



# WPPC-MA Newsletter

## May 2017

### Are You Ready for Some Football? (Sat, Sep 9)



After last year's epic win against Navy, everyone is chomping at the bit for a new season of Army Football! Join your friends from the WPPC-MA for an Army Football game against the Buffalo Bulls at Michie Stadium on September 9th. Our club has arranged for a discounted block of End Zone seats that are \$7 less than the \$40 box office price. By getting your tickets through our club, you'll also avoid the \$10 box office ticket service charge. Go to <http://wppc-ma.org/football-tix-2017/> to order your discounted tickets (\$33 each). You also will have an opportunity to purchase a single game-day parking pass for \$15. The specific parking lot will be determined this summer. We will mail the tickets and parking pass to you, after we finalize the orders in July. We accept

PayPal and major credit cards (no cash or checks), and purchases are non-refundable. Our block of 50 tickets may sell quickly, so don't delay. And don't forget to join our Tail Gate party. See below.

### Join our Annual WPPC-MA Army Football Tail Gate Party! (Sat, Sep 9)

Before and after the Sep 9 Army West Point football game (see above), the WPPC-MA is hosting our annual Tail Gate party at Daly Field (near the Plain). This is the first year we've moved our tail gate site to this location, which is in the middle of a lot of game day activity (e.g., 9AM parade, parachute demonstration). The Tail Gate is a fantastic way to celebrate this West Point football experience, which is ranked among the top 10 college football experiences in the nation. Our 'before the game' tailgate is open to all (no cost), and is a "bring your own" event. We will use "Signup Genius" this summer to



coordinate donations of breakfast goods (optional). We have reserved a large tent, with tables, chairs and a grill for cooking. Please stop over after the 9am parade to meet and socialize with your fellow West Point parents from Massachusetts. We'll also have tail gate games for Massachusetts parents/cadets to show their game day skills.

After the game, the tailgate party ramps up. We will fire up the grill for an all American menu of Burgers, Dogs, Veggie Burgers, Pulled Pork, Garden Salad, and Pasta Salad. The menu includes bottled water, but feel free to bring your own alternate beverages. You are welcome to drop off a personal cooler before the game. We will use "Sign-Up Genius" this summer for those that would like to bring and donate a dessert item (optional).

If you plan to participate in our post-game tailgate meal, we ask for a \$10 donation per person to help defray the cost. However, cadets are FREE!! If you can't attend, but would like to make a small donation to sponsor a cadet meal, you have an opportunity to do so on our RSVP page. Go to <http://wppc-ma.org/2017-tailgate-tix/> to RSVP and register. Our registration site allows payment by PayPal, or with a major credit card (but no checks please). No tickets are required. Your email receipt from PayPal website is sufficient. We hope you can join us!

## WPPC-MA Congratulates Parents at Firstie Celebration (Sunday, Apr 2)



The WPPC-MA paid tribute to the Massachusetts Class of 2017 cadets and their parents as they wrap up their West Point journeys. On Sunday April 2nd, Kevin and Carole Martin (parents of Benjamin '16) hosted our annual Firstie Celebration in their home. The event included a presentation of

gifts to each Firstie family, including a US Flag flown over the capital, and a Silver Dollar minted at the US Mint at West Point. Thank you to the Martin family for graciously hosting this event.



## Cadet Candidate Hail and Farewell (Sat June 17)

On Saturday June 17 from 10AM-Noon, the WPPC-MA cordially invites all Massachusetts Cadet Candidates (and those from nearby states, too!) to join us at our Hail and Farewell event just prior to R-Day. This year's event will be held at St. Mary's Church at 640 Main Street in Shrewsbury MA. The Hail and Farewell is designed to provide helpful information to guide both Cadets and Parents through their R-Day, Beast Barracks, and Acceptance Day (A-Day) experience. We will have Cadet Parents in attendance from Plebe through Firstie years in order to assist with all types of questions that might come up. We will also have cadets in attendance to provide your cadet with some first-hand experience and tips for a successful summer. We're also honored to have Colonel (Retired) Glenn Weidner in attendance. Col Weidner is a graduate of the Class of 1971, and has volunteered to serve as a Class of 2021 Fifty-Year affiliate. Cadet Candidate families will receive an invitation to this event, and we ask that you RSVP so we can plan refreshments for the event.

## Successful Year for the 2016-2017 WPPC-MA Bus

A big thanks goes to our Bus Coordinator for her great work on a very busy 2016-2017 transportation season. The WPPC-MA went beyond our normal schedule of buses, and added additional buses this year to accommodate the many cadets who took leave on additional 3-day weekends that were added to the WP calendar. Each WPPC-MA bus ride saved parents at least **8 driving hours**, and allowed many cadets to come home for these breaks to spend time with their family. You can see our bus schedule for the upcoming Fall 2017 season at <http://wppc-ma.org/the-bus/>.



## Car Pool Update

Now that our bus season is over, it's a great time to use the WPPC-MA car pool list to help arrange transportation for any final weekend of leave your cadet may have before the end of the year. For questions on how to use the car pool list, or to get added to the list, please contact WPPC-MA car pool list coordinator Terry Downing. He can be reached at [tdown9671@comcast.net](mailto:tdown9671@comcast.net).

