



United States Merchant Marine Academy *Northern New England Parents Association*



Volume 3 Issue 1

NNEPA NEWS

July 2007

FULL STEAM AHEAD

The Northern New England Parents Association has been busy pursuing its mission of providing a means of communication between the Academy and the midshipman parents by offering opportunities for fellowship and mutual support among parents whose sons and daughters are undergoing a rugged academic, physical, and military training program while enhancing the image of the United States Merchant Marine Academy in the northern New England area and promoting the academy to others who are interested in attending.

QUARTERLY MEETING

The next Quarterly meeting of NNEPA will be held on Friday, September 14 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Kings Point under our Canopy at Parents Weekend. We encourage all to attend especially Plebe Parents. We hope to see many of you there as we have a busy agenda. New Constitution and By-Law are being sent out to each family. Please review and email any comments to karen@mainstream.net.

SHIPS AHOY

Fair winds and following seas are wished to all 2009 and 2010 Northern New England Midshipmen on "B" split currently out to sea. We can't wait to hear about your exotic and adventurous experiences. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as you continue your education out at sea. Welcome home 2008 "A" Splits, we hope you had a great time at Sea – learned a lot and most of all finished your Sea Projects.

MIDDIE NEWS

Four of our New England Midshipmen have been selected to serve as Midshipmen Officers for the first rotation. They are: Mark Burns – First Company CNO/CITO, Eric Dukett – First Battalion Commander, Meagan Fahey – Band Company Human Relations Officer, and Jaquelyn Peterson – Regimental Chief Mate Kings Pointer. Congratulations All!

Congrats to Zach Gray of Scituate, Class of 2011, for being named to the Patriot Ledger's All Scholastic Lacrosse Team for 2007. Zach had a tremendous lacrosse career at BC High and we look forward to his contributions to the KP Mariner's Lax team this spring!

THEY'RE RECOGNIZED

Heartfelt Congratulations to all Northern New England 2010 Midshipmen. On February 12th they were Recognized as 4th Classmen. They include MN Keegan Boyle, MN John Cain, MN Kevin Campbell, MN Richard Curry, MN Matthew Goggin, MN James Gurney, MN Gregory Mansbach, and MN Andrew Snyder.. Know that all Northern New England Midshipmen and parents are proud of your accomplishment!

GRADUATION 2007

Graduation for the Class of 2007 was held on June 19, 2007. Senator John McCain spoke before their diplomas and licenses were handed out. Congratulations to the NNEPA Kings Point Class of 2007: Ensign Andrew Bercovoci, Ensign James Clarkeson, Ensign Timothy Roberts, Ensign Carter Seabrook, Ensign Kevin O'Sullivan and Ensign Daniel Villanova. We presented each of our Graduating seniors with an engraved letter opener.

WELCOME ABOARD 2007

On June 23rd, we welcomed the newest members of our NNEPA family at our Annual Welcome Aboard luncheon. This year it was held at Joe's American Bar and Grill in Dedham, MA. We were joined by 7 of our incoming Candidates. They were each presented with a State Flag from their respective Governor or State Senator and a letter of Commendation.

Welcome Aboard NNEPA class 2011 - Candidate Nicholas Aswad, Candidate Scott Bridge, Candidate Matthew Bullard, Candidate Brian Curran, Candidate Jeffrey Fasoli, Candidate Colin Giles, Candidate Jean-Luc Gordon, Candidate Zachary Gray, Candidate Nicholas Hallam, Candidate Thomas McLoughlin,

Candidate Vincent Renaut, Candidate Thomas Smillie, Candidate Hunter Smith, Candidate Merlin Suggs, and Candidate Mark Trask.

TAILGATING EVENTS

September 8, 2007 - FOOTBALL -USMMA vs Coast Guard Tailgating Party. The game Begins at 2:30. We will plan for Lunch at 1:00 pm before the march in. This is a huge event as the entire Regiment of Midshipmen is bussed up to USCGA in New London. We will need some help coordinating food items for this event. . If you are interested in helping with the planning or organization of this event –please volunteer.

