



West Point Parents Club of MA
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2009

A meeting was held at the Boston Globe facility in Boston to welcome the families of cadet candidates from the class of 2013. The purpose was to educate the families and answer questions about the experience of West Point and more specifically R-Day, Beast and A-Day. Cadets were also in attendance to answer questions and talk with the cadet candidates.

In attendance were: Vivian & Jim Rezendes, Margaret & Richard Primack, Pam & Chester Chin, Rory & Martha Laughna, Dan & Jacquie Cronin, John Cronin ('13), Andy McCawley, Charles McCawley ('13), Diane & Roy Miller, Rachel Miller ('13), Mark Hatch & Sue Ma, Jonathan ('13), Harry & Eleanor Mezer, Matt Mezer ('13), Monica & Ken Dube, Alan & Pat Small, John Walsh, Matt Walsh ('13), John, Donna & Ryan Bernier, Mike Bernier ('13), John Walsh, Matthew Walsh ('13), Joseph & Mary Gallante, Mariel Gallante ('13), George & Ewa Jedras, Matthew Jedras ('13), Warren & Marian Phillips, Alicia Phillips ('13), Margo & Todd Webber, Kip Jedras ('13), Andrew & Vi Buck, Kelly Buck ('12), Candace & Felix Gregorian, Gregor Gregorian ('13), Jim McLoughlin, James McLoughlin ('13), Dion & Pete Fitzpatrick, Brian & Stacy Moriarty, Daniel Moriarty ('13), Nicole Burkel & Tony Allison, Julian Allison ('13), Jane & Tom Sheehan, Carol Hannenberg, Prescott & Debra Wright, William Wright ('13), Sandra Manougian, Marc & Kathleen Davidson, Steven Davidson ('13), Cynthia Causbie, Hanson Causbie ('12), Nancy & Greg Hart, Steve Hart ('13), Marianne & Dan Dugan, Andrew Dugan ('13), Nancy Berube & John Stevens, Sam Stevens ('13), Maurice & Kathy Rowe, Kathy & Jerry Bowling, Joe Mastriani (WPSNE), Paula & Kevin Thimble, Bill Yeo, Helen Maxwell, Walter & Marsha Ciccolo, Jodi & Mark Deuger, Michael & Vicki Ong, Tim & Carla McMahon, and there are others who did not sign in.

As noted above, the meeting was very well attended, especially by the class of 2013.

Jerry Bowling, State Admissions Coordinator, congratulated all the cadet candidates and their decision to attend West Point. He noted that while many of them have had special talents and have been very successful in high school, there are 1300 incoming cadet candidates who are also very talented and special people. He told the c.c.'s not to get down on themselves if they no longer are feeling special once they arrive at WP. That is part of the deal. Every cadet candidate at the meeting is highly qualified to be at WP. Jerry advised the cadet candidates to go to R-Day well prepared and don't take much when they go. In the meantime they should take care of themselves. WP is a life altering experience.

Joe Mastriani, WPSNE (West Point Society of New England) Liaison, asked that people join the WPSNE, which is made up mostly of WP grads and some parents. (This is separate from the Parent Club). Joe extolled the benefits of attending West Point—among them: Physical and emotional strength, multitasking and the ability to act selflessly as they are responsible for other people's children.

Lunch was served and the cadet candidate exited to the cafeteria to learn what to expect from R-Day, Beast and beyond from the cadets present.

Martha Laughna explained the WPPC-MA membership form that was inserted into folders for the cadet candidate families. The form contains all the information that the club has on record for each family; they were asked to make additions/corrections as necessary when they send in the form. She expressed hope that

all families will join the parent club since all cadets benefit from the club at one point or another. She also asked that families email their new cadet's full address when they have it-- rLaughna@verizon.net.

Tim McMahon addressed the audience concerning R-Day.