## **All New for 2017 - "Taming the Beast" Social for New Cadet Families (Sat, July 22)**

The WPPC-MA is pleased to invite all New Cadet families to join us at our "Taming the Beast" social. The event will be held at the home of Phil and Diane Bedard at 22 Harmony Trail, Hopedale MA, from 5:00-8:00PM. This event coincides with the half way point of Beast Barracks, which is a perfect time to receive warm support from club parents who went through this process just a year or two ago. We hope you can attend and meet your fellow cadet parents from Massachusetts. Please respond to the RSVP request that you will receive soon. The club will be serving light fare and beverages at this event.



## **WPPC-MA Membership Drive - And Reduced Fee Structure!**

It's that time of year. Our membership year is quickly coming to a close on July 31.

Please note that we have just eliminated the \$50 annual membership option, and revised our membership structure so that everyone pays just \$150 for a 4 year membership. If you already purchased the lifetime membership option this year or last year, you're all set! If you are new and recently paid the \$50 annual option, no worries. You can top off next year. For others, see the payment structure below. This new payment structure will save families \$50 over their four years.

**Class of 2018 - Renewal (\$0) - You're done!**

**Class of 2019 - Renewal (\$50) – This will bring your 4-year total to \$150.**

**Class of 2020 - Renewal (\$100) – This will bring your 4-year total to \$150.**

**New Members from Class of 2021 – Join for one-time payment of \$150 - Good for 4 years!**

Please renew your membership at <http://wppc-ma.org/membership/>. Our web-site membership page will allow you to pay with PayPal, or with a major credit card. New parents should also note that your membership fee is refundable on the small chance that your cadet decides to leave West Point this year. Everyone: keep in mind that you will easily earn back your membership fee by taking advantage of membership benefits, such as the \$10 (each way) member bus discount. Please direct membership questions to our membership chair Vin Sutera at [vsutera18@gmail.com](mailto:vsutera18@gmail.com).

## **WPPC-MA Volunteer Opportunities**

We have open parent club positions, and invite parents of MA cadets to consider joining us. To learn more about these positions, please attend an upcoming WPPC-MA function, or contact Phil Bedard ([ppedard1@gmail.com](mailto:ppedard1@gmail.com)) or Alan Beaulieu ([alanbeau01@gmail.com](mailto:alanbeau01@gmail.com)). We have a deep and experienced team that can easily guide new members into any position of interest. Some of our open positions for next year include Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Event Scheduler. For each of these positions, the existing position holder (Class of 2018 parent) is available next year to guide the transition, and each position requires only a small time commitment. Some positions, like Event Scheduler and Treasurer, can be worked behind the scenes if needed to better fit your schedule. Any help is appreciated, and will greatly benefit our Massachusetts cadets and families. Participation on our team also allows you to network with a wider group of experienced parents which is helpful for gaining advice on your 4 year West Point journey.



**TIP:** Army-Navy game tickets are selling fast this year because of last year's win. Even though cadets are entitled to purchase up to 8 tickets at \$99 each, they may run out earlier this year compared to last year. Suggest buying tickets before July. 1-877-TIX-ARMY

## Army-Navy Game Update (Sat Dec 9, 2017)

The big game is still a long way off, but our club's plans to attend are in high gear. Over 25 families have signed up for our club accommodations at the Philadelphia Holiday Inn Express - Midtown. This hotel is convenient to public game day transportation, and is close to many great restaurants/bars to celebrate after the game. Our block of rooms are for Friday and Sat nights. The club negotiated rate is \$205 per room per night, which is much less than current local hotel rates for that weekend. We recently received good news that the hotel has **expanded our block of rooms by 10 more**. If you missed out on the initial offering, or are a new cadet candidate family that wants in on this amazing event... please email Phil Bedard, at pbedard1@gmail.com. Rooms are limited to maximum of two per family. Payment is not required until the fall, but getting on our list is first come first served. Once our roster is filled up, we will provide instructions to all families on how to secure your reservation with a credit card. Go Army!



## 2017 Silver Dollars Minted at West Point are Now Available



Each year the West Point Parents Club of MA honors each graduating Firstie from Massachusetts with a gift of a 1oz silver American Eagle dollar that was minted at West Point during their year of graduation. These same silver dollar coins are available to everyone directly from the US Mint.

We thought that others besides Firstie families might be interested in ordering the 2016 and/or 2017 1oz silver American Eagle dollars for yourself, your cadet or as gifts. If you are interested, the coins are available at [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov). Some families have historically collected coins for each year that their cadet attends West Point.

## Plebe Relief

Thanks to Kathy Ouellette for coordinating our Club's recent outreach to Massachusetts Plebe cadets. The WPPC-MA recently issued gift coupons to all MA plebes that can be used at the Cadet Restaurant. These coupons provide a nice change of pace as they tackle the homestretch of their first successful year at West Point. Parents - please remind your plebe cadets to check their mailbox for these coupons.

## On-Line Resources for our Massachusetts and New England West Point Families:

WPPC-MA Website: <http://wppc-ma.org/>

WPPC-MA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPPCM/>  
(Send an email Brad Whitehall (brad.whitehall@gmail.com) to be approved for access to this closed page)

West Point Society of New England (WPSNE): <http://wpsne.org/>

## Upcoming WPPC-MA Schedule of Events:

Jun 17 (Saturday) 10am:	Hail and Farewell to Class of 2021 Cadet Candidates (Shrewsbury MA)
Jul 22 (Saturday) 5pm:	"Taming the Beast" WPPC-MA social, focused on our new cadet families (Hopedale MA)
Sept 9 (Saturday):	WPPC-MA Football Tailgate Party (West Point NY)
Dec 30 (Saturday):	New England All-Academy Holly Ball (Boston MA) - <b>SAVE THE DATE!</b>