



# WEST POINT PARENTS' CLUB OF THE TEXAS PLAINS November 2003



Dear Parents,

*It is really hard for me to realize that November is upon us. Yet another round of College Nights have come and gone. Andy and I had the privilege of speaking to many of our great West Texas youth about the Academy that we love so much.*

*Our most sincere thanks to those parents who have volunteered to act as hosts at the By-Invitation events the last week of October. Andy and I wish that we could be there for these important functions but our duty leads us elsewhere that week. We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the many cards, thoughts and prayers that you, and our cadets, have sent to us following the death of Andy's father. The day of the Midland By-Invitation we will be at Arlington National Cemetery to lay this old soldier to rest. Thank you all so much for your support.*

*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 November 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, Andy Shaffer, for your informative presentation of "Lessons Learned from the Iraqi War" presented at our last meeting. It was fantastic! The club met in Lubbock, so we need to say "thank you" to Dan and Caron Thornbury for securing a meeting room for us. Those of you that were unable to attend missed a good time, and we missed you!

Probably by the time that you receive this newsletter, the club will have hosted a By-Invitation on October 29th in Odessa and October 30th in Midland. This By-Invitation is an opportunity for prospective candidates to talk to West Point Admissions personnel. It is an invaluable time for students to determine if they wish to attend West Point, and it is a time to see if they are up to the high standards of the Long Gray Line. CPT John Thurman will be here as the West Point Admissions Officer. If that name sounds familiar, you are right! It is the same CPT John Thurman from Midland, and he will be our guest speaker for the All Academy Ball in December.

There were 29 of us at the Army - TCU football game on October 4th. We had a great time, even though the score was not to our liking. The afternoon began with the Supe's briefing, which was given by GEN Brooks. TCU hosted the Army recruiters who staged a carnival with rock wall climbing, bungee cord races and other activities. Pauline Taylor should be on the Army team for winning the football toss! A horse cavalry platoon in 1800's period uniforms from Ft. Hood brought in the game ball. The horses presented the fans with some amusement! After the game the camaraderie continued at dinner.

Make your plans now to attend the annual Army - Navy football game party. It is December 6th and plans are in the process of being finalized. We will be getting word out just as soon as final details are ready. We need everyone there to cheer the Black Knights on to victory over the Midshipmen. **GO ARMY! BEAT NAVY!**

Carla and I are excited about being Co-presidents of the greatest WPPC of all!

**GO ARMY!!!!**

Joe and Carla Haston



**ATTENTION TO ORDERS!**  
**WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS NOVEMBER MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 3:30 P.M.**  
**CLEAR SPRINGS CAFE**  
**MIDLAND**



**PROGRAM: "THE TRUTH - REALLY - ABOUT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY"**  
**OR**  
**"THE SWABBY SINGS"**

**Presented by Peter Bowen, USNA Blue and Gold Officer**

**Peter Bowen, a retired Army SGT, serves as the local Admissions Representative for the USNA. Some of you know Peter as the owner of an extremely eye catching sequined vest that he wears to our All Academy Ball.**

**Peter will be discussing the similarities and differences between USNA and USMA, with particular emphasis on academics, and summer training. He will also discuss the role that USNA graduates play in serving our country, and the type of assignments that they face upon graduation. This is a good opportunity for you to ask questions, and dispell myths, concerning Crab Town - aka Canoe U, and Squids. Come and learn about the Brigade of Midshipmen and their home on the Severn River in Annapolis, Maryland. You will leave with a greater understanding of why we should all take great pride in these young men and women.**

**Your editor has learned that this date will also be Peter's 65th birthday. Please help us to make it memorable for Peter. If you would like, bring a small (homemade is good) "gag" gift that celebrates the age-old Army/Navy rivalry!**

**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!**

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**ATTENTION ALL CARPENTERS, PAINTERS, SEWERS AND "GOFER'S"**



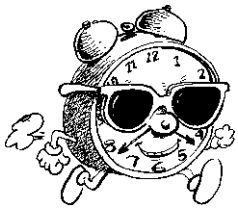
**There will be another workday in early November for the All Academy Ball. The date has yet to be set but we will let you know. Come test your Home Improvement, Interior Design and "Ability to Follow Orders" skills! We work hard, but we have fun and we can promise lots of munchies! Stay tuned for details!**



