



# WEST POINT PARENTS' CLUB OF THE TEXAS PLAINS

## July 2003



Dear Parents,

*This edition of the newsletter is being mailed to all of you. But in addition, Reis will post it to our website where it may be downloaded. I will send you an email with a direct link to the site. We would like for you to get into the habit of checking the website around the first of every month, clicking on "downloads" and then selecting the current newsletter. The newsletter may then be read on-line. For those of you who are not in the habit of using your computer and your email, now is a very good time to begin. The WPPC passes a lot of information through email and you should get in the habit of checking your email daily. In addition, it is the best way to stay in touch with your cadet, and to access the very valuable forums on WestPoint.org. Please continue to send me items on your cadets. This is your newsletter but I need assistance from all of you to send me cadet news, family news, or even questions. You may reach me at my email address: [ashaffer@swbell.net](mailto:ashaffer@swbell.net) or by telephone (432) 697-0813. We look forward to seeing all of you at the July WPPC of the Texas Plains meeting. Until then -*

**GO ARMY!**

*Betty Shaffer Admissions Representative USMA*

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A big thank you to all that helped out during the Candidate/Cadet Fiesta. It was a great success. We had 69 people in attendance! It was good to see the current cadets that attended. Michael Blanco, CodySam Davis, Joel Glover, Blu Kostelich, Dustin Navarro, Scott Thornbury, and Alan Willis were the cadets that attended, and Jorge Lopez was there as a graduate of USMAPS. Parents, please relay our thanks to these young men for taking the time to come and meet the candidates and impart to them their wisdom. All of our candidates and their families were able to attend. Our candidates are excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie before them, and we believe that the Classes of '07 and '08 are in great shape. Keep the candidates and their families in your prayers as R Day is rapidly approaching!

Special congratulations are in order for our graduates this year. Jake Bailey, Tye Graham, Brandon Ritz, James Stultz, and Eric Thorvilson graduated from West Point, and Jorge Lopez graduated from USMAPS. Our Army will be in fine hands. Way to go, guys! HOOAH!

Club directories are now available. Please come to the July meeting to pick up your directory. A HUGE thank you goes out to Paula Ritz for all of the work that she did on the directory. It looks fantastic!

The mentoring program will start at our July meeting. We will team parents with parents of cadets that are a class ahead of their cadet. Come to the July meeting for more information.

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

**GO ARMY!**

Joe and Carla Haston



**GENERAL ORDER NO. 001**  
**BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT**



You are hereby ordered to bookmark, and to check frequently, the official website of the WPPC of the Texas Plains. Failure to do so may result in walking punishment tours upon The Area. Should you fail to follow this order, and thereby miss critical information, your only possible response will be "No Excuse". Critical poop is as follows:

**BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE AND CHECK IT FREQUENTLY for UPDATES!** *Reis has done a fantastic job.*

*Graduation photos now available for viewing. Candidate/Cadet Fiesta photos available soon.*

*Now - your duty is to remember to check for new updates! The website address is:*

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



**ATTENTION TO ORDERS!**

**WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS JULY MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JULY 13 AT 3:30 P.M.**

**CLEAR SPRINGS CAFE, MIDLAND**

**PROGRAM: SURVIVING PLEBE YEAR**

We are very excited to be launching our new Mentoring Program at our July meeting. Are you baffled by cadet and Army slang? Does West Point intimidate you? Are you wondering how to get to New York? Are you at wits end trying to deal with the fluctuating emotions of your cadet? Well, we have great news - you are not alone!! Come and learn how to navigate this newest obstacle course in your life from a parent who has at least one more stripe on their sleeve than you have. Join us for fun, fellowship, food and the **ONLY** place where unabashed gushing and bragging on your cadet/cadet candidate is allowed, encouraged and welcome! **BE THERE** - and that's an order!

