

WPPC-MA NEWSLETTER



FALL 2015

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

PLEASE HELP US ACCOMPLISH OUR SUPPORT MISSION

During these challenging times we all want to pitch in. As parents of cadets at West Point, there are unique opportunities to play a supporting role in the development of future leaders of character. The mission of the Parent Clubs is to support their local cadets (and others by extension). Your Leadership Team is working hard to help the USMA families to navigate the 47 month West Point journey by organizing events for families with or without their cadets (e.g. tailgate party, boodle bashes, Firstie Celebration, Holly Ball), by providing comfortable transportation back and forth to USMA, by providing guidance about

financially supporting WP (e.g. Supe's Fund), by welcoming the incoming families, etc.

When you join the WPPC-MA, your contribution helps us accomplish our mission and directly benefits cadets and grads by helping to fund events (including a Deployed Grad Boodle Bash) and supporting veteran charities. We work closely with the West Point Society of New England to encourage our members to support the causes they recommend, the Fisher House and the Patton Project, e.g. Each year, we recognize our graduating firsties with ads in the WP yearbook, the Howitzer, and in the

Holly Ball program. Before moving on to the real Army, the firstie families are presented with meaningful gifts for their future 2 LTs in recognition of their accomplishments at WP and in anticipation of their future service.

To join our club, go to our website and click on the Membership tab or copy and paste in your browser:

<http://wppc-ma.org/membership/>

Please direct questions to Membership

Co-Coordinators:

Patti

patti@macs5.com

Bob

qbsun2000@gmail.com

Holiday Highlights: Army Navy Weekend & ...

West Point families have much to look forward to in December.

Army Navy Weekend, December 11-13th promises pageantry and an exciting game on the gridiron.

For those making the trip to Philadelphia, we recommend attending the Army Navy Boxing Classic on Friday evening starting at 9:30 PM at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

Tix are now available:

<http://www.paconvention.com/Pages/Event-Details.aspx?EventId=18486>

We may try to organize an informal post-game gathering at the Doubletree Hotel where our club has reserved a block of rooms. Stay tuned...

DATES TO REMEMBER

◆ AUGUST 1st

Annual Membership Drive begins

◆ DECEMBER 11-13th

Army Navy Weekend

◆ DECEMBER 27th

All Services Academy Holly Ball of New England

◆ JANUARY 23rd

Army Navy Basketball at Madison Square Garden

◆ JANUARY 31st

Second General Meeting &

Cow Loan Boodle Bash

◆ FEBRUARY 28th

Deployed Grad Boodle Bash

◆ APRIL 3rd

Third General Meeting &

Firstie Celebration





...The New England All Services Academy Holly Ball!

Between Christmas and New Year's Day, West Point Parent Clubs across the nation host All Services Academy Holly Balls, giving families and friends of cadets and midshipmen at American Service Academies the opportunity to celebrate the season and the accomplishments of these courageous men and women.

A ticket to the Holly Ball is the perfect holiday gift for the person who may not be able to travel to West Point to see his/her favorite cadet in uniform, for the person who loves to celebrate with all branches of service, and for the person who cannot attend graduation but wants to pay

tribute to a firstie, all of whom will be recognized as part of a "senior recognition ceremony."

Moms, you wouldn't be the first to ask your cadet to attend as a Christmas present. Dates are not required...just the desire to have a good time!

<http://samuelmaranto.wix.com/2015hollyball>

CADETS & MIDSHIPMEN GATHER AT THE 2014 N.E. ALL SERVICES ACADEMY HOLLY BALL



The WPPC-MA will proudly host the 2016 All Services Academy Holly Ball!

Next year, we are excited to take our turn hosting this special family event. We urge our families to attend this year for reconnaissance purposes!

We are very fortunate to have experienced volunteers who have already stepped up to coordinate next year's celebration.

To reserve your tickets to the Army Navy Basketball Games on January 23rd

go to:

<https://www.groupticketwindow.com/groupticket/college/army/group/>

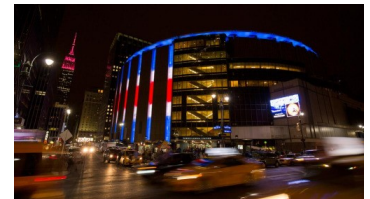
UserName: **WPPCMA**
Password: **GOARMY**

For the first time ever, the men's and women's Army West Point Basketball Teams will take on Navy at Madison Square Garden. On January 23rd, the women's teams tip off at 11:30 AM to be followed by the men's game that begins at 2:00 PM.

If a trip to NYC to visit with your cadet, the opportunity to shout "Go Army" in an iconic sports venue, or the chance to catch a show and/or a great meal seems like a good way to break up the

Gloom Period, then we have good news for you.

The WPPC-MA has reserved a block of tickets at a discounted price for this special event. Please follow the link in the margin and input the username/password to purchase your tickets to the games. Parking may also be purchased in advance. Many cadets will probably be granted a spirit pass that weekend so it is shaping up to be a fun family West Point Weekend in The Big Apple.



