

# WPSA NEWS

WEST POINT SOCIETY OF ATLANTA \* PO BOX 492511 \* ATLANTA, GA 30349  
<http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-atlanta/> \* VOICE MAIL 404-881-8081

*Circulated quarterly to grads and friends of West Point*

**AUGUST 2004**

## THE MANY ACTIVITIES OF YOUR SOCIETY...



*Find an event that suits your interest! There are many things planned and many of your classmates are waiting for you. Much work goes into planning and arranging guest speakers and other logistics - all for your pleasure and interest.*

*Luncheons, Happy Hours, picnics, football games - the networking itself is worth the trip.*

**COME OUT AND PLAY!**

## *The Days...*

Aug 25, 6:30 PM - Northside Happy Hour at Frankie's Sports Bar, The Prado Shopping Center, Roswell Rd. at I-285. Held on last Wednesday of the month. Call Kerry Cecil '93 at 678-591-6715 for details.

Aug 26, 6:30 PM - Southside Happy Hour at Malone's on Virginia Ave (Airport). Held on last Thursday of every month. Call West Stewart '63, 770-487-6820.

Sep 11, 1:00 PM - Army BEATS Louisville at Michie Stadium!

Sep 18, Fall Family Picnic - Enjoy a great Saturday at the Bowers' Farm in Commerce, GA. Lunch, beautiful country scenery, and wonderful camaraderie. See flyer for details.

Sep 21, (Tuesday) Monthly Luncheon at The Petite Auberge in Toco Hills Shopping Center. Speaker: CSM (R) Eric Haney, Author of Inside Delta Force.

Sep 29, Northside Happy Hour.

Sep 30, Southside Happy Hour.

Oct 16, Army vs U. South Fla, (Tampa).

Oct 19, Monthly Luncheon at The Petite Auberge.

Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, Joint WPSA/Kiwanis Club Luncheon, downtown Atlanta, Speaker: COL Jack Jacobs, MOH Recipient.

WPSA Voice Mail 404-881-8081

### **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...**

I still remember, not long after graduating in 1982, receiving an offer to join the West Point Society of Chicago – my original hometown. Despite never living there again I maintained that membership for years because I felt it to be of value – a networking, professional, social, and charitable organization that had a solid reputation in the community. When I left active duty in 1988 and settled here in Atlanta one of the first calls I made was to find out about the Atlanta society and how to join. Admittedly I wasn't the most active member for a number of years. My greatest focus was on building my business while maintaining a strong family life and serving in the Army Reserves. I did, however, find the monthly luncheons a good time to meet other grads and find out about their professional lives while at the same time hearing from a litany of outstanding speakers. I also enjoyed an occasional Founder's Day Dinner and could be counted on to attend the Army-Navy football game activities at whatever local area sports bar was chosen that year.

Even though I transitioned from occasional event attendee to the Board of Governors and now to President you do not have to follow the same route. I am simply asking many of you to just come back and check us out. Many folks joined for a year or two, attended an event or two, and then just moved on with other things. That's okay. But please, if you've drifted or never had an interest in joining this organization, please reconsider. The things we do just keep getting better and better. This newsletter is full of things we have on tap for this year but let me highlight just a few:

- The picnic scheduled for September 18 at the Bowers Farm outside Commerce, GA will be in its third year. Yeah, it's a hike out there, but Mike and Bette Rose are very gracious hosts and they even have a pony for the kids!
- Our first luncheon of the fall is scheduled for September 21 where we will be returning to the Petite Auberge in Toco Hills. The speaker will be outstanding and very timely. Counter-terrorism expert and original Delta Force operator CSM (Ret.) Eric Haney will absolutely enthrall our audience and you will be talking about his speech for months thereafter. How do I know? I've heard him speak before and he is excellent. Hopefully he will also be signing copies of his recent book [Inside Delta Force](#).
- Our last Wednesday of the month Happy Hours at Frankie's at The Prado keep attracting more and more grads. Please come, join the fray, and hear a good story or two.

Are you feeling the urge to re-engage? I sure hope so. In all of my personal and professional dealings, it is those with whom I have an association with West Point that are the most gratifying. I think you may feel the same.

