

WPPC-MA Newsletter

February 2018

Army-Navy Baseball! (Friday, Apr 20)

The Army-Navy rivalry gets local on Friday night, April 20th, with a 6pm baseball game at Fenway Park. The WPPC-MA plans to hold a pre-game gathering at a local pub prior to the game. We hope you can join us! Ticket proceeds from the game will benefit the Home Base program, a partnership between Massachusetts General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation that helps veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Stay tuned for more info. We will post the ticket sales link, and details of our pre-game gathering, on our web-site as soon as available. And if this dose of Army-Navy baseball isn't enough, you can double down with another as the two teams meet again the next day at West Point!



Successful Cow Loan Boodle Bash and 2nd General Club Meeting (Jan 29)



In honor of their Cow Loans, the Class of 2019 was treated to a box of fiscally-themed treats this month. On Jan 28th, club members gathered at the home of Bernie and Sharlene Stansbury (Parents of Logan '21 and Tyler '19) to conduct our annual Cow Loan Boodle Bash. Our boodle boxes were stuffed to the seams with great items, which will cheer the Cadets during this annual gloom period of cold Hudson Valley weather. Thanks to Lucie Kafka (mom of Jarod '21) for delivering the boodle boxes to West Point.

Before the boodle bash, many WPPC-MA members gathered for our second general meeting of the year to discuss upcoming 2018 activities. To maximize our general meeting attendance, the WPPC-MA provides advanced notice of all meetings. Agendas/minutes/reports are all posted in a timely fashion on our website.

Next Up: The Deployed Grad Boodle Bash (Sunday, March 4)

One of our favorite events each year is the Deployed Grad Boodle Bash, when MA West Point families past, present and future have the opportunity to gather to prepare care packages for graduate cadets from Massachusetts who are now deployed internationally. This event reminds us all that our cadets really are part of the Long Gray Line. We especially invite our WP alumni and families so that we can hear about the experiences of our Massachusetts commissioned officers. Hearing these anecdotes, helps keep in focus our club's larger mission to support the young men & women who have chosen a life of service to our country. The event will be held at 1300 (1pm) at the home of Phil and Diane Bedard at 22 Harmony Trail, Hopedale MA. Following the boodle bash we will hold a group discussion (starting around 1430) on graduation planning tips and cadet (and parent) life after West Point. Please email your RSVP to the Bedard's at pbedard1@gmail.com.



If you can't attend, but would like to make a donation so that the club can purchase additional boodle or offset postage costs, you may do so via PayPal on our website at this link: <http://wppc-ma.org/make-a-donation/>

The link below will bring you to a list of recommended deployed grad boodle items on our website:

<http://wppc-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Suggested-Donations-for-Deployed-Grads.pdf>

Here is a small sampling from the above list: FOOD: Keurig K cups, Candy, Trail Mix. TOILETRIES: Baby/facial wipes, Q Tips, Body Lotion, disposable razors. ENTERTAINMENT: Amazon Gift Cards, Magazines (current), DVDs, Books, Travel Games, Brain teasers

Welcome New Cadet Candidates for the Class of 2022!



Congratulations to those Massachusetts candidates and families that are beginning to receive appointment letters to the USMA. Some families have already contacted us, and we've added you to our distribution list so that you are "in the loop" on WPPC-MA news and events, many of which are outlined in this newsletter. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list, please send parent/candidate names and contact information in an email to wppcma@gmail.com. You can find even more information about our club by visiting our website at

<http://wppc-ma.org/>. Please consider becoming an official WPPC-MA member by following the registration instructions at <http://wppc-ma.org/membership/>.

And be sure to save the date for our June 16th Hail and Farewell for new cadet candidates. We will be sending invitations, and more event detail, to all new cadet candidate families in April.

WPSNE Founders Day Banquet and Cadet Candidate Reception (Sat, Mar 24)

The West Point Society of New England invites all WPPC-MA families and friends to their annual Founder's day banquet on March 24th at the Devens Common Center. The event includes a gathering of cadet candidates for the Class of 2022 at the Cadet Candidate Reception. The keynote speaker is the USMA's Brigade Tactical Officer, Colonel [Brian J Reed](#) ('89). The WPPC-MA is excited to greet the cadet candidates and their families and to make them aware of the many services we provide to enhance their West Point experience. We are hoping for a good turnout of current WPPC-MA families so that connections to these new families can be made well before our Hail and Farewell in June. Thanks to WPPC-MA member Diane Bedard (mom of Matthew '19) for coordinating Plebe and Parent "Boodle Boxes" for the event's fundraiser. Please direct event questions to wayne@wpsne.org. Get more details and register for Founders Day at <http://wpsne.org/event/save-date-founders-day-2018/>



Firstie Celebration (Sunday, Apr 8) & 3rd General WPPC-MA Meeting



The WPPC-MA will pay tribute to the Massachusetts Class of 2018 cadets and their parents as they wrap up their West Point journeys. On Sunday April 8th at 1500 (3pm), Alan and Donna Beaulieu (parents of Luke '18) will host our annual Firstie Celebration at 153 Belmont St, Reading MA. All club members are encouraged to attend this event at which we recognize our home-grown heroes. Preceding this celebration, we will conduct our third and final general meeting of the academic year promptly at 1300. Although you are welcome to attend either event, we urge all members to join us for **both**, as we celebrate accomplishments and make decisions that will impact your family's 47 month West Point journey. We look forward to seeing you there!