September 22 - FOOTBALL USMMA at WPI in a joint event with the USMMA Alumni from New England we tailgate before the Game at WPI. We will be working together to coordinate food for this event.

October 20-21 Head of the Charles Regatta -- Join us as we head down with a picnic for the USMMA Crew team and cheer them on as they accept the challenge of some of the Top Crew teams in the Nation at this Annual event.

PARENTS WEEKEND

We hope all Plebe Candidate parents are planning to attend Parents' Weekend at Kings Point, Friday, September 14 through Monday, September 16. It is so important to the kids! Not to mention fun and interesting for parents!! Who can't wait to see their Plebe Candidate in uniform?

If you are not able to attend, be sure your Plebe Candidate has someone to leave Kings Point with - a roommate or friend, another New England family, or a sponsor family. Let Karen Peterson know if your son or daughter will be alone, and she will be sure to stop by for a visit.

It can be HOT at Kings Point in September. Remember to wear a hat, comfortable walking shoes, and sunscreen, and carry a water bottle. Finding bottled water for sale can be a bit tricky at Kings Point!! Remember your camera!! You will be allowed into the barracks. Pictures of those well-organized quarters are priceless!! Find out your Plebe Candidates schedule for Friday and arrange a meeting place.

The lawn by the grinder (asphalt area where they form up) or the flag pole, or Land Hall are good areas, better yet, meet at under our club's awning. On Friday our club will have a table set up with a white board for messages. Craig and Karen Peterson will be at Kings Point Thursday the 13th, please send them your travel info and schedules, so she will have that info when you

son or daughter stops by the table.

The Midshipmen and Plebe Candidates will sit together at Beat Retreat, Acceptance Ceremonies and at the football game. Be sure to arrive early at all events, as seating is first-come, first-served.

Try to make Colors (flag rising) one morning. This is a very memorable event. If your Plebe Candidate is agreeable, you can attend one classroom session. Make sure to tour the Simulator and the Kings Pointer if you have the opportunity!

And don't forget a trip to the Ships Store and Varsity Shop for the Kings Point wear that you will need. Be sure to visit all the state parents' organizations tables where great Kings Point logo stuff will be for sale.

Most of the state parents' organization tables take cash only; the ship's store and varsity shop takes cash, checks and credit cards.

Maps of the campus are available on the Academy website and on the NNEPA website, and can also be picked up as you enter the grounds.

Parents' Weekend is a great opportunity for Plebe Candidate parents to get to know one another, and to pick the brains of the "veteran" parents!

Friday night's BEAT RETREAT shouldn't be missed. This is an ancient military ceremony dating to 1554 when drum beatings were used to summon outlying troops back to camp. The Kings Point Beat Retreat will showcase the talent of more than 200 midshipmen, including the Regimental Band, the Color Guard and the Star Spangled Banner Brigade. The guest appearance by the Pipe and Drum Corps of the Nassau County Police Department will be great! Arrive early; seats go quickly and bring water as it can be very hot in O'Hara Hall!

The Acceptance Day Ceremony, as part of the Regimental Parade on Saturday morning will mark the acceptance of the Class of 2010 into the Regiment and will no longer be Plebe Candidates, but now a Plebe. This is a very important step in the process in becoming a midshipman. It is important for you to find out where your son or daughter will be standing during the parade and Recognition ceremony; you want to get the best pictures possible! It is at this same time they will also be sworn in to the United States Naval Reserve.

After Acceptance Day Ceremony will be the pinning ceremony – somewhat informal and usually held on the around or on the Grinder, and is where your Plebe will receive his Naval Reserve Wings that he will wear on his Uniform from this point forward. It is customary for the Moms to pin them on. GREAT PICTURE OPPORTUNITY!

Your Plebe will be required to sit in the bleachers with his class during the football game and when USMMA scores a touch-down all the plebes will do push-ups together.