**DALE HAJOST '82**  
**President, WPSA**

### **WPSA welcomes troops coming back from deployment**



**Hajost '82, Gelineau '81, Gilbert '82, and Stapleton '64** don the red aprons of the USO as they meet and greet our dedicated soldiers coming through the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. Our society will continue to assist the USO with this extremely rewarding service and you are welcome to help. The USO calls us when a plane-load is arriving and we send volunteers to smile, greet and thank. If you want to take part in this effort, contact **West Stewart '63**, 770-487-6820.

## Ross takes Army challenge

### 2004 Army Football Schedule

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>
9/11 1:00 PM	Louisville	Home
9/18 8:00 PM	Houston	Houston, TX
9/25 12:00 PM	U. Conn	E. Hartford, CT
10/2 1:00 PM	TCU	Home
10/9 1:00 PM	Cincinnati	Home
10/16 7:00 PM	USF	Tampa, FL
10/30 2:00 PM	E. Carolina	Greenville, NC
11/06 1:00 PM	Air Force	Home
11/13 7:00 PM	Tulane	New Orleans
11/20 1:00 PM	UAB	Home
12/04 2:30 PM	Navy	Philadelphia

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Can you believe summer is almost over and school's about to begin??? WPSA is busy planning fall and winter events—the first of which will be the Fall Family Picnic at the Bowers' Farm in Commerce, GA. Those who attended last year had a terrific time. This is a wonderful event for the entire family—great food, games, and camaraderie—what more could you ask for? See the enclosed flyer for details and mark your calendar.

Luncheons are planned for the **third Tuesday** in September (21<sup>st</sup>) and October (19<sup>th</sup>) at Petite Auberge Restaurant (\$15 per person). WPSA/Kiwanis will hold their joint luncheon on Tuesday, 9 Nov at the Kiwanis location downtown. Detailed information will be available later. And December is always busy with GPTV Army/Navy Fundraising event, Army/Navy Game Party, and the All Academy Ball.

The new WPSA Board is working on some new activities and programs so be sure to check your WPSA email and WPSA website for details for dates, speakers, reservations, locations, etc.

Haven't paid your CY 04 dues yet? There's still time and only those who are current with their dues will receive the 04-05 WPSA Directory! If your dues are NOT paid for this year, you will see a note by your name on the address label. Pay on-line at <http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-atlanta/nuke/html/> or send your check, payable to WPSA, to: WPSA, PO Box 492511, Atlanta, GA 30349-2511.

I enjoyed working with last year's Board of Governors and look forward to the year ahead working with old and new friends. I started this "gig" as a temporary, part-time job in May 1980 and I'm still here! Have fun in the remaining hot, lazy days of summer and see you in the fall.

**JAN HEATH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
404-464-5351, [heathjd@forscom.army.mil](mailto:heathjd@forscom.army.mil)

### ADMISSIONS REPORT

The Class of 2008 is in place and by the time this newsletter is sent they will officially be Cadets instead of New Cadets. When R-day finally arrived this past June 28<sup>th</sup> there were 22 candidates from the metro Atlanta area ready to get it on. My expectation is that 22 of those new cadets made it through and are now into their academic year and new academic year companies. Of course they all will have made it. We only send the good ones from Atlanta! You remember those days, don't you?

As a send-off tribute, GOV. Sonny Perdue addressed the candidates at The Capitol, and our society hosted them and their families at our June luncheon. They were entertained and educated by our guest speaker that day – Lt Cdr Jim Starnes, a WWII Navy veteran and Officer of the Deck on the USS Missouri the day Japan surrendered. Quite a memorable and educational day! (see Reinhard's article for "the rest of the story")

We're already into preparing for the class of 2009. As always our graduates are our best ambassadors. Think of it as replacing yourself.

**MAJOR DALE HAJOST**  
MALO/WPSA President



# WPSA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

# FALL FAMILY PICNIC

**Saturday, Sep 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM (Lunch at 1:00 PM)

BBQ, Sports, Relaxation, Cheer

At the Farm of Bette Rose and Mike Bowers '63

Directions from Atlanta: Take I-85 North to exit 149 (Tanger Outlet Mall); go towards Athens/Commerce on US Hwy 441 about 5 miles to Hwy 98; Turn **LEFT** at light onto Hwy 98 toward Ila and Danielsville; Go 1.9 mi to Sandy Creek Rd and Turn **RIGHT**; Go 1.9 more miles and turn **LEFT** at 1989 Sandy Creek Rd – It is a gravel driveway, if lost, call 706-335-3603.

