom some of you met at last year's All Academy Ball. While there Scott saw our own COL Hayden. Scott even had a chance to place a telephone call to our former Southwest Region Admissions Officer, MAJ Glenn Cox. Scott came home from CTLT with a bag full of goodies and trinkets, all with Air Defense Artillery on them (talk about recruiting efforts!). Dan's favorite seems to be a frisbee with a cartoon bird on it and the ADA motto 'If It Flies, IT Dies'.

**Cadet James Gibson** spent time in San Antonio this summer doing an internship AIAD with USAA at their headquarters. The first part of the summer James spent a few weeks in Europe on an AIAD that included touring the Holocaust sites in Poland and Germany.

**Cadet Robert Scheiern** spent time this summer at Ft. Ord, California on a CTLT assignment and then attended Airborne School at Ft. Benning.



## MAIL CALL!!



Beast is almost an unpleasant memory with our '07 new cadets, and summer training is rapidly fading for our USMAPS cadet candidates. BUT - that's only one step completed with a very challenging year still ahead of them. PLEASE continue to send our new cadets (soon to be cadets) and cadet candidates encouraging and supportive mail from home. Finding a piece of mail from home in their post office boxes can turn a bad day right side up for them. So - keep those cards and letters going! Addresses were listed in your July newsletter. If you no longer have that, contact Betty (ashaffer@swbell.net or 697-0813) and I will furnish you with all of the addresses. Thank you for helping to support our cadets and cadet candidates!



## CADET BIRTHDAYS

- Cadet Cody Sam Davis** August 15
- Cadet Andrew Hacker** August 16
- Cadet Robert Scheiern** August 30
- Cadet Michael Watson** August 30
- New Cadet Terrel Culp** August 31



## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Randy Graham** August 15
- Leslie Graham** August 17
- Jamie Waters** August 17



**COL Hayden will celebrate his 80th birthday on August 14! Happy Birthday, COL Hayden! And many, many more!**

# HOOAH, COL HAYDEN!! CONGRATULATIONS ON A WELL DESERVED HONOR!

For 34 years COL Hayden has worked tirelessly assisting candidates to the United States Military Academy. Through the years, as best we can figure, COL Hayden has helped over 400 students from the southwest, and especially the El Paso area, obtain appointments to West Point. For that work he has been recognized by USMA as a Distinguished Graduate.

However, in all of those years the City of El Paso had not honored COL Hayden for his dedication not only to West Point, but to the young men and women of El Paso, and our entire area. We are happy to report that El Paso has recognized the efforts of one of its more distinguished residents and in June issued a proclamation declaring an official "COL Buster Hayden Day". In a tribute befitting COL Hayden, the day was in conjunction with a proclamation declaring "West Point Day". It is so appropriate that COL Hayden shared his day with the Academy that he has served for so long, and so faithfully.

Well done, COL Hayden - and so well deserved!

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## PLEASE HELP IN THE EFFORT TO SHOW SUPPORT TO OUR TROOPS



As most of you know, two USMA graduates from our area, LT Justin Fregia and LT Brad McBrayer, are serving our country in Iraq. While some here at home think that the war is over, the soldiers in Iraq would most likely have a different slant on that story. They are exhausted, hot, dirty, working in a very hostile environment, and they need reassurance from home that we have not forgotten them. The troops long for things that remind them of home - and that's where we come in! Below is a small list of their "wish" items and addresses for Justin and Brad. You may send one box, or one hundred boxes, and Justin and Brad will distribute them to our soldiers. Notes, cards and letters are especially welcome to help our soldiers know that those of us at home are grateful and are supporting their efforts. Be sure in sending boxes that you **do not send** any pork products, anything that could be construed as pornographic by a Muslim inspector (yes, that would include Sports Illustrated's swimsuit issue), religious materials of any type, or - in this time of year - any food items that might melt. Keep a list of the contents of the box so that you may prepare a customs list at the post office. And include a note that you are with the WPPC of the Texas Plains. You may mail boxes or mail to:

**LT Justin Fregia  
B Troop 1/3 ACR**

**Unit # 92608  
APO AE 09320-1459**

**1LT Thomas B. McBrayer  
HHC 3-67 Armor  
Unit # 92608  
APO AE 09323-2608**

### TROOP WISH LIST

- Writing stationary and self-sealing envelopes
- insect repellent
- anti-itch cream
- baby wipes (especially the anti-bacterial ones)
- drink mixes
- toilet paper
- eye drops



- seasonings (MRE'S get dull!)
- snack foods
- puzzle books
- magazines
- letters (kids drawings are nice!)
- AT&T calling cards (ONLY AT&T!)
- chapstick and sun block