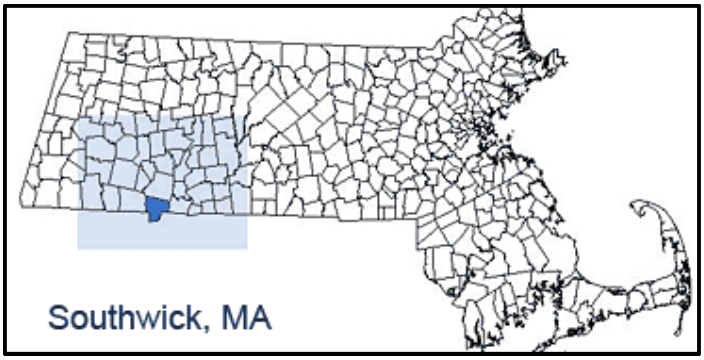
WPPC-MA Newsletter
September 2017

Army Win and WPPC-MA Tail-Gate Party Success (Sep 9)

The WPPC-MA celebrated the 2nd Army West Point win of the 2017 football season with a spirited post-game tailgate party at Daley Field. Over 150 cadets, family members and friends descended on our tail gate site to celebrate our win over the Buffalo Bulls. Cadets continued the tailgate celebration until after dark.

Thanks to all club members who volunteered their time to plan, set-up the tailgate site, work the grill, and bake desserts. Thanks also to our cadets for bringing their classmates to enjoy our Massachusetts hospitality. There are additional photos posted on our club Facebook page. This was a great start to the football season. Bring on Navy!

First General Meeting and Yuk Boodle Bash (Sunday, Oct 1)



Did you ever notice that there is one MA town that juts down into Connecticut? Drunken cartographer? Colonial land grab? Well, come to Southwick MA for our next WPPC-MA general meeting and Yuk Boodle Bash to find out. These back to back events will be held at the home of Mike and Karen McKinney at 16 Laurel Ridge Road in Southwick on Sunday October 1. All are invited to attend the General Meeting which begins at 1pm to discuss topics that will directly impact our club and the cadets from Massachusetts. Following the general meeting from 3 to 5pm, we will conduct our annual Yuk Boodle Bash. You are invited to attend each event, or better yet, both! This boodle bash will be our first of the year. We will collect and package Halloween-themed treats to send to our yearlings (Yuks). The Yuk Boodle Bash is the perfect time to include younger siblings.

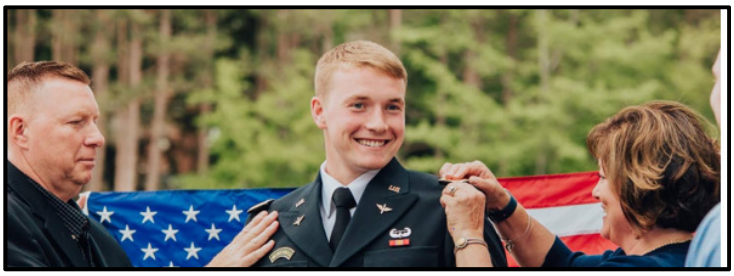
RECOMMENDED BOODLE FOR YUKS: Halloween themed treats are great, but practical items such as toiletries, oral care items, first aid supplies, and healthful snacks work well, too. Our boodle boxes are approximately shoe box size, so please avoid donating large items. Typically, if every attending family donates an item or two for each of our ~25 cadets from the Class of 2020, we usually get the perfect amount of boodle to fill our boxes. We hope you can attend one or both events. If you can't attend, but would like to donate boodle anyway, you can make a donation via our web-page (http://wppc-ma.org/make-a-donation/), and we will purchase boodle for you! Please RSVP to the McKinney's at mikemckinneyma@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Acceptance Day 2017! Please Continue to Welcome MA Plebe Cadets and their Families

The WPPC-MA is pleased to announce that 18 cadets from Massachusetts joined the Corps as Plebes on Acceptance Day. Please continue to welcome, support and encourage these fine young men and women, and their families, as they begin their West Point journey. Class of 2021 familes have been kind enough to share some photos of special moments during Acceptance Day (see last pages of this newsletter). Congratulations to all members of the Class of 2021.

Congratulatios to our Graduates from the Class of 2017

The WPPC-MA deeply misses the cadets and families from the graduating class of 2017. Our graduates are already serving and training in various locations across the country. Please see the small sampling of graduation photos at the end of this newsletter. We hope Class of 2017 families are able to reconnect with WPPC-MA members at a future event. Best wishes for success to all our Graduates. And thank you for your service!



The Bus Rolls On! Next Bus Scheduled for Columbus Day Weekend

Our first club sponsored bus of the season rolled back to West Point on Labor Day. Our next bus is scheduled for Columbus Day Weekend. Because there is no home football game that weekend, we are offering Round Trip bus service. Registration is now open on our website at http://wppc-ma.org/the-bus/. Please register before September 29, however, earlier registration is recommended in case this bus sells out. The above web link has all the details about our bus service. Contact bus coordinator Sharlene Stansbury at **stansbury40@yahoo.com** if you have any questions.