COST: \$14.00 per person, max \$30.00 per family. RSVP NLT Sep 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Late changes – call West Stewart at 770-487-6820 or [xpressmessaging@msn.com](mailto:xpressmessaging@msn.com)

Mail to: West Point Society of Atlanta, P.O. Box 492511, Atlanta, GA 30349-2511

I will attend the Sept 18, 2004 WPSA Fall Family Picnic. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_  
Places for me.

\_\_\_\_ Check encl. for reservation(s). (\$14 per person / \$30 per family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Also included is my 2004 Membership Dues (\$35.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

USMA Class \_\_\_\_\_

If you are joining the Society, please include:

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE hm: \_\_\_\_\_ wk: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE HISTORY CORNER – From our local curmudgeon, DON REINHARD '59**

Our June Luncheon was a history lesson in itself and if you weren't there, you missed a great speaker. Mr. Jim Starnes, who is pushing the middle out of his 80's, has a memory for those events he witnessed that is as clear as a cold winter day. He shared those memories with us in a gentlemanly style fitting of his generation.

Jim was commissioned an ensign in the USNR in 1940 after two years at Emory. Back in those days, he was under 21, so he had to talk his father into signing his permission slip. After a few months of a Navy version of OCS, he had two choices - get out and "Go back to whatever I was doing..." or stay in. War with Japan was visible on the horizon to anyone with reasonable foresight, so he elected to stay in, and was assigned to the USS Boise, a light cruiser as a navigator. More on this later - Jim presented it in this same sequence. Fast forward to 1944, when Jim, now a Lt/Cdr, was reassigned to the newly commissioned USS Missouri, still as a navigator, but now THE navigator. What a change - from a small warship designed to help out to 45,000 tons of dreadnaught, designed to take the fight to the largest, most dangerous ships of the Japanese. We all know where the Mighty Mo wound up - in Tokyo Bay on 2 Sept 1945, to accept the surrender of the Japanese. By virtue of being the navigator, Jim was by regulation assigned as OD (That's Officer of the Deck - sorta like a supercharged OC.) When special events or ceremonies took place or the ship was at General Quarters (Sorta the shipboard equivalent of DEFCON I.), which happened twice a day; sunrise & sunset. As Jim said, what could be more special than accepting the surrender of the Japanese Government? So there he was, pistol at his side (with bullets in the weapon, he said), all spiffed up in his best unwrinkled khakis, greeting the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shigamitsu. But a bit of background on this event. Jim selected the sideboys (no relation to any furniture in the dining room) who stood at attention on either side of the path the dignitary followed immediately upon boarding. He said he selected the biggest, most imposing sailors in the crew for this "honor?" in order to impress upon the Japanese that we were a pretty tough bunch of hombres. So, while the bosun piped him aboard, Jim, a mere Lt/Cdr responded in the affirmative when the PM "Requested permission to board." After all, who was he to say "No!"? The Mo had been selected for this honor in history because it was the home state of the President, Harry S. Truman. The crew was preparing to break out their dress whites and ceremonial swords (Ships this big had decent laundries so the crew didn't have to slosh out their skivvies in a muddy trench.) But - Gen Mac Arthur decreed otherwise. "We fought them in our khaki's so we will accept their surrender in them." So much for the pomp; circumstance survived. You should hold your breath for this next line. PM Shigamitsu had a pegleg. (For Harry Potter fans, just like Mad Eye Moody, except he didn't have a carved clawed foot on it.) Jim had to ensure that he didn't get it fouled in the ladder/stairway while climbing aboard from his launch. Jim said he could just envision him missing a step, getting that pegleg tangled up in the line, dangling there upside down momentarily before pitching head first into the bay. Don't know how he did it, but the photo Jim has of the ceremony shows Shigamitsu wearing a shoe; Jim still swears he had a pegleg that went thump every other step. (Sorta like the OC wearing one sneaker.) Jim stood there in the front row during the ceremony and heard every word spoken. At the conclusion, the US Navy was to fly every plane available across the site to again impress upon the Japanese that they were soundly beaten by a formidable enemy. The last signature was affixed, everyone was released, and Gen MacArthur turned to an admiral and asked where the planes were. As if on cue, the roar of a mighty air armada blackened the sky at low altitude. The day was complete. Jim reported that it lasted but a few minutes and has a copy of his signature on the log book for that day to prove it.

