



Jim Buckley, Webmaster
US Coast Guard Academy Parents Association

12 September 2002

US Coast Guard Academy Parents Association
Executive and Member Councils
Webmaster Report for summer, 2002

Dear Sirs & Mesdames,

Enclosed is a report of the status of the web site for the USCGA Parents Association web site, since reported last June 22, 2002. The site is a continuation of the work accomplished by past volunteers who spent countless hours design and compiling the material that has gone into the site - many thanks to all who have made this site a success.

Several factors have caused me to reaffirm the need for a more interactive approach to the web site. With the ever-increasing invasion of sites by unscrupulous marketers or the occasional hacker with too much time on their hands, our site needs to become somewhat more defensive than it has in the past. Additionally, several features of the site are extremely labor intensive to maintain. For this reason, many of the pages will be converted to automate updates by registered parents of the site.

CURRENT STATUS

The site appears to be operating smoothly without any significant downtime. Periodic measurements show the uptime averages greater than 99% on a monthly basis. There have been no extended outages due to our hosting service.

I am glad to see we are taking advantage of several of the features of the hosting service we pay for. Specifically:

- E-mail list management - in support of the Bob Sauerbrunn's work as Listmaster '06
- PHP programming & MySQL database support - used to support on-forum activity.

ACTIVITIES

- Jim Couch has volunteered to help out on many of the Webmaster duties. I will be in contact with Jim to take over much of the page building and generation whilst we flesh out the remaining set up of the on-line forum categories.
- Replaced over 900+ e-mail links on all pages of the web site with coded JavaScript to mask e-mail addresses from automated web-crawlers and spammers. I have personally noted a marked decrease in the amount of spam I receive since this was done.
- Implemented and continue to test the use of an automated e-mail distribution list in support of the 2006 Listmaster. Bob Sauerbrunn's ISP would continuously recognize the high number of e-mails sent by his personal account as "Spamming". This is a typical reaction by today's standards where it is more and more difficult for folks to send out mass e-mailings. Most service providers forbid this as part of their service agreements and will cancel you account (sometimes without notification), if they believe you are






“spamming”. A distribution list was established and tested with a remaining issue open with parents utilizing Hotmail.com accounts.

- Continued maintenance of e-mail directory entries, photo link entries, responses to group e-mail requests, site links and additional page requests as they were provided. New sections/pages included:
 - Parents Weekend schedule (to be updated yearly)
 - Parent-to-Parent Forums - to be opened up to the membership within the next month. See Appendix 2- Parent-to-Parent Forums.










ISSUES

The maintenance of the site remains fairly labor-intensive. Each update is posted by a member and then re-keyed by the Webmaster into a finely handcrafted HTML page. The implementation of forums to permit self-posting of dynamic content will bring our site into the current millennium and keep the content (photo links and e-mail addresses) as current as possible.

Before we can rollout the forums, we need to make a call for Moderators of the various forums to be maintained. I am proposing the following forums be established, with any number of moderators to take responsibility for one or more forums:

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last Post
Public			
 How To Use Forums This forum is for hints and tricks for making the most out of your use of our forums. Moderator webmaster	2	5	02 Jan 2002 10:37 pm Rmasson →
 Web-Site Ideas & Critiques for our web-site. This service will only improve with your input! Moderator webmaster	1	1	10 Sep 2002 06:07 pm Guest →
Parent Community			
 General Discussion Discuss the National Parents Association, its operations & procedures. Please do not post support questions, or technical problem reports here.	0	0	No Posts
 Cadet Travel Arrangements Requests and offers of help in aiding Cadets travelling to and from the Academy. Post notification of travels arrangements that could be shared with other cadets or requests for travel assistance. Moderator webmaster	0	0	No Posts
 Technical Support Get help with the use or operation of the USCGA Parents Association forums, e-mail groups, etc. This should be directed to technical support vs. organizational issues. See the General Discussion for that. Thanks!	0	0	No Posts

