

WPPC-MA Newsletter

New Parent Edition - May 2018

Greetings to the Massachusetts WP Class of 2022 from the WPPC-MA Membership Chair

Congratulations on the appointment of your DS/DD to West Point. You don't know what a DS or DD is? How about CLDT or the IOCT or a SAMI or a STAP or the TAC? Welcome to a bowl of Army acronym soup. If you are confused, we have your back! The WPPC-MA is a group of dedicated and loving parents that will climb mountains and swim oceans for their cadets and yours! We possess a wealth of first-hand knowledge to share and help make your 47 month journey successful. We can help you with packing for Beast Barracks all the way to attending graduation week and the commissioning of your 2LTs. This is the place to ask any question and be part of a great group.

While the WPPC-MA is known mostly for providing comfortable and convenient transportation back and forth to West Point throughout the year, our club does so much more to support MA cadets and their families, including:

- Welcomes Cadet Candidates and their families at the "Hail and Farewell" Send-Off event
- Hosts Mid-Beast Social for families of New Cadets
- Hosts Boodle Bashes for Yearlings, Cows, Firsties and Deployed Grads
- Provides Grant Hall gift cards to Plebes to help get them thru TEE (term ending exams) week at year's end
- Hosts Firstie Celebration including presentation of an American flag and a WPPC-MA challenge coin
- Hosts a Tailgate Party for MA Cadets and their families and friends (including other cadets) - don't miss this!
- Holds several General Meetings each year to discuss operations, appropriations, etc.
- Maintains a website to provide 24/7 access to helpful info relative to WPPC-MA, WP, etc.
- Maintains a Facebook Group that serves as a forum for members to ask questions, share advice, photos, etc. while providing up-to-the-minute updates
- Provides comfortable transportation to/from WP for cadets (at discounted rates for members)
- Partners with and supports the West Point Society of New England and its initiatives
- Promotes support of highly ranked veteran charities (e.g. the Fisher House)
- Publishes congratulatory ads in The Howitzer & in the Holly Ball Program recognizing MA Firsties
- Every fourth year organizes the New England All Service Academy Holly Ball

We urge you to help us continue to offer these services simply by becoming a member. To join, simply go to our website and click on the Membership Tab or follow this link: <http://wppc-ma.org/membership/>

We appreciate your support of the WPPC-MA and hope that you will not hesitate to contact us with suggestions, questions, etc. Sincerely, Vincent Sutera, WPPC-MA Membership Coordinator. (vsutera18@gmail.com)

Hail-Farewell to Class of 2022 Cadet Candidates (Saturday, June 16)

On Saturday June 16th 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 Richard (Dick) Joseph, from the West Point Class of 1972 in

attendance. Richard has volunteered to serve as a Class of 2022 Fifty-Year affiliate. Cadet Candidate families: Please RSVP to our Event Coordinators Val and Mike Evans at valevans67@gmail.com.

WPPC-MA Support Table at R-Day (Monday, July 2)

Representatives of the WPPC-MA will be in attendance at R (Report) Day, to greet new parents soon after they've said their goodbyes to their cadet candidates. As you exit the auditorium, you will see many tables with representatives from various USMA and parent support organizations. We are all there to support you through this sometimes confusing and emotional process. Look for the WPPC-MA table and please swing by to say hello. We are very excited to meet our new Massachusetts parents.

Tips for New Cadet Candidate Families

As you will soon learn, it can sometimes be a challenge to get hotel accommodations for events like R-Day, A-Day, Football Games, Parents Weekend, etc. The best advice we can give: Make reservations early. In fact, make your reservation as soon as you know the event date. There is a limited amount of hotel rooms in the West Point area (and even up to 20 miles away) and they sell out fast. If you have not yet made R-Day hotel reservations for the night before, do it NOW. Here's some other helpful information and links. We will go over this (and much more) at the Hail and Farewell event (see above).

- West Points Parents Club of Massachusetts web page: <http://wppc-ma.org/>
- Get on the West Points Parents Club of Massachusetts Facebook page: Email Dan/Eileen Jordan at dano64@charter.net to get access. This is a closed group and you must be admitted to join the discussion.
- West Point Parents Information web page (Official): <http://www.usma.edu/parents/SitePages/Home.aspx>
- Official Facebook page for WP parents: West Point Class of 2022 Parents - Deb Dalton (West Point Parent Liaison) will give you the proper link when it is set up.
- Deb Dalton can answer any questions (deb.dalton@usma.edu) or put you in touch with someone who can. She usually sends out an email with many links and other information. Watch for it!
- On Facebook, there are two groups for parents: West Point Dads and West Point Moms. You must find these on Facebook and request to join. They have restrictions (e.g., Dads on Dads group, Moms on Moms group).