At this point in his talk, Jim had consumed but about 10 minutes. How was he going to finish up the last expected 20 minutes? In my wildest dreams, I could never have imagined what came next. Flash back with me to 1953, Miami, Fla, Public library, when I checked out my first book on the history of WW-II. (I read every one they had in the next two years). The book described the

voyages and battles of the USS Boise! And here I sat, eating lunch with a man who had been aboard her during the worst of those battles. Jim missed Pearl Harbor because the Boise was escorting some cargo ships to China. For the next several months they sailed around the Philippines and the far western Pacific performing a multitude of undramatic tasks. That all changed on one terrible night in October, 1942. We had invaded Guadalcanal in August 1942 with zero resistance on the beaches. Captured the airfield without a battle; captured the Japanese Army's breakfast still hot on the table. Then the fun began. The US Navy was soundly beaten up on by the Japanese for over a month, losing quite a few of the surviving major ships that escaped Pearl Harbor. The waters around the island belonged to the Japanese at their pleasure. On the night of 12 Oct, the Boise and other rag-tag remnants of the fleet had intelligence that the Japanese were coming again. They steamed back and forth across a rather wide strait near Cape Esperance, waiting. Radar was not aboard every ship, but the Boise, being new, had it, and detected the Japanese at a long range - over 20,000 yds, battleship main gun range. The fleet commander was not used to this new fangled invention yet, and refused Captain Moran's request to open fire when the enemy came within 6 inch gun range. Finally, Capt Moran could wait no longer - the Japanese were only 5000 yards away. (That's like at the rim of the foxhole for the grunts among us.) The Boise only had 6 inch guns, and the enemy was known to have heavy cruisers with 8 inch guns. As Jim said, with surprise on their side after their first salvo, "All Hell broke lose!" Everyone was firing at everybody. The Boise exacted a high toll on the Japanese before being hit herself; after all, they knew the range and had surprise on their side. In one received salvo, the entire forward three turrets were knocked out of commission; a forward magazine was hit and exploded. She lost over 110 KIA and 35 WIA. Nearly 15% of her complement. The aft two turrets continued to fire, in concert w/ the rest of the American fleet. The Japanese turned tail and ran - for the first time in the war. The Boise wound up listing pretty badly, but since neither the steering gear nor propulsion systems were damaged, managed to limp home under its own power to Philadelphia, the forward turrets mangled, one of them with its guns hanging over the starboard side. In a little less than a year, she was in the Med for the invasion of Sicily & Anzio.

Jim passed this all off like just another day at the office. In typical WW-II vet fashion, he didn't even tell us what he was doing while this was all going on. Let's put it in proper historical perspective. In all the major surface battles since the advent of steam powered capitol ships with guns mounted in rotating turrets, it has always been the dreams of the commander to "Cross the enemy's T," that is, have the enemy in a line approaching your broadside perpendicularly. You can engage him with all your guns - he can only fire the forward batteries. It has happened only four times. First at Tsushima Strait in 1905, when Adm Togo did it to the Russian fleet. Second at Jutland during WW-I, when the Brit's Adm Jellicoe did it to the Germans, but didn't know it till the battle was over. Third, at Cape Esperance, where Jim and the Boise were. And fourth, at the battle of the Surigao Strait, Oct 1944, in the Philippines, when in a poetic act of revenge, the "Old Battleships" that survived or escaped Pearl Harbor, demolished the attacking Japanese force.

It does not make the history books as such, but there was not much of the US Navy left in Oct 1942. The magnificent new ships had not begun to join the fleet in numbers, so the survivors of Pearl Harbor were our shield. Had they not won this battle, there is no guessing what would have happened next. Our schools may be taught in Japanese. A small number of very brave men, out numbered and out gunned, stood their ground and won a decisive victory that was not obvious to them at the time - they looked upon themselves as survivors. Then, 60 years later talk about it like it was just another day at the office. That's why they are "The Greatest Generation." It is not too late to thank them - the few that are left.

***DON REINHARD '59***