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Forum	Topics	Posts	Last Post
 On-Line Photo Links Show off those photos of our cadets! Post links to on-line photo albums (Instructions posted in sticky topic)	0	0	No Posts
Projects			
 Reading Room Discussions pertaining to the funding and construction of the Library Reading Room Moderator webmaster	0	0	No Posts
 Adopt-A-Day-Room Funding for refurbishing day rooms within Chase Hall. Request each chapter adopt one or more day rooms.	0	0	No Posts
 Ideas & Suggestions We're a creative bunch -- please post your ideas for future projects the Parents Association should undertake!	0	0	No Posts
Association Council			
 Are Forums Useful? Discussion concerning whether or not the Parents Association should support this technology as part of its web-site. Moderators webmaster , JBuckley	1	4	23 Jan 2002 06:16 pm webmaster →
 Council Meetings Discussions concerning upcoming meetings: Agendas, outcomes, etc. Moderator webmaster	0	0	No Posts
Virtual Chapter			
 Virtual Discussion This is an open discussion forum for general parent to parent topics of interest. Hot topics derived from here may eventually spawn separate forums.	0	0	No Posts
 Virtual Promotion & Recruitment Questions & Answers concerning recruitment activities for the chapter. Suggestions / ideas on how to promote the academy and raise overall awareness.	0	0	No Posts
 Virtual Meetings Material used for virtual meetings. Please post meeting notifications, minutes, and responses to topics relative to schedule chapter meetings.			

A significant effort remains to potentially convert all existing e-mail directory entries on our site to active accounts within the forum. I have been working on the programming for this effort but do not have an ETA for this task. Once completed, we should be able to move all directory and photo link activity into a moderated forum.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

1. Create a call for Moderators to assist in the review and acquisition of content that would help our membership.

Certain material lends itself to automatic posting of data. This includes the

- E-Mail Directory
 - Photo Album Links
2. Move forward with real-time software as mentioned above for the support of “virtual chapters”. Some sections of the country are geographically dispersed enough to make it quite difficult to support a very active chapter. With forum software, sufficient communication and voting capabilities could be supported to permit all functions of a chapter to be attained. Representatives from the mid-western states could pilot such a concept and report back to the council.

N E X T S T E P S

Install Guestbook Forum on the site for the public to post messages to the group at large. (This will need to be heavily monitored). To prevent flooding by automated posting – a “feature” inflicted by some hackers – our forum software will limit the number of posts received, from one location, to no more than 1 post every 15 seconds.

Modify the Photo Link and E-mail directory pages on the site to redirect the person to register as a registered parent of the forum

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Buckley
webmaster@uscgparents.org




































APPENDIX 1 - SITE DEFINITION

Control Panel URL:	http://www.uscgaparents.org/menu (requires Name & Password below)
Site Account Name:	uscgapa
Site Password:	available from the Association Webmaster or President
Site Statistics	http://www.uscgaparents.org/stats
Web Mail:	http://www.uscgaparents.org/up (for name@uscgaparents.org accounts) requires a username password already provided to account holders

Depicted below is the control panel for the website. It is our intent that the Webmaster role will move from member to member over time so it is critical that all aspect be easily managed and that the pages developed are fairly straightforward.

Control Panel

Back To: [Main Menu](#)

Overview	Account Tools				
<p>Domain Name: uscgaparents.org Domain User: uscgapa Domain IP: 64.177.154.27 Package: Standard E-mail: JBuckley@Adelphia.net Contract Length: 1 Month(s) Status: Normal Signup Date: 12/03/01</p>	 \$20 Domain Names	 Account Management	 Add Domain	 Billing History	 Change Password
	 File Manager	 Resource Meter	 Search Engine Priming	 Upgrade CP	 Block Email
Resources	 Enable ASP	 Mail Manager	 Mailing List	 MS Frontpage	 Site Statistics
CONTROL PANEL LANGUAGE	 Counter	 Enable ColdFusion	 Formmail	 Protect Directories	 Redirect URL
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">English ▾</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Change Language</div>	 Search Engine	 Support Pages	 Web University	 Web-Based Email	 AnonFTP
	 Archive Manager	 Mime Types	 PGP	 PGPMail	 AlaCart Gold
					

APPENDIX 2 - PARENT-TO-PARENT FORUMS

Below is a depiction of the initial page one might see in using our new Forums. Several forums remain hidden unless you are a registered user / parent or belong to a specific group. In this way we could support any number of on-line activities for the National Association or open it up for support of local chapters.