All during their Plebe year they will be required to leave and return to campus in their dress uniform. They must wear their uniform whenever they are in Great Neck and surrounding areas. They can wear civilian clothes when they are in the city. However, if they wear their uniform – discounts on transportation and attractions are given out liberally.

Your Plebe will be able to leave Kings Point with you after the football game on Saturday, returning on Sunday evening. Don't plan too many activities. Experience tells us he or she will want to sleep, visit with you, eat junk food and shop a little.

Remember how few items he or she was allowed to take in July? After Acceptance, your Plebe will be allowed a few more creature comforts. Be prepared to haul some "stuff" (especially their favorite civilian clothes!) from home, as well as shop while in NY. He or she may need more personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, school supplies, a fan, possibly an iron.

If you plan on seeing the City take the train from Great Neck to Manhattan. The T (Metro) goes all over the city and is rather inexpensive compared to parking in each of the different areas.

Captain Force gives the Plebes a list of places to eat in the city – They are all EXCELLENT. If you enjoy real NY deli food – Katz's on the lower east side can't be beat (also, it is where Harry met Sally was filmed). If you love Ice Cream and a lot of it – go to Serendipity (it is where the movie Serendipity was filmed).

In Great Neck -- Great Chocolate can be found at Lazar's and the Midshipmen standby is Coldstone Creamery (They sell gift cards that can be recharged – great for when they get to go out for a quick snack). Gino's sell traditional NY Pizza and they deliver to Vickery Gate. They will get tired of Delano food and this is a treat.

If you can obtain a street map of Long Island ahead of time, your driving will be much easier. The Long Island (New York City to Montauk) and Nassau County maps have been invaluable! They are available at most gas stations and hotel gift shops, as well as at www.hagstrommap.com

A cell phone or calling card is a great idea - your Plebe will want to spend some time calling friends and family.

Be sure to return your Plebe to Kings Point on time! Traffic can be a problem; we recommend spending Sunday evening in Great Neck and not Manhattan.

Be sure to meet up with other New England parents on Friday at 3:00 for a brief Parent's Meeting. Craig and Karen Peterson will be at Kings Point Thursday through Saturday. You can reach them on their cell phones at 603-493-5643 (Karen) or 603-566-1990 (Craig)

If you have any questions about Parents' Weekend, be sure to call them. Have a great time with your Plebe Candidate soon to be Plebe at Kings Point!

HOLLY BALL

Mark Your Calendar for December 28, 2007. That is the Night that NNEPA will host the 2007 New England All Service Academy Holly Ball (NEASAB) at the Hyatt Regency Boston .

All 5 Federal Service Academy's will be attending. This is a annual formal Dinner Dance is a great holiday event. Please plan on attending and helping with our fundraising activities. Fundraising Letters will be available soon. Please help – if you can help or have any special talents be sure to call Karen Peterson to offer your services.

FUNDRAISING

The NNEPA current fundraising effort that assists us in continued support of the midshipmen consistent with our mission statement is the selling of our beautiful ceramic coasters imprinted with the USMMA logo are sold in sets of 4 for a charge of \$20. Please add \$5 for shipping.

Orders for these items should be forwarded to:

USMMA – NNEPA
Laura Hickey - Treasurer
125 Oak Street
South Weymouth, MA 02190
email: Laura_Hickey@sshosp.org
(Be sure to include USMMA NNEPA in the reference or email will not be opened)
Checks should be payable to USMMA-NNEPA

These make great gifts for Friends and Family.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

How can I help, you ask?

The NNEPA is always interested in having parents to participate. A variety of opportunities exist! If you have

any ideas for activities or fundraising – We would love to hear from you!!

Many thanks go to Linda Flynn who undertook the awesome responsibility to coordinate the sending of “goodie/cram” boxes to the midshipmen during exam weeks three times each year. This activity was one of our first endeavors as an organization and was very well received by the midshipmen. Enclosures included granola bars, cookies, nuts and candy. The handwritten personal notes of appreciation were well worth the cost and effort involved in the preparation and shipping of the boxes.

