



# WPPC-MA Newsletter

## July-August 2017

### WPPC-MA Heads to Michie Stadium (Sat, Sep 9) - [Last Chance for Discounted Tickets](#)



The new season of Army Football is almost here. 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 early August. We accept PayPal and major credit cards (no cash or checks), and purchases are non-refundable. Our block of 50 tickets is QUICKLY RUNNING OUT. [Discounted Club Tickets Sales close on AUGUST 4th.](#) After that date, you may still purchase tickets at full price through the Army West Point ticket box office until the game sells out. And don't forget to join our Tail Gate party. See below.

### WPPC-MA Football Tail Gate Party! (Sat, Sep 9) - [Please RSVP as soon as possible](#)

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 much 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. Look soon for our "Sign-Up Genius" announcement in August 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. Please RSVP by Aug 25th. We ask that you also ask your cadet to estimate if he/she plans to come, and how many (estimate is fine) cadet friends plan to come. These counts can be entered on our RSVP website form, and will

greatly help us plan the right amount of food. 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!

### **"Tame the Beast" Summer Social is a Big Success (Saturday, July 22)**

The WPPC-MA conducted a summer social to welcome new cadet parents in Hopedale MA. More than twenty cadet parents attended. Families enjoyed a casual dinner and brought unique beers and ciders from their local breweries to share in our beer tasting event. A big thanks to cadet Matt Bedard ('19) for attending and fielding questions from new parents on a variety of West Point topics. This event was just a warm-up for our next social at the WPPC-MA football tailgate party (see earlier announcement in this newsletter). If you missed the July summer social, we hope to see you in September!



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

Our first WPPC-MA general meeting of the year will be held at the home of Mike and Karen McKinney at 16 Laurel Ridge Road in Southwick MA from 1 to 3pm on Sunday October 1. All are invited to attend 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. This event will be our first boodle bash of the year. We will collect and package Halloween-themed treats to send to our year-lings. 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 great, 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, please contact [pbedard1@gmail.com](mailto:pbedard1@gmail.com) prior to the event so we can identify an attendee that lives close to you to facilitate a boodle handoff. Please RSVP the McKinney's at [mikemckinneyma@gmail.com](mailto:mikemckinneyma@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



### **Army Navy Hotel Update**

Our block of hotel rooms for the Army Navy game in December remains sold out. Fortunately, our wait list has cleared, as we were able to accommodate folks when some reservations were recently cancelled. If you would like to be added to the wait list, please let me know at [pbedard1@gmail.com](mailto:pbedard1@gmail.com). If you have a reservation, but have not yet called to confirm it with a credit card, please do so soon per the instructions recently sent to you. As the game date approaches this fall, any rooms that are not secured with a credit card will be released from our block and offered to the general public at a much higher rate. Please direct questions to [pbedard1@gmail.com](mailto:pbedard1@gmail.com). Go Army!

### **Labor Day Bus**

We are pleased to announce our first club sponsored bus of the season on labor day weekend. Due to the football game that weekend, and varied times that cadets may come home, we are only offering a "return to west point" bus on Monday. Please register at <http://wppc-ma.org/the-bus/> before August 27. Note that the bus could sell out before then. On the other hand, if we have insufficient registrations by August 25, we could be forced to cancel. To help yourself for either case, reserve early! The above web link has all the details about this bus service. Contact bus coordinator Sharlene Stansbury at [stansbury40@yahoo.com](mailto:stansbury40@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



## Car Pool List



We've recently added many new members from the Class of 2021 to our car pool list, and you should soon receive a carpool email from coordinator Terry Downing. This email will contain the carpool list, and instructions on how to use it. The instructions can also be found on our website at <http://wppc-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Car-Pool-List-Instructions-2016-10-09.pdf>. Keep in mind that Terry does not coordinate rides, but rather, is the keeper of the list. Users must coordinate their own rides per the instructions. Remember to only use

the car pool list for rides that where the club is not running a bus. Your first opportunity to use the list would be Fri/Sat before Labor Day, since the bus is only running on the return trip on the following Monday. If you would like to be added to the car pool list, please contact Terry at [tdown9671@comcast.net](mailto:tdown9671@comcast.net).

## 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.

## Final Push on our WPPC-MA Membership Drive - Concludes July 31

It's that time of year. Our membership year is quickly coming to a close on July 31. Thanks to the MA Cadet Families that have joined or renewed their WPPC-MA Membership so far this spring/summer. 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, and will simplify our annual membership drive.

- **Class of 2018 - Renewal (\$0) – If you've maintained your membership for the past 3 years....You're done! If not, pay one of the fees below to "top off" to the \$150 lifetime total.**
- **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 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 Alan Beaulieu (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, 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 next year to guide the transition, and each position requires only a small time commitment. 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. A big thanks to those that recently volunteered, including Patty Symes (Treasurer) and Mike/Val Evans (Event Scheduler).

## 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:

Sep 4 (Monday)	Labor Day "Return to West Point" Bus Service (Newton and Sturbridge MA)
Sep 9 (Saturday)	WPPC-MA Football Tailgate Party on (West Point, Daly Field)
Oct 1 (Saturday) 1-3pm:	1 <sup>st</sup> 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) - <b>SAVE THE DATE!</b>