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**HEAR YE, HEAR YE ALL PLEBE AND USMAPS PARENTS!**



**We all want to hear the details on your recent trips to West Point and USMAPS for Plebe Parent Weekend and Parents' Weekend! Please come to the November WPPC meeting and share all your stories with us as well as your photographs. This is your opportunity to BRAG on your cadets and cadet candidates!! Were you amazed at how mature they have become in these past few months? Well, we want to hear all about it!**



# COUNTDOWN TO ALL ACADEMY BALL 2003!

OR

## "THE CLOCK IS TICKING"



**The invitations to our All Academy Ball will be going in the mail before Thanksgiving.**

Our chief designer and decorator, Susie Davis, has requested the construction of additional columns to adorn the Ballroom at Green Tree CC. As soon as the date for a workday is set, a postcard and email will be sent to you.

A reminder to be on the look out for Cadet/Midshipmen door prize gifts. We want to give every cadet and midshipman at least one gift, and as nice of a gift as is possible. These gifts can be purchased or donated. We have given food coupons, movie CD's, DVD's, tee-shirts, Susie's South 40 candy, shaving kits, cameras.... Just think about your cadet as you think about a door prize gift. If he would like it, it's a good bet that the others will, too!

It is not too late to get addresses to Paula Ritz to add to our invitation list. If you would like other family members to receive personal invitations to the Ball, please get their addresses to Paula before November 20th.

Please continue encouraging your cadet to bring his Full Dress Gray uniform home for the holidays. This will be the last year for our 2004 graduates to attend and be recognized as our current graduation class. It is okay to TELL your cadets that "We are going to the Ball." There have been a number of us that have done this. Yes, the guys have grumbled, but they (some of them) do that anyway! It is a wonderful evening that makes lasting memories and is highly rated by the Admissions Department and Public Affairs Office at West Point.

Thank you all for the hard work and support that you give to making our Ball such a success. Paula  
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### MEMBER NEWS

Did you wonder where **Julie and Alan Culp** were at the October meeting? Well Julie managed to break her hand! She's recovering but we're pretty sure that she must be excused from vacuuming or dishwashing for at least six months!

**Sam and Shirley Atwood** have relocated from scenic Hamlin, TX to Shiner, TX. Sam is Superintendent of schools and Shirley is teaching 4th grade. Sam and Shirley plan to keep their ties with the WPPC of the Texas Plains. We hope to see them at the All Academy Ball!

**Leslie and Randy Graham** are looking forward to having son, Tye, USMA '03, at "nearby" Ft. Hood.

### **CADET HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Adam Christenson November 22

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**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NOVEMBER 11 IS  
VETERANS DAY. FLY THOSE FLAGS WITH**



**PRIDE!**



### **MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!**

Bob Glover	November 30
Gary Hacker	November 28
Nellie Oliver	November 11
Cynthia Swanson	November 10
Gary Willis	November 5
Carol Willis	November 7



## CADET NEWS



Do any of you need some examples of why attending West Point is so unique and offers opportunities what would never be found at a civilian college? If so, you would need only to look at the social calendar of **Cadet Dustin Navarro**, the Brigade S4. In September Dustin had the (dubious) honor of having lunch with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. The luncheon was in Washington Hall followed by a tour of Trophy Point. Cadet Navarro's luncheon partners included the Supe and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (there's safety in numbers!). This week Cadet Navarro escorted the Commissioner of the FDNY and several of the FDNY Fire Chiefs, on a tour of Washington Hall. And if that's not enough, this past week Cadet Navarro had dinner with GEN Aziz, who (as best as your editor could determine) is something like a Commander in Chief of the Pakistan army. GEN Aziz and GEN Lennox, the Supe, are former workmates. Where else but West Point could a college student possibly meet people like this? When learning of these social interactions, the first question from your editor to Cadet Navarro was "Did you remember to use your napkin?". Ever the Army wife!