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**ALL ACADEMY BALL UPDATE**

**DECEMBER 27, 2003 GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB, MIDLAND**

**by Paula Ritz**



**Thank you to everyone who completed the survey regarding areas where you are willing to assist.**

**Areas needing addition help: fund raising in your local areas; being available to help on various**

**work days (TBA); publicity in your local area. Publicity may include obtaining a proclamation from your hometown. We have a set script and it would involve someone contacting your mayor's office and providing him/her with the necessary information. In the past we have had proclamations in Midland, Odessa and Lubbock declaring the entire week as Service Academy Week.**

**Some areas completed to date: Jane Glover has ordered the Firstie gifts. Andy and Betty Shaffer have made arrangements for the location and date of the Ball. Paula has secured The Remnants to perform during the social and dinner hours. Betty has made arrangements with DJ Tunes to be the dj.**

**Areas where work has begun or soon will begin: fund raising, correspondence announcing the Ball, the design and printing of invitation, securing a photographer, a theme for the Ball and designing the decorations. Please make your holiday plans now to include attending our All Academy Ball!**

**NOTICE - ALL ACADEMY BALL COMMITTEE MEETING!**

**Sunday, July 13; 1:00 p.m.** prior to the WPPC meeting at Clear Springs Cafe

**Location:** Shaffer Homestead in Midland



Parents, it's time to get the Ball rolling! (sorry) If you have volunteered to serve in some capacity for the AAB, or if you would like to serve on the Ball Committee (and we need all the help that we can get!), please make your plans to attend this meeting. Following the meeting we will all go on to Clear Springs for our regular July function. **THERE'S MUCH WORK TO BE DONE! WE NEED TO GET STARTED!** We hope to finalize assignments at this meeting. **Please help us to make the 3rd All Academy Ball hosted by the WPPC of the Texas Plains the best yet!** Contact Betty if you need directions.

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**JULY GRADUATE AND CADET BIRTHDAYS**

The Old Grad (Andy) July 10  
Cadet Jonathan Taylor July 4  
Cadet Scott Thornbury July 20



**WPPC MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Jack Blake July 8  
Joe Haston July 15  
Charles Gibson July 10  
Michael Navarro July 27  
Reis Ritz July 14  
Dick Ritz July 21  
Nancy Ritz July 4  
Ron Waters July 10  
Anne Phillips July (?)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EVERYONE!**



**THE WEST POINT CLUB OF THE TEXAS PLAINS WANTS YOU!!**

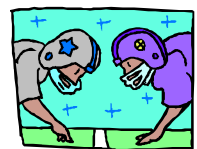
**To Pay Your Annual Dues!**

**Parents, it is time to pay your annual dues to our WPPC. We need your support - both in your attendance of our club functions and by paying your dues. This money goes to cover our operating expenses such as the newsletter, directory, club functions and a host of miscellaneous expenses. Please support your club by paying your dues of \$20/year/family. You may pay at our July function or send payment to our treasurers:**

**Dan and Caron Thornbury  
5502 80th Street  
Lubbock, TX 79424**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
SPECIAL WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS EVENTS!**



**Oct. 4:** Road trip to Ft. Worth to watch **ARMY** beat **TCU**  
**Have your cadets watch for trip section poop!**  
**Dec. 6:** **Army/Navy Party!** Do you have non-Academy friends who served in the Army or the Navy? Let us know who they are. All are welcome to watch the **Black Knights prevail!** Location TBA.  
**DEC. 27: ALL ACADEMY BALL**  
**March 11, 2004:** Road trip to Ft. Bliss, TX (El Paso) to celebrate the **USMA Founder's Day.**

**DON'T FORGET TO CONSULT YOUR DIRECTORY FOR THE COMPLETE 2003 - 2004 WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS CALENDAR OF EVENTS!**

# SUPPORT OUR NEW CADETS AND CADET CANDIDATES

START SENDING THOSE CARDS AND LETTERS!

Remember how important it was to your cadets to receive mail plebe year but especially during Beast? Well, our newest members of The Corps need your support and encouragement from home!