WEB SITE

The NNEPA is fortunate to benefit from the expertise of Craig and Karen Peterson, parents of Midshipman Jaquelyn who created and maintain the “official” NNEPA website. Check it out at www.usmma-nnepa.org today! Please sign-up as a member on the website.

Please send any news (school activities, athletic scores/awards, sea duty adventures/countries) on your midshipman or plebe candidate to karen@mainstream.net

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NNEPA membership has many rewards.

Joining is easy!

Annual “dues” is \$50 per Midshipman family are payable by June 30 for the 2007-2008 year. This is your only commitment if that is what you choose. This money is used to support various Midshipmen activities such as Graduation gifts, and the Welcome Aboard Luncheon. As our funds increase we will include more activities.

We encourage all USMMA parents to become members of the USMMA-Northern New England Parents’ Club (NNEPA). Our annual dues are \$50 per year per family for all Classes.

We send “Boodle Boxes” to all our Midshipmen at then end of each trimester (except when at sea). We need volunteers to sign up to send one or two boodle boxes. Linda Flynn is the “Boodle Box” coordinator – look for email from her in October, February, and May. We appreciate all those who join in this endeavor as they are greatly appreciated by all the Plebes and Midshipmen.

Benefits to our midshipmen:

- We donate money to Midshipmen Morale funds that go to pay for Class events.
- Booodle bags (substantial treats for finals) for all 3 trimesters
- Birthday, holiday and get well cards
- Pay for our midshipmen to attend our Welcome Aboard Luncheon
- Pay for Graduation gifts for our Graduating First Classmen

Remember, whether you are a member or not your son/daughter receives all the benefits of being a member, so won’t you please support our club and send in your membership soon. Please send your dues to the address listed below:

Make checks out USMMA-NNEPA
c/o Laura Hickey
125 Oak Street
South Weymouth, MA 02190

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PLEBES

(Compliments of former Plebes)

Now that you have survived Indoc, and begin your Plebe year at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, things in your life are going to change! In case you haven’t already noticed, (from the time spent in Indoc and as the first few weeks of class commence) this is no ordinary college. Yes, while your friends and family will be home carrying on with their day-to-day lives, your struggle through four years of difficulty has only begun.

The important things to focus on are the positives; these are the things that will keep you going when it seems as if you just can’t make it. Knowing that school is basically free, you are 20 minutes from the most happening city in the world, that sea year is right around the corner, and that everyone else is dealing with the exact same circumstances as you are, should be somewhat of a relief.

After Acceptance Day, when you are entitled to some freedom on weekends, and the opportunity to go out and actually enjoy your Saturdays, things begin to look up. Working through your Plebe year will be a test of your mental and physical stamina and an excellent chance for you to learn more about yourself! The academic rigors will challenge you like you have never before been. It is essential to practice good study habits and time management. If you study well in groups, get classmates from your section to meet every night for a study session; if you perform better in an individual setting, make sure you get away from all distractions and places that could potentially disrupt your study time. The most important bit of advice is to seek out the tutors. They are there to help and to guide you through

your course work with a much more personal touch than your regular professors can offer in the classroom setting.

This brings up another good point. DO NOT be afraid to contact your professors for extra help! You will learn that the teachers at the Academy have your personal success in their highest interest. They want to see you succeed, but this can only happen if you have the desire to learn and make it apparent and you can, by seeking their help. There are always facilities available to you, whether it be one of the academic buildings in a classroom, or down in the ACE, a good place to study can be found, you must only seek it out. Your education here is truly what you make of it. It is up to you to determine your own future and success at this school.

Good luck and always remember, ACTA NON VERBA.

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ANY NEWS???

(Next Newsletter comes out in October)

We need news for our October Newsletter! If your son or daughter has been at sea, send us stories – places, ships and fun happenings, participates in fall sports – send us scores, highlights and interesting tidbits, has a new job or position at the academy in their company – send us the details, Is a senior – tell us about their Senior Luau, Ring Dance details and for Plebe parents keep us up to date on your trip to Parents Weekend and your experiences.

Please send all information – by mail or email to:

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