



West Point Parent Club of Massachusetts  
September 14, 2008  
Meeting Minutes

The WPPC-MA held a meeting of its members at 1:00 at Shaw Group in Stoughton.

In attendance were:

Alan & Pat Small, Martha Laughna, Janet Sobel-Medow, Helen Maxwell, Pete & Dion Fitzpatrick, Monica & Ken Dube, Pam & Chet Chin, Kevin & Paula Thimble, Bill & Cindy Yeo, Don & Kathy Cherry, Susan Egan, Richard & Margaret Primack, Carol Hannenberg, Jodi & Mark Deuger, Sharon Verash

**New Parents**—The June meeting was helpful for the incoming class of 2012; cadet candidates had a chance to meet one another and parents received helpful tips on getting through R-Day and Beast. Parents also said they felt that having the table at R-Day for Massachusetts parents to touch base was also very supportive.

Alan Small indicated that each year we send parents to R-Day for the purpose of aiding the parents of New Cadets from MA.

**Bus**—Paula Thimble reported that:

- The Labor Day bus was full and, as a result, ran at a profit.
- There will be a Thanksgiving bus. Information forthcoming.
- There will likely be a bus returning to West Point after Christmas vacation but it won't run at the front end of vacation since everyone's TEE schedules vary (besides the fact that they will all want to bring home their formal uniforms for the Holly Ball and won't want them wrinkled in the bottom of the bus.)

**Membership**—the new name badges have not arrived yet. They should arrive in time for October's meeting.

**WPPC-MA Tailgate, post-game, Buffalo Soldier Field, Saturday, September 20**—Alan Small gave a synopsis of the motive for holding a tailgate at this time. The parent clubs from the New England states have been invited so that we can promote the Holly Ball. The charge will be \$20/person with cadets attending free of charge. Pay at the door. Jodi Deuger has made all the arrangements for tent, beer, wine, brisket, chicken. She asked for volunteers to bring plastic ware, side dishes, etc. Any remaining questions can be directed to Jodi at [jdeuger@charter.net](mailto:jdeuger@charter.net).

**WPPC-MA clothing**—Pam Chin reported that the second order of fleece, shirts, etc. bearing the WPPC-MA logo was a big success. She brought all the clothing to be distributed at the meeting. Those not in attendance will receive theirs by mail as soon as they have been paid for. Contact Carla McMahon at [carlajmcmahon@yahoo.com](mailto:carlajmcmahon@yahoo.com) for the status of your order or if you have questions.

**Army-Navy game**—Pete Fitzpatrick continues to sell squares on the Army-Navy board. The board is 10 squares x 10 squares. Each square is \$5 and numbers will be assigned to each square immediately prior to the game. The person whose name fills the square corresponding to the score during the Army-Navy game wins the \$ collected. All unbought squares go to the parent club. Find Pete at the tailgate so you can buy a square (or several) and get in on the fun.

**Holly Ball**—Alan Small updated the group on the details of the Holly Ball which is coordinated by WPPC-MA and the other New England Army parent groups this year. The committee has accomplished a significant amount of work in the planning of this wonderful formal event which will be held:

New England All Academies Holly Ball  
Saturday, December 26  
Hyatt Regency Boston  
6:30 pm-midnight

**Holly Ball (cont.)** The Holly Ball is an annual event for which the planning circulates among the five service academies. This year is Army's turn. Currently the major focus is to raise funds to defray the cost of the evening which will consist of cocktails, dinner, a grand march of cadets/midshipmen, POW/MIA ceremony, a totally entertaining speaker and dancing. The members of the club have been asked to determine if they have any connections to a corporation who would be willing to donate to our cause. Contact Alan Small [alan.small@shawgrp.com](mailto:alan.small@shawgrp.com) if you have someone who is interested in helping out financially. Alan has also contacted the other parent groups in our area to get contributions for the event. The co-chairs for the event are Pat Small ([asmall@verizon.net](mailto:asmall@verizon.net)) and Martha Laughna ([rlaughna@verizon.net](mailto:rlaughna@verizon.net)).

Finally, the committee is seeking the attendance of every cadet possible at this event. If they are reluctant, tell them that Navy typically out does Army in attendance at the Holly Ball. For further information go to [www.hollyball.org](http://www.hollyball.org). The website will be totally updated soon (we are almost there except the online pay system needs to have the corrected price so don't order tickets just yet!)

**Thank you notes**—Alan Small read a note from Ben Krainin USMA2008 thanking the WPPC-MA for not only his graduation gift from the club but also for the years of support (and boodle!) he received during his years as a cadet. We also received a note from the office of Public Affairs thanking the club for attending R-Day and supporting the parents of the New Cadets.

**Affirmation Ceremony**—A small program from the Cows' affirmation ceremony was passed around. This ceremony happens at the beginning of Cow year as the re-take the oath and commit to finishing their education at West Point.

**West Point events**—Tim McMahon urged all parents to attend WPPC-MA events and others at West Point. His only regret has been when he has missed something. Involvement has been a very positive experience for him.

**Cadet updates**—The members present shared their cadet's experiences from the summer. Sounds like everyone made it through with flying colors!

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19. We will be collecting Halloween boodle for the Yuks.

Congratulations to all the Firsties who received their rings this weekend!

