



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



Volume 4 Issue 1

NNEPA NEWS

July 2008

PURSUING OUR MISSION

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.

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING INDOC

You Did it! Congratulations on completing Indoc. Now your challenge to become a midshipman really begins! We are happy to welcome all our new Plebe Candidates to the Kings Point Family.

P/C John Bowman
P/C Bryan Boyle
P/C Rebecca Critics
P/C Daniel Edgerly
P/C John-Leon Gosselin
P/C Christopher Leach
P/C Olivia Norris
P/C Daniel Ross
P/C Andrew Price

WELCOME ABOARD

Our Welcome Aboard Luncheon was held June 21 at Joes American Bar and Grille in Dedham, MA. We were able to welcome 6 of our 2012 Candidates. Each of the members of the Class of 2012 were given a State Flag and a Certificate from their State Representative or their State Governor.

GRADUATION 2008

Graduation was held on June 16, 2008. The clouds gave way to sunshine as the graduates lined up for their final parade onto Tomb Field. Smiles were abundant and joy

(and relief) was in the air. The Commencement Address entitled "You Never Know" was delivered by Admiral Stavridis. Admiral James Stewart presented each graduate with their degree and credentials. We presented each of our Graduates with a personally engraved brass letter opener. We wish all our New England Graduates the best as they embark on their new Careers. Our 2008 Graduates are:

Ensign Mark Burns
Ensign Keegan Doig
Ensign Meagan Fahey
Ensign Christopher Lancaster
Ensign Daniel Lancaster
Ensign Shamus O'Shea
Ensign Jaquelyn Peterson.

Congratulations Graduates! NNEPA wishes each of you a successful and lucrative career filled with fair winds and following seas.

SEA YEAR

We will welcome home MN Andrew Baldwin, MN Joseph DeSantis, MN Patrick Flynn, MN Kristoffer Hickey, MN RJ Jameson, MN Ben Lyons and MN Peter McCann our 2009 "A" splits who are recently returned from sea on their final sea term. They will return to join the regiment as FIRST CLASSMEN and be re-united as an entire class for the first time since the end of their Plebe year. This year brings many fun and memorable activities including but not limited to the Senior Luau, Ring Dance, 300, 200, 100 and 50 Night Parties, License Prep, Licensing and Graduation. We want to share in all your exotic and adventurous experiences, so please send us your photos and sea stories so that we can post them on our site. We want to know your ships and ports and what you have seen and learned.

Currently at Sea for their first Sea Year are the 2011 "B" Splits who will left Sea right after graduation.

MN Scott Bridge

MN Matt Bullard

MN Jeff Fasoli

MN Colin Giles

MN Jean-Luc Gordon

MN Zachary Gray

MN Nicholas Hallam

MN Vincent Renaut

MN Hunter Smith

Fair Winds and Following Seas to all our 2010 "B" Splits who left in March will return in November for their final Sea Term. They are:

MN Keegan Boyle

MN John Cain

MN Kevin Cambell

MN Richard Curry

MN Gregory Mansbach

We hope you have a great time at Sea and continue to learn a lot. We can't wait to hear about your exotic and adventurous experiences. Each of you are in our thoughts and prayers as you continue your education out at sea.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Our last Quarterly Meeting was held prior to the Welcome Aboard on June 21 and we elected our Officers for the 2008/2009 Academic Year.

We are up for suggestions as to how we can enhance our attendance. Is there a place that is more central that we should consider? What day is better Saturday or Sunday? and what time? How about a Virtual Meeting? Please send me a quick email to Laura Hickey at lhick555@yahoo.com or call 781-331-3747 to let me know your preferences for a meeting location and time.

NEW OFFICERS

Laura and Steve Hickey (Kristopher '09) are Co-Presidents.

The Vice President is Cynthia Price (Andrew '12)

Our Treasurer is Kathy Clarkeson (James '07)

Our Secretary is Susan Bowman (John '12)

Our Media Relations Coordinator is Sharon Harrison (Jake '12)

Our Midshipman Morale Coordinator is Linda Flynn (Patrick '09)

Our Fundraising Coordinators are Bill and Lisa Lyons (Ben '09)

Our Newsletter, Kings Point Article and Website Coordinator are Craig and Karen Peterson (Jaquelyn '08)

GOODIE BOXES

Any midshipmen will tell you that there is a direct correlation with the consumption of chocolate and the retention of educational facts and figures and that it especially applies to maritime facts and figures. We as a parent's organization provide "boodle boxes" for each of our New England students. Linda Flynn has agreed to be the Midshipman Morale Coordinator and will ask many of you to make one or possibly more than one "boodle box" to send down a box during the second week of October Midshipment who begin their Finals the last week on October. Many of you have stepped forward to assist in this effort in the past and we want to let you know how appreciative the Midshipmen are for these treats. Thank you. These goodie boxes usually consist of granola bars, nuts, dried fruit, microwave popcorn, powdered energy drinks, power bars and of-course chocolate. Sometimes fun things such as silly string and bubbles have been included. This activity was one of our first endeavors as an organization and was very well received by the midshipmen. The handwritten personal notes of appreciation were well worth the cost and effort involved in the preparation and shipping of the boxes.

PARENTS WEEKEND

We hope all Plebe Candidate parents are planning to attend Parents' Weekend at Kings