USCGA Parents Association

Parent to Parent Forums



[FAQ](#) [Search](#) [Memberlist](#) [Usergroups](#) [Register](#)
[Profile](#) [Login to check your private messages](#) [Login](#)

The time now is Thu Sep 12, 2002 10:35 am

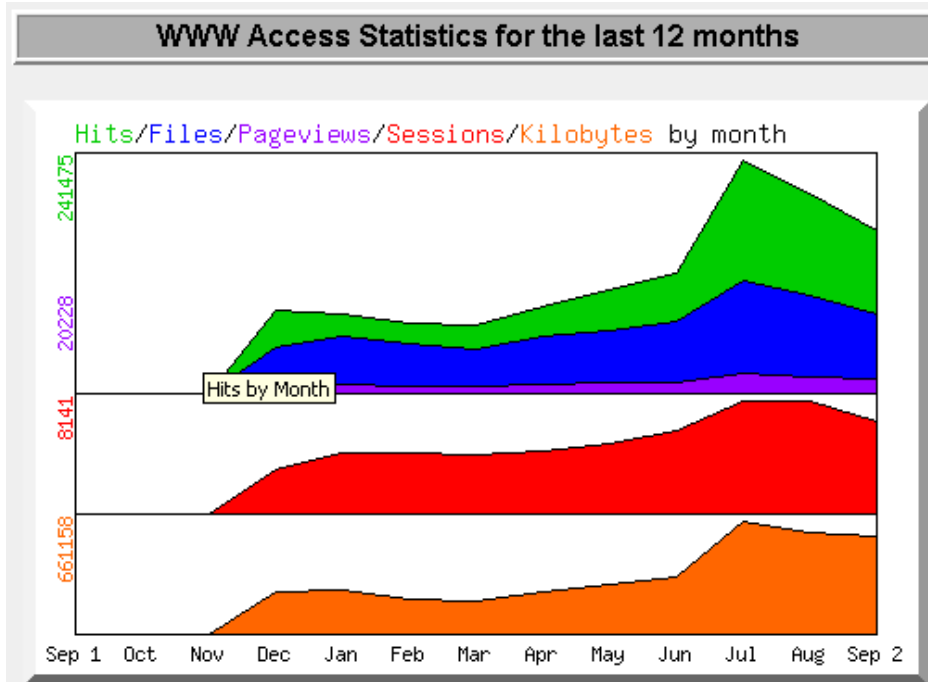
USCGA Parents Association Forum Index [View unanswered posts](#)

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last Post
Public			
 How To Use Forums This forum is for hints and tricks for making the most out of your use of our forums. Moderator webmaster	2	5	Wed Jan 02, 2002 10:37 pm Rmasson →
 Web-Site Ideas & Critiques for our web-site. This service will only improve with your input! Moderator webmaster	1	1	Tue Sep 10, 2002 6:07 pm Guest →
Parent Community			
 General Discussion Discuss the National Parents Association, its operations & procedures. Please do not post support questions, or technical problem reports here.	0	0	No Posts
 Technical Support Get help with the use or operation of the USCGA Parents Association forums, e-mail groups, etc. This should be directed to technical support vs. organizational issues. See the General Discussion for that. Thanks!	0	0	No Posts
 On-Line Photo Links Show off those photos of our cadets! Post links to on-line photo albums (Instructions posted in sticky topic)	0	0	No Posts
Projects			
 Reading Room Discussions pertaining to the funding and construction of the Library Reading Room Moderator webmaster	0	0	No Posts
 Adopt-A-Day-Room Funding for refurbishing day rooms within Chase Hall. Request each chapter adopt one or more day rooms.	0	0	No Posts
 Ideas & Suggestions We're a creative bunch -- please post your ideas for future projects the Parents Association should undertake!	0	0	No Posts
Virtual Chapter			
 Virtual Discussion This is an open discussion forum for general parent to parent topics of interest. Hot topics derived from here may eventually spawn separate forums.	0	0	No Posts
 Virtual Promotion & Recruitment Questions & Answers concerning recruitment activities for the chapter. Suggestions / ideas on how to promote the academy and raise overall awareness.	0	0	No Posts
 Virtual Meetings Material used for virtual meetings. Please post meeting notifications, minutes	0	0	No Posts



APPENDIX 3 - RECENT SITE STATISTICS

This graph & table shows all activity since the inception of the resurrected site in November of last year. The greatest activity annually occurs in the months leading up to and through Swab Summer. The graph indicates this typical seasonal nature.