Tame the Beast - Parent Summer Social (Saturday, July 21)

Mark your calendars. The WPPC-MA is pleased to invite all New Cadet families to join our club for our "Tame the Beast" social. The event will be held on Saturday, July 21 from 5:00-8:00PM. We will send an invitation with location details to all new families in June. 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 Foot Ball Tailgate for Black Knights Vs. Hawaii (Saturday, September 15)



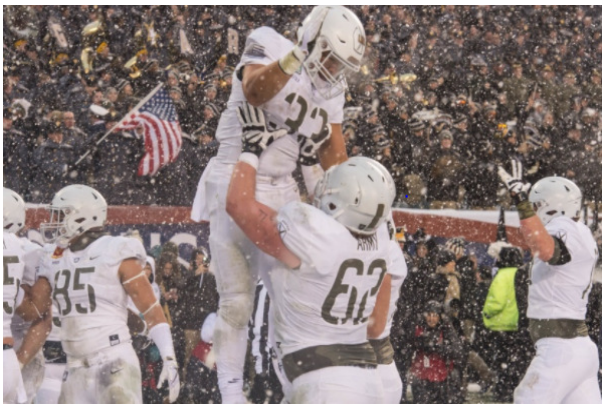
Before and after the Sep 15 Army West Point home football game against Hawaii, the WPPC-MA is hosting our annual Tail Gate party at Daly Field (near the Plain). This is a great tail gate location, as it is in an area of much game day activity (e.g., 9AM parade, parachute demonstration). The Tail Gate is a fantastic way to celebrate the 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). Swing by the tent to socialize, play some corn hole, and get pumped up for the game. We have reserved a large tent, with plenty of tables/chair. After the game, the tailgate party ramps up, and our tail gate committee is busy planning the menu. As always, our tailgate is FREE for all cadets, and parents will be able to purchase tickets on our website. Our tailgate committee is always looking for enthusiastic members to help, so if you'd like to get in on the planning fun, please send an email to our Mike McKinney, our tailgate planning chair, at mikemckinney@gmail.com. We'll announce more details early this summer. As for game tickets, contact the Army West Point box office at 1-800-TIX-ARMY to make your purchase.



Army-Navy Football Game Update (Sat Dec 8, 2018)

The big game is still a long way off, but our club's plans to attend are in high gear. Over 60 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 \$209 per room per night (plus tax), which is much less than current local hotel rates for that weekend. When we announced our hotel plans last December, we quickly sold out. We then began a wait list, and will call these folks if other folks cancel. **However, we have good news for Class of 2022 Cadet Candidate families.** We reserved 8 rooms in our hotel room block for your incoming class! If you are interested in



joining us at the Holiday Inn, please contact pbedard1@gmail.com as soon as possible. Payment is not required until later this summer, but getting on our list is "first come first served". Once you are added to the list, we will provide instructions to all families on how to secure your reservation with a credit card. **Football Game Tickets Tip:** Army-Navy game tickets are selling extremely fast this year because of recent back to back wins. Even though cadets are entitled to purchase up to 4 tickets, the box office may run out very soon! If you have not yet purchased tickets, do it NOW. Call 1-877-TIX-ARMY. Go Army!

Great Time at Army Navy Baseball Game at Fenway Park (Friday, April 20)

WPPC-MA members recently attended the Army-Navy baseball game at Fenway Park. It was typical April Fenway weather... COLD!!! But the baseball competition was red hot. Unfortunately, Navy outlasted the Black Knights to eke out the win, but it was still a great night at the ball game. Members also gathered for a pre-game rally at the Yard House. The WPPC-MA often organizes club gatherings for special occasions like this. We typically announce such events on our website, facebook page and email distribution. So keep an eye out, and join us next time! Thanks to Alan Beaulieu for coordinating this fun gathering.



Congratulations to our Graduating Firstie families!



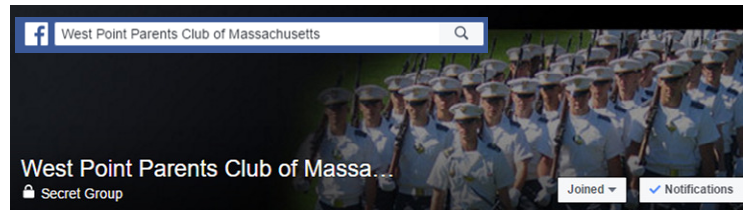
The WPPC-MA recently gathered for our 3rd and final General meeting of the year, and our annual Firstie Celebration! We conduct this celebration to honor the achievements of our graduating class members from Massachusetts and thank parents for their unwavering support to their cadets and their classmates. This year, the club made a change in our Firstie celebration gifts. We typically present a US Flag flown over the Capital, and a traditional Silver Dollar. This year, club member Bill Rapp designed a

beautiful Massachusetts themed Challenge Coin to replace the Silver Dollar gift. The tradition of a "Challenge Coin" is that the holder can challenge other coin recipients at future events, and if the classmate fails to produce their coin in response, the drinks are on them! We challenge the Class of 2018 to start challenging their classmates with these new coins! THANK YOU to all our Firstie Families. It's been a wonderful 4 years with you. Good luck at Graduation. We will miss you all!



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.

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:

- June 16 (Saturday) 10AM-Noon: Hail and Farewell for our incoming Cadet Candidates from MA. St.Mary's Parish. Shrewsbury, MA. An invitation will be sent to all new families in early May (please RSVP)
- July 2 (Monday): Report Day (R-Day). Look for the WPPC-MA representatives at this event. Please come meet us!
- July 21 (Saturday) 5-8PM: "Tame the Beast" Summer Social. This event is especially geared to new Cadet Candidate parents. Don't miss it!. Location to be announced soon.
- Sep 15 (Sat) 8AM-Sunset: WPPC-MA Football Tailgate party, at the Army-Hawaii home game. Stay tuned for details to be announced this summer.
- October (TBD Sunday): 1st WPPC-MA General Meeting of the Year (1PM), and Yuk Boodle Bash (3PM). The specific date will be announced this summer.
- Dec 8/9 (Saturday/Sunday): Army-Navy Game! Philadelphia. Many club members are at the Holiday Inn Express - Midtown.