Army-Navy 2018 Football Update

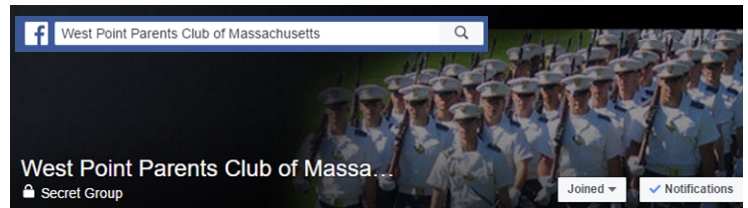


Soon after 2017's Army Navy football game, we announced our WPPC-MA block of hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn Express (Midtown) for Army-Navy 2018 (Philadelphia). We quickly sold out our 65 rooms in just a couple weeks, and we've been maintaining a wait list since. If you wish to be added the wait list, please email pbedard1@gmail.com. The room rate is \$209 plus taxes per night. There is good news for new 2022 parents. Because you were not available when registration opened, we saved 8 rooms for you. In late spring, we will make an announcement to new families to give you an opportunity to join WPPC-MA families on this wonderful annual trip to the big game. For those that made the cut and have a confirmed

room, look for an email next month with instructions on how to secure your room with a credit card. Soon after, we'll look to see how many folks changed their plans, and as rooms in our block open up, we will contact those on the wait list. Alternative: For those that don't yet have a room, you may want to consider booking a room independently, just to ensure you have a place to stay. Army-Navy hotel rooms sell out, and get expensive, as the date approaches. Some parents (including me) have had prior success booking a room through Hillsdale Travel at <http://armynavyhotelrooms.com/index.html>. A final tip: Our recent winning ways have made it more difficult each year to get football game tickets. When the USMA ticket office announces that ticket sales have opened, don't delay! If you know you will be going to the game, buy your tickets ASAP.

Stay Connected With Our WPPC-MA Facebook Group

Our club's private Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPPCM/>) is a great way to stay connected with your club friends and members, and a great way to get quick answers and help on West Point related issues. Many members use our page to help buy/sell/share WP event tickets, get quick answers to questions, and maintain friendships with club members. We ask that all posts be West Point / Parent Club related. To be added to this private Facebook group, contact our social media specialist at dano64@charter.net.



The Convenience of the WPPC-MA Car Pool List



During the second half of the academic year, there are fewer weekends that create enough demand for a club sponsored bus. For these times, we have created the WPPC-MA Car Pool List. Would you like to be included on the list? If so, please email wppcma@gmail.com. Once you are added to the list, we ask that you carefully follow the car pool list instructions that are posted at <http://wppc-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Car-Pool-List-Instructions-2016-10-09.pdf>. The car pool list is extremely helpful to Massachusetts families.

Final WPPC-MA Bus of the Semester

The West Point Parents' Club of Massachusetts arranges bus transportation for Cadets and Cadet Guests between Massachusetts to West Point during holidays and leaves when large numbers of Cadets are likely to be coming home. Our next and final bus of this academic year will be the Sunday March 18th "return to West Point" bus following spring break. Registration for this bus is now open. Please visit this [link](#) on our webpage to reserve a bus seat for your cadet. Please register soon. As with most of all our scheduled buses, if we don't get enough registrations before our commitment deadline, we may be forced to cancel the bus.



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

Upcoming WPPC-MA Schedule of Events:

March 4 (Sunday) 1pm: Deployed USMA Grad Boodle Bash, followed by our 1st ever Graduation Planning Event (22 Harmony Trail, Hopedale, MA)

March 18 (Sunday): WPPC-MA sponsored bus service to return our cadets to West Point after spring break

March 24 (Saturday) 530pm: WPSNE Founder's Day Banquet and Cadet Candidate Reception (Devens MA)

Apr 8 (Sunday) 1pm: 3rd WPPC-MA General Meeting and Firstie Celebration (153 Belmont Street, Reading MA)

April 20 (Friday) 6pm: Army-Navy Baseball at Fenway Park (WPPC-MA pregame activity to precede the game. Stay tuned for details).

June 16 (Saturday) 10am: Hail and Farewell to Class of 2022 New Cadets (Location TBD)

Summer/fall events to be announced and detailed soon.