Short statistics for September 2002 (updated more frequently)

Month	Hits	Files	Cached	Pageviews	Sessions	KB sent
September 2002	66894	32228	20330	5778	2669	227489
August 2002	206721	99940	85333	16751	8063	593468
July 2002	241475	115614	97796	20228	8141	661159
June 2002	122715	73540	36103	10986	5891	327288
May 2002	105432	64624	33449	9801	5026	283647
April 2002	89862	57819	25945	8327	4456	240417
March 2002	69450	45381	19948	6625	4246	193167
February 2002	72737	50600	19931	6929	4312	205631
January 2002	81468	58680	21452	8098	4272	257174
December 2001	84436	46029	31534	7450	3173	248111
November 2001	0	0	0	0	0	0
October 2001	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1141190	644455	391821	100973	50249	3237545
Average	95099	53704	32651	8414	4187	269796

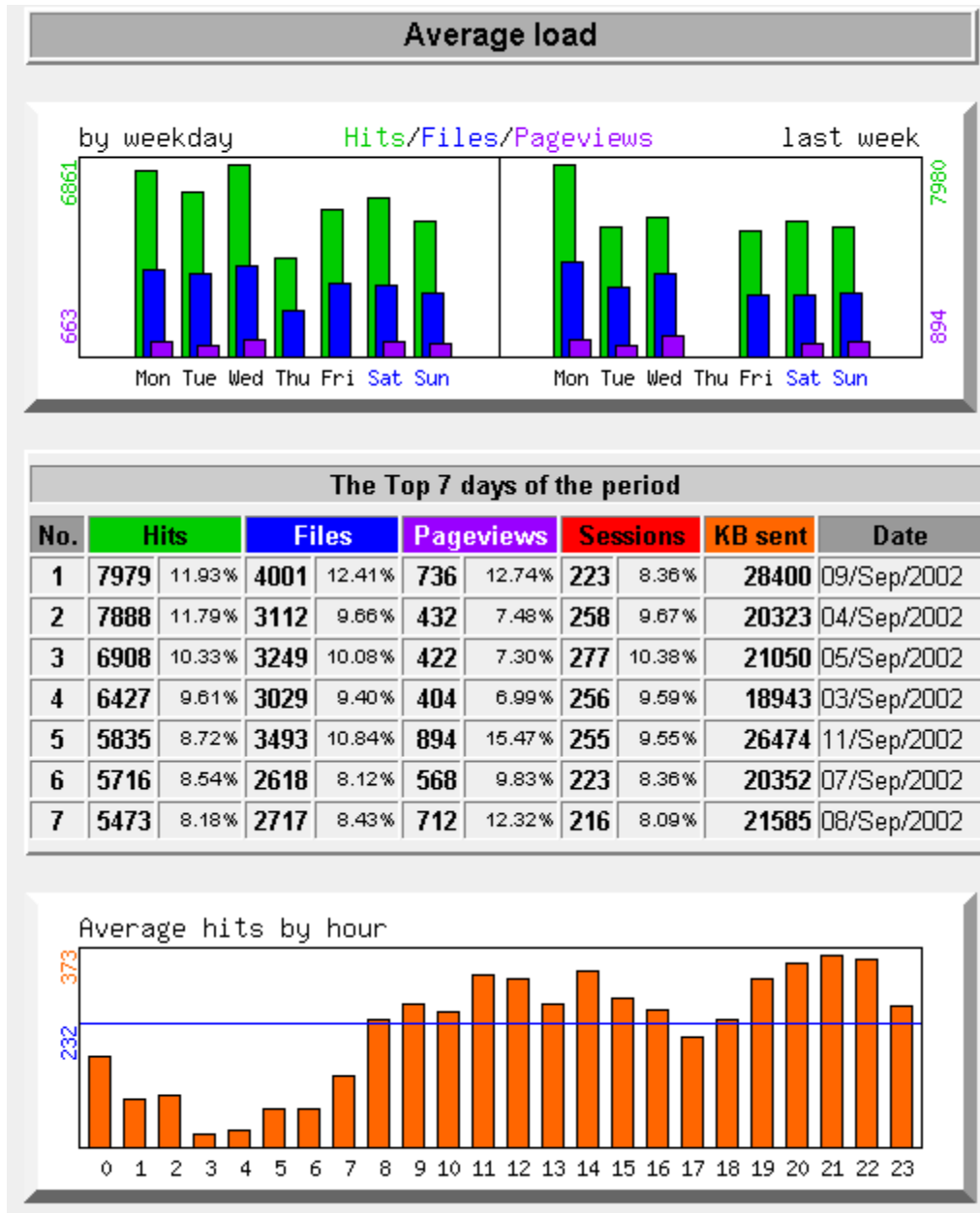
APPENDIX 4 - TOP REFERRING SITES

The following are the sites, which have a tendency to drive folks to the Parents Association site. The leader is now Google.com – the most popular of the search engines today. Surprisingly, it and Yahoo have knocked the Academy off as the top-referring site. This is likely due to the fact that the new Academy web site no longer has a link to the Parents Association Website. Messages have been sent to rectify this oversight.