Save the Date for the 2017 All Service Academy Holly Ball (Sat, Dec 30th)

There is only one place to be on the evening of December 30th and that is at Boston's Seaport Hotel celebrating with friends and family at the annual All Service Academy Holly Ball. A ticket to this event makes a wonderful holiday gift, especially for the person who cannot make the trip to West Point. This year's Holly Ball is being planned by the Coast Guard academy. We expect the Coast Guard Parents Club to provide registration information to all cadets and midshipmen from New England this fall. Keep your eyes open for more information on this "Don't Miss" event.

Successful 2017 WPPC-MA Membership Drive

Thanks to all members for their excellent response to this year's WPPC-MA membership drive. The class of 2021 is in the lead with a participation rate of 72%, followed closely by the class of 2019 with a 71% participation rate. If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership to the WPPC-MA, please go on our website and join. Our goal is to have every Parent of a MA Cadet be a member of our club and join in our support of each other and our cadets on their admirable journey through West Point and beyond.

We have improved and reduced our membership fee structure this year. The previous fee was $50/year ($200 over four years). Parents of Plebes now pay only a one-time $150 fee and are members for life. Parents of upperclassmen only need to pay a total of $150 for their life-time membership (including any previous membership fees paid).

Please know that if you are having a financial hardship we still want to join or renew your membership. Simply call or email our Vin Sutera (WPPC-MA Membership Chair) in strict confidence and we can accommodate you. Vin can be reached at vsutera18@gmail.com.

WPPC-MA Volunteer Opportunities

We continue to have several open parent club positions, and invite parents of MA cadets to consider joining us. To learn more about these positions, please attend the upcoming WPPC-MA general meeting on Oct 1, or contact Phil Bedard (pbedard1@gmail.com) or Brad Whitehall (brad.whitehall@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, Recording Secretary, Firstie Gift Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator. For each of these positions, the existing position holder (usually a Class of 2018 parent) is available this year to guide the transition, and each position requires only a small time commitment. Please consider supporting the MA contingent of the Corps by participating in our Parents Club. Participation on our team allows you to network with a wider group of experienced parents which is helpful for gaining advice on your 4 year West Point journey. A big thanks to those that recently volunteered, including Patty Symes (Treasurer) and Mike/Val Evans (Event Scheduler).

Time to Start Warming Up! Here's Some Army-Navy Humor and Highlights from 2016

It's time we start getting in the spirit for Army-Navy 2017. Below are some links to classic spirit video humor and highlights from the 2016 game.

2016 MRE Peanut Butter Spirit Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DldKtludvL8

2016 "We Don't Give a Ship" Spirit Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlKwCjZ86Ao

2016 Army-Navy Game Highlights (5 min): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2WOCl5qpVk

2016 Final minutes of the game, and post-game celebration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JENbu-e1z6Y

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:

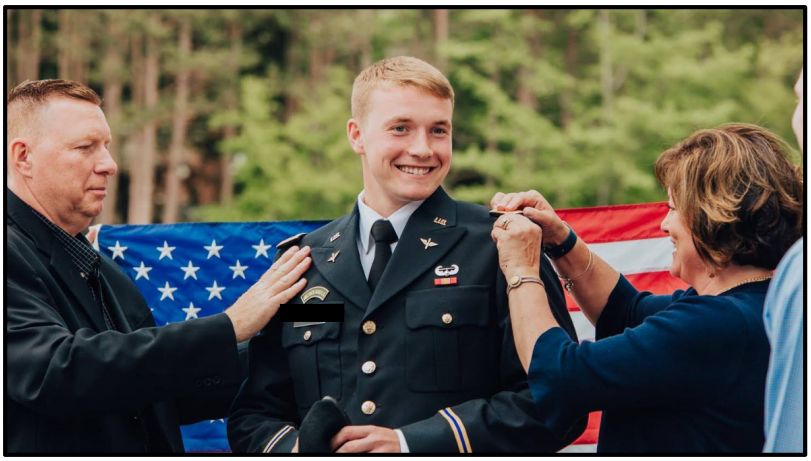
Oct 1 (Saturday) 1-3pm:	1st WPPC-MA General Meeting (Southwick MA)
Oct 1 (Saturday) 3-5pm:	Yuk Boodle Bash (Southwick MA)
Dec 30 (Saturday):	New England All-Academy Holly Ball (Boston MA) - **SAVE THE DATE!**

MA Firsties at Ring Weekend – Sept 2017

Graduation 2017

Thanks to our Class of 2017 families for sharing these photos from Graduation Day. Our 2017 graduates have already started their training and duties across the country. Below is a partial list of where you'll find MA graduates from the Class of 2017 serving and training.

- Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC), Fort Sill, OK
- USMA Prep School, West Point, NY
- Aviation BOLC, Fort Rucker, AL
- Infantry and Armor BOLC, Fort Benning, GA
- Engineers BOLC, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
- Army Ranger School (Swamp, Desert and Mountains, USA)
- And many other locations



Acceptance Day - Class of 2021

Firstie and Plebe from Same Town