**Cadet Travis Atwood** continues his adventures with the Varsity track team at West Point. Travis made an attempt to return to pole vaulting but experienced some of his former problems with his lung. The coach, being always mindful of cadet health first and foremost, took Travis off of the pole vaulting events. Travis is now running hurdles for the track team and is doing fine.

Some of us had dinner with **Cadet Michael Watson** after the TCU game. Michael selected Army Aviation as his first choice of a branch assignment and now anxiously awaiting the results of branch selection.

**Cadet CodySam Davis** surprised the Haston and Davis clan over the long Columbus Day weekend by flying home to help celebrate Carla's birthday. We think that his taste in birthday gifts is maturing as he presented his mother with the pendant necklace of his class ring. On Saturday CodySam and Amanda, his fiance, came to have dinner with your editor and the Old Grad. We were thrilled to have them all to ourselves for an evening and only hope that we didn't bore them to tears with our "How to Survive the Army" tales. Of course, we were left wondering after they had gone if we had ever really been that young!

**Cadet Terrel Culp** has perhaps watched Pirates of the Caribbean a few too many times and made an awfully convincing pirate at a recent Spirit Dinner. If you ask Julie to see pictures, we bet she'd be happy to share them! Terrel's duties as a Manager for the basketball team will prevent him from coming home for Thanksgiving. But not to worry! Terrel has been invited to Queens, NY to spend Thanksgiving with the Italian family of his cadet buddy, Anthony. No doubt he will learn many new customs - carving the traditional Thanksgiving lasagna, passing the traditional Thanksgiving side dishes of antipasto, fettucini Alfredo and garlic bread.....

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OF OUR CADETS AND CADET CANDIDATES!**



# USMAPS News

## USMA Class of 2008



Finally your delinquent editor is publishing the mailing addresses for our cadet candidates at USMAPS. They really enjoy mail, and food (!) so please lend your support as they make their way through this year at USMAPS.

**Cadet Candidate David Guerrero**  
**USMAPS Box 80**  
**Ft. Monmouth, NJ 07703**

**Cadet Candidate Cole White**  
**USMAPS Box 365**  
**Ft. Monmouth, NJ 07703**

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### GRADUATE NEWS

**2LT Tye Graham is in Officer Basic Training at Ft. Knox, KY. Life is obviously tough in the Army these days and Tye must endure many hardships. Golf is not until 1700 hrs most days. Weekend duties are equally strenuous and generally involve making trips to Florida, Chicago or other strategic destinations where there is to be a ball game or a concert.**

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### **WPPC OF THE TEXAS PLAINS ARMY - NAVY PARTY**

#### **ATTENTION ARMY RABBLE!**



If you can't travel to Pennsylvania for the ONLY football game of the season, then mark your calendars now to join us on **December 6, 2003 for our traditional ARMY - NAVY party**. This event will be held at Midland Bible Church, 2800 North A Street in Midland. Time to be announced but kickoff is later in the afternoon this year. We will have lots of munchies and a potluck dinner as we watch the Black Knights battle the Middies.

All Army - Navy parties are more fun if both the Army and the Navy are represented. If you know anyone who has served in the Army, Navy or Marines let them know about the only place in West Texas where these rabid fans can get together, scream and yell and not worry the general population about the sanity of Army and Navy fans. All we ask is that everyone bring a dish to share.

For details please contact **Paula Ritz** or **Betty Shaffer**. **GO ARMY!!! BEAT NAVY!!!**

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### WEST POINT FIRSTS AND LASTS

- ◆ First four year class: 1821
- ◆ First class to receive Bachelor of Science Degree: 1934
- ◆ Last class to receive horse training & have the first astronaut: 1950 (Frank Borman)
- ◆ First class to have a West Point Parents' Club: 1954
- ◆ Last class assigned to companies based on height: 1960
- ◆ Last class to spend Christmas at West Point: 1967
- ◆ Last class to "Brace": 1972
- ◆ Last class to have four full years of mandatory chapel: 1972
- ◆ Last class to see all male Corps of Cadets: 1976
- ◆ Last class issued gray blankets with USMA: 1976
- ◆ First class to have a female command a Patriot BN and an ADA Brigade: 1981 (Heidi Brown)