You may write to them at:

New Cadet Terrel Culp

PO Box 1017

New Cadet Zach Frisbie

PO Box 1656

New Cadet Jorge Lopez

PO Box 3207

New Cadet Zach Oliver

PO Box 3784

New Cadet Andrew Tuegel

PO Box 4579



Mail to USMAPS Cadet Candidates David Guerrero and Cole White may be addressed to (Until we get actual PO Boxes):

Cadet Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

USMAPS

Ft. Monmouth, NJ 07703



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## GRADUATION 2003



The families of all of our graduating cadets gathered at West Point for that most emotional time known as Graduation Week. No doubt they are all still recovering from the gamut of emotions that occur at graduation. Reis sends the following information on our Honor Graduates of the USMA Class of 2003:

**HONOR GRADUATES:** Cadet Jake Bailey Cadet Brandon Ritz

**PHI KAPPA PHI** (top 10% of senior class): Cadet Jake Bailey Cadet Brandon Ritz

**GOLD STAR AND WREATH - DISTINGUISHED CADETS AND SUPE'S AWARD:**

Cadet Jake Bailey and Cadet Brandon Ritz

**LTG WILLIAM H. ARNOLD MEMORIAL AWARD:** Cadet Jake Bailey

**LIFE SCIENCE AWARD** - Outstanding Cadet Majoring in the Life Sciences: Cadet Brandon Ritz  
(one of three)



## USMAPS GRADUATION 2003



Patricia and Jorge Lopez, and family, made the trip to Ft. Monmouth, NJ to witness the graduation of Cadet Candidate (now New Cadet) Jorge Lopez. It was their first trip back East, but they seemed to do fine and didn't seem too rattled upon their return to West Texas! Patricia described graduation as "wonderful", "exciting", and a time in the life of the family that none of them will forget. The Lopez's knew that Jorge was in the Gospel Choir at USMAPS but as a surprise Jorge did not tell them that not only was the Choir performing at the graduation dinner ceremony, but he was the featured soloist! What a wonderful gift to his parents! Following graduation, the Lopez's traveled up to West Point to tour the post and to become familiar with Jorge's "home" for the next four years.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES AND TO THEIR FAMILIES!**

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## CADET NEWS



Shirley Atwood sends the following on **Cadet Travis Atwood**: "We just made the 1 year hurdle for no health problems. Travis is doing well, physically and academically. He will spend the summer at Camp Buckner, first as a squad leader and then as a Supply SGT. He is majoring in Economics."

Dan Thornbury reports on **Cadet Scott Thornbury**, who has been on CTLT assignment at Ft. Bliss. Scott has taken a course on identifying many different helicopters from around the world, and tested out at 95%. Scott has expressed how much he enjoyed working with, and learning from, veteran NCO's and was impressed with their professionalism. He prepared a Power Point presentation on the upgrades to the Stinger training module and briefed the Battalion Commander. Scott also worked with a commander in a Theater High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) system.

Parents - We all enjoy reading about the exploits and triumphs of your cadets and graduates. So keep sending me their news so that we may all share in your pride in these exceptional young Americans.

Betty

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## GRADUATE NEWS



**1LT John Thurman** is on his way home from duty in Iraq. John is enroute to West Point where he has been assigned to serve in the Admissions Dept. as the Outreach Officer for the Southwest Region. Welcome home, John!

**Muff Fregia sends the following report on Justin**, also serving in Iraq: Justin's Troop with the 3rd Armored Cavalry has been in western Iraq near the Syrian border for about 6 weeks. They have spent a small amount of time on a humanitarian mission (helping to restore a water supply) in a small town, but have mostly been in Al Qa'im (think Mos Isley Cantina, Star Wars fans) There's been less frequent violence there than in the interior, but a member of Justin's troop was killed at the checkpoint early in June. Justin's troop was involved in the convoy attack the night of June 18. It was a busy night for Justin! Letters have taken up to 5 weeks, but packages are getting through in half that time now and snacks relieve the tedium of MRE's! He has requested that we send ice, ice cream, air conditioning, and flushing toilets! He said he was celebrating his 3rd anniversary of graduation from USMA with tuna fish and Easy Cheese on Harvest Crisps - and there are other high points - they are near the Euphrates River and get to take some showers!

Muff reported that USMA graduate **LT Brad McBrayer** is also serving in Iraq.



***Please keep these graduates, and all of our troops, in your special prayers.***