No.	Hits		Files		Pageviews		Sessions		KB sent	Referrer Host
1	54805	98.23%	25852	97.06%	2281	76.36%	1231	72.58%	125827	http://WWW.USCGAPARENTS.ORG/
2	214	0.38%	206	0.77%	206	6.90%	140	8.25%	13731	http://www.google.com/
3	123	0.22%	123	0.46%	123	4.12%	70	4.13%	2427	http://www.cga.edu/
4	75	0.13%	66	0.25%	69	2.31%	46	2.71%	3686	http://google.yahoo.com/
5	45	0.08%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	wysiwyg://1/
6	44	0.08%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	wysiwyg://15/
7	37	0.07%	1	0.00%	1	0.03%	1	0.06%	20	http://www.google.de/
8	37	0.07%	37	0.14%	1	0.03%	1	0.06%	149	http://www.google.nl/
9	34	0.06%	33	0.12%	33	1.10%	15	0.88%	1177	http://aolsearch.aol.com/
10	33	0.06%	31	0.12%	31	1.04%	24	1.42%	644	http://search.msn.com/
11	31	0.06%	30	0.11%	31	1.04%	23	1.36%	678	http://search.yahoo.com/
12	29	0.05%	29	0.11%	29	0.97%	22	1.30%	570	[unknown origin]
13	20	0.04%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	wysiwyg://3/
14	20	0.04%	20	0.08%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	87	http://64.177.154.27/
15	20	0.04%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	wysiwyg://partner.21/
16	18	0.03%	18	0.07%	18	0.60%	14	0.83%	350	http://dir.yahoo.com/
17	16	0.03%	16	0.06%	16	0.54%	13	0.77%	261	http://auto.search.msn.com/
18	13	0.02%	13	0.05%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	19	wysiwyg://5/
19	12	0.02%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	wysiwyg://8/
20	12	0.02%	12	0.05%	12	0.40%	11	0.65%	199	http://www.altavista.com/
21	12	0.02%	12	0.05%	12	0.40%	7	0.41%	235	http://www.navyprep.net/
22	8	0.01%	8	0.03%	8	0.27%	3	0.18%	433	bookmarks
23	7	0.01%	7	0.03%	7	0.23%	3	0.18%	139	http://www.geocities.com/
24	6	0.01%	6	0.02%	6	0.20%	3	0.18%	212	http://msxml.excite.com/
25	6	0.01%	6	0.02%	6	0.20%	4	0.24%	118	http://www.cgaux.org/
26	6	0.01%	6	0.02%	6	0.20%	2	0.12%	119	http://www.academyparents.com/
27	5	0.01%	5	0.02%	5	0.17%	4	0.24%	101	http://navyprep.net/

APPENDIX 5 - AVERAGE LOAD PROFILE

The data below shows the times of the day and the typical load for the site (although this time of year may be higher than normal). Monday-Wednesday is typically the heaviest days for what reason, I do not know. Folks do check in during lunchtime and when they get some free time around 9PM at night!



APPENDIX 6 - CURRENT E-MAIL DEFINITIONS

Mail Manager

- [Home](#)

- Addresses **Max: 75**

[correspond](#)

[listmaster02](#)

[listmaster03](#)

[listmaster04](#)

[listmaster05](#)

[listmaster06](#)

[photomaster](#)

[president](#)

[records](#)

[secretary](#)

[treasurer](#)

[uscgapa](#)

[vicepresident](#)

[webmaster](#)

[Default](#)

- [New Address](#)

- Mailing List **Max: 2**
[Class06](#)

- [New List](#)

Mail Address Summary for uscgaparents.org

You have 14 total mail address(es).

correspond forwards mail to captfg@uscom.com

listmaster02 forwards mail to rbpdca@adelphia.net

listmaster03 forwards mail to tfmt@ix.netcom.com

listmaster04 forwards mail to listmaster04@attbi.com

listmaster05 forwards mail to 05parentmail@home.com

listmaster06 forwards mail to a POP box named [listmaster06](#) on this system

photomaster forwards mail to JBuckley@Adelphia.net

president forwards mail to dadmeeks@aol.com

records forwards mail to ddiulio@earthlink.net

secretary forwards mail to ddiulio@earthlink.net and captfg@uscom.com

treasurer forwards mail to w8ing4uhr@hotmail.com

uscgapa forwards mail to a POP box named [uscgapa](#) on this system

vicepresident forwards mail to captfg@uscom.com

webmaster forwards mail to a POP box named [webmaster](#) on this system

The **default** entry bounces default email.

You also have 1 total mailinglist(s): [Class06](#)