Coins Minted at West Point Available at USMINT.GOV



THE AMERICAN EAGLE 2015 ONE OUNCE SILVER PROOF COIN AS SHOWN IN THE U.S. MINT ONLINE CATALOG.

\$48.95

Historically, one of the gifts that has been presented to the firstie families by the WPPC-MA is a 1oz. silver American Eagle dollar that was minted at West Point during their year of graduation. A silver dollar has special meaning for WP graduates as tradition dictates that they present a silver dollar to the first person to render a salute to the newly commissioned officer. The rising 2 LTs are

encouraged to keep the silver dollar presented by our club as a memento because they are worth much more than their face value. Our coin expert, Kathy Ouellette, has shared this info before and has explained the difference between "uncirculated" and "proof" coins; uncirculated coins might have small imperfections while proof coins are finished to a higher standard. Either silver coin will be

engraved with the West Point Mint "W". We are providing this information to our club families in case they would like to purchase them as gifts for their cadet (during non-graduation years) or for others who would appreciate the significance of this unique WP item. The coins are packaged nicely and would be appropriate for any occasion. Follow the link: <http://catalog.usmint.gov/coin-programs/american-eagle-coins/>

The screw-ups of this modern generation are head and shoulders above the 'high-medium' of any past group. Including mine... This is 'The Greatest Generation' of soldiers. They may never be equaled."

Translated excerpt from an account by a French ISAF soldier who was stationed with American Warfighters in Afghanistan sometime during the past 6 years. The article appeared in a French newspaper on April 23, 2015.



Online resources for West Point Families of New England:

WWW.WPPC-MA.ORG

[WWW.WESTPOINTAOG.ORG/
WPSNE](http://WWW.WESTPOINTAOG.ORG/WPSNE)

To join our  Group,
email our

Social Media Specialist,

Brad.Whitehall@gmail.com



WPPC-MA Bus

The next WPPC-MA sponsored
bus will operate:

Thanksgiving weekend

Registration opens 30 days
prior to departure date.

For details, go to:

<http://wppc-ma.org/the-bus/>

2nd of 3 General Meetings & Cow Loan Boodle Bash on Jan. 31st

Our second General Meeting of the year will take place at 1 PM on January 31st, at the home of:

Jeanne & Kevin McGuire

203 Elliot Ave.

Quincy, MA

We hope that more than just the parents of Cows will join us, especially for the General Meeting. We are revisiting our by-laws and taking some important votes that will affect your future experience with the WPPC-MA (e.g. decisions relative to the bus). We value the opinions of all of our

members. Please join us to learn about some potential changes.

We are actively recruiting to fill Board positions that are currently vacant or occupied by parents of 2017 grads:

> **President**

> **VP**

> **Membership Co-Coordinator**

We are fortunate to have an eager and talented group of volunteers serving on the Leadership Team. If we all use the Patriots' blueprint and do our jobs, the load is pretty light!

Cow Loan Boodle Bash

begins at 3:00 PM

We will break up the Gloom Period and gather to stuff boxes of financially-themed fixings' to mark the Cow Loan milestone for the Class of 2017 cadets. Even if you are unable to attend the General Meeting, we encourage you to participate in the Cow Loan Boodle Bash.

Be sure to RSVP to our
Event Coordinator:

alanbeaulieu@verizon.net

Congratulations to the WPSNE for Keeping the Streak Alive!

For the 20th consecutive year and since the time when the West Point Association of Graduates first began recognizing Distinguished Societies, the West Point Society of New England has received this designation. This is one of the top



honors bestowed by the WPAOG.

Our partner in serving West Point families, the WPSNE has filled their 2016 calendar with many family-oriented events and they welcome participation by current West Point families.

Plans are underway for all of their regular events— the Founders' Day Banquet (before which the Welcome Reception for the Cadet Candidates is held), the summer Picnic at the Patton Homestead, and the annual New England

Army/Navy game watch (on December 12th between 2:30 and 6:30 PM at the Atlantic Beer Garden on 146 Seaport Blvd. in Boston.) This will be the second best place to shout "Go Army Beat Navy" at game time!

Outings at TD Garden and Fenway Park are in the works.

Please direct WPSNE inquiries to chairperson, Dale Kurtz, at the Society's new email address:

wpsnema@verizon.net

CLASS OF 2018 CADETS FROM MA RECEIVE TREATS FOR HALLOWEEN

On October 24th, our Treasurer, Kathy Ouellette, celebrated her birthday by opening up her home to the WPPC-MA for our 1st of 3 General Meetings and the annual Yuk Boodle Bash.

Several important discussions took place at our meeting that resulted in some fundamental changes to our operating procedures. Please see the minutes available on our website for more information.



Two dozen boxes were stuffed to capacity with lots of seasonal treats and even some practical items like toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, and hand warmers.

SEVERAL FAMILIES OF MASSACHUSETTS CADETS PAST AND PRESENT GATHERED AT THE YUK BOODLE BASH

