



# Southeast Texas USAFA Parents' Association Newsletter



October 2004

Dear Parents,

By now, our new 4<sup>th</sup> class cadets are getting into the swing of things at the Academy, and the other three classes are settling into their new leadership roles. As my son enters his last year, I can tell you how wonderful it has been to see the changes that take place over these four years. Each year certainly has its challenges, but also moments you will never forget and moments that will always fill you with great pride. Just as our children bond with each other during these years, it is our hope that many of you are getting to know each other through the parent's club and making friends to call when you want to talk to someone who has a child at USAFA. Along this line, several of our Moms have held a couple of informal lunches around the city—one in Sugarland and one in Kemah. The next one is going to be a lunch at Bendwood, on the west side, for all Moms who can make it. I am not sure of the date, but we will get Matt to send out an e-mail. It seems to be lots of fun because Marylyn always comes home in great spirits after being with everyone.

We had a great parent's weekend this past September. Thanks to all who participated and made it possible and enjoyable for us all. We had so many great comments about the food and the arrangements. A special thanks to Donda Thommason for getting the tickets and to Michael and Frankie Berry for arranging the tailgate party. We have so many others to thank for helping, but we will do that at the meeting. It was a special treat to have General Rosa and his lovely wife, Donna, join us at the tailgate. We got lots of great pictures with our cadets and the General which I hope we can share on our website soon. Thursday before the game, we had an all-day briefing by Gen Rosa and his staff on the state of the Cadet Wing. Overall, it was very positive, and I will review some of the more interesting topics at the meeting. One of the most interesting was a suggestion to reduce the Academic school year by about 2 weeks and give the cadets more time in the field with the "Real Air Force" Apparently, this is the way it is done at West Point and Annapolis.

Please remember to bring candy to the October meeting, think about attending the AFA B-Ball game in Beaumont on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> and start planning to attend the All Academy Ball just before the New Year. Another exciting development is a line of personalized picture frames and mementos, which we are hoping to use as a fundraiser for our club. We will have these things to show at our next meeting. We took them to the Parents Club meeting and there was a great deal of interest.

John and Marylyn DeFilippo



Nov 21-23	Phase 2 Training	March 18	Spring Break - LMD
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Leave Begins	March 28	Cadet Wing Returns -1900
Nov 28	Cadet Wing Returns -1900	May 14/15	Study Days
Dec 15-21	Finals	May 16-21	Finals
Dec 19	Study Day	May 27	Graduation Week Begins
Dec 22	Christmas Leave Begins	Jun 1	Class of 2005 Graduation
Dec 26	All Academies Ball	Jun 5	1st Summer Session
Jan 4	Cadet Wing Returns -1900	Jun 26	2nd Summer Session
Jan	Parents' Meeting	Jul 17	3rd Summer Session

## Club News

### Thanksgiving Bus Schedule

It appears there has been a lot of confusion and changes to the airport bus schedules for Thanksgiving. This has in part been due to the changes in the Phase 2 training. Here's the most current word from the Commandant's office: "Release time is one half hour after the out-brief. Estimated time to end the out-brief is 1500." "Any cadet flying out of Colorado Springs will not depart on a flight before 1800 , not 1759, not 1745, but **1800**. They will not depart on a Denver flight before **1900** ." Incidentally, there has been no change to the Thanksgiving return time, which is no later than 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 28 th. With that stated, the bus schedules are:

23-Nov-04

Denver at 1530, 1630, 1730 & 1830;  
Colorado Springs at 1545, 1645, 1745 & 1830

24-Nov-04

Denver at 0500, 0600 & 0700;  
Colorado Springs at 0515, 0615, 0715 & 0815

Return 28-Nov-04

C Springs and Denver 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700 & 1800 (late arrivals only)

**Phone (719) 333-3138 or 4602 to order tickets**

## **Joint Academies Military Ball**

The Ball will be held on Sunday, December 26th at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Sugarland. We have a link on our web site, [www.setxafapa.org](http://www.setxafapa.org) for the ball, and it contains all the information we have. Invitations will be handed out to the ball at this month's meeting, but they can also be found on the web site.

## **USAFA Parents' Club Liaison Newsletter**

Steven Simon, Lt Col USAF (Retired), is the Parents' Club Liaison for the academy. He writes a very informative newsletter each month. Rather than me attaching it to emails, I had built a link to the newsletter from our website. To get to the newsletters, go to [www.setxafapa.org](http://www.setxafapa.org) and select **Links** on the right side. Then select **USAFA Parents' Club Liaison Newsletter**

## **Website Pictures**

We would like to add pictures to our website. If you have any pictures, especially from Parent's Weekend, and want them displayed, please send them to me. I have already received a few, but would like some more. If possible, send digital in email or by mailing a CD. Send to [communication@setxafapa.org](mailto:communication@setxafapa.org)

## **Graduation Pictures**

Soon all the Firsties will be getting their pictures made. It is a ways off yet, but we need a picture of them to put in our April Newsletter. The easiest way to do this is to download the picture you want us to use from the website where you view the proofs. After pictures are available, I will send a reminder to all.

## **Free Airport Parking**

At Stapleton, the airport in Denver prior to DIA, there was a very nice multi-level parking garage. That is still open and the parking there is free. The city tries to encourage people to park there because of overcrowding at DIA. Security is there 24 hours a day and "The Ride" buses run from there to DIA and back on a regular basis. Depending on the hour of the day, it may be twice an hour or more.

It costs about \$5.00 each way to ride the bus to DIA from the Stapleton parking lot so the round trip is \$10.00, but that is a bargain for long periods of time. Your cadet will have to plan on having some time and not being in a rush to catch the flight because I don't know the bus schedule, but it is very regular. The beauty is that it is very safe, and the car can be parked in a nice parking garage and be out of the weather.

Ask John or Marylyn for more details.



### 2003-2004 OFFICERS

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