1. Report by SSN. Do not be late. Always plan on extra time to get through the gates, park the car and ride the shuttle bus to Eisenhower Hall.
2. Do not bring large items or anything that is unnecessary, you will have to carry it with you all day.
3. After waiting in a long line you will enter Eisenhower Hall for a briefing and will be given 90 seconds to say good-bye to your cadet candidate and that will be the last parents see of them except from a distance.
4. When exiting the auditorium parents will find parent club tables in the ballroom along with A-Club and many vendors (Look for the WPPC-MA banner, usually down the middle aisle of the ballroom.) Parents were advised that they should purchase certain items only available on R-Day such as tote bags and t-shirts with cadet names from the class of 2013.
5. Weather permitting, there is likely to be a parade at the end of the day when the cadets come to trophy point to take the oath. Check information from WP for time.
6. Tim advised that R-Day can be long and might not be the time for grandparents and young children to visit WP.
7. Food on R-Day—Suggestions for food include several restaurants in Highland Falls outside the gate, Grant Hall and Eisenhower Hall. Eisenhower has a nice cafeteria style setup which accommodates large numbers of people. There is usually also a Barbecue set up on the terrace at Eisenhower Hall.
8. Suggestions for things to do between the drop off and parade? In past years—boat trip to Constitution Island, organ concert at Cadet Chapel, Superintendent's Briefing (highly recommended), bus tour of WP (usually leaves from Eisenhower throughout the day). Check the parent information for the schedule for this year.

Beast

- The first phone call that new cadets are allowed to make will take place during the ice cream social on July 15 between 1:00 and 5:00. They will be borrowing someone else's phone so be sure the new cadets know the actual number where parents can be reached.
- Send lots of letters in plain white envelopes with patriotic stamps on them.
- The march-back is worth going to. They march through Round Pond. Times have varied the past few years so check with the parent handbook.

Acceptance Day (A-Day)

Make hotel reservations now if not done already. For those who are into camping, Round Pond is a great facility and within walking privileges. Plebes are likely to have walking privileges. Please check the rules for walking privileges and do not try to get your cadet to stretch the rules. They will get in trouble.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Cadet Bus—The WPPC-MA periodically runs coach buses to and from West Point during high travel times for cadets. [Paula Thimble](#) coordinates the bus for the parent club. Typically the bus runs for Labor Day weekend, Thanksgiving and the return after Christmas. If there is enough interest, it could run at other times including the trip home before Christmas (since cadets are released at various times after finals this bus is not always popular) and other three-day weekends when they have leave.

New Cadet letter writing party—the annual new cadet letter writing party will be held on July 11 (time and location TBA). Everyone is invited to come and write letters to the new cadets to boost their spirits and offer

encouragement during their challenging time at Beast. Please be sure to email [Martha Laughna](#) with your new cadet's mailing address. More details forthcoming.

WPPC-MA tailgate—[Jodi Deuger](#) is planning the club tailgate party for **Saturday, September 19** (Ball State) at the 49er Lodge which is located between Michie Stadium and Delafield Pond. Jodi passed around a signup sheet for people to indicate their interest in attending the tailgate just so she can gauge approximate attendance. The flyer also indicated that anyone interested in a parking pass near the 49er Lodge or Delafield Pond should contact Jodi. Many experienced parents described how awesome attending a football game at WP can be even if the game itself has an undesirable ending.

Army-Navy Game—scheduled for Saturday, December 12 in Philadelphia. Cadet Candidate parents can purchase tickets for the game (and all other football tickets) at R-Day at the A-Club table. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Philly for \$199/night. [Reserve a room now.](#)

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Joe Mastriani provided some tips for parents in handling various situations which may arise. One thing that West Point teaches is how to work through logical thought processes; the process tends to break down in times of crisis. Many times, time will help to solve the problem. He encouraged cadets who are ready for the rigors of WP to help carry those who are struggling.

Please check the website (<http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-mass/>) often for updates in meeting times/locations, bus information and general club information. Any suggestions for the website can be sent to [Nina Johannessen](#).

A regular club meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13.

Respectfully submitted:
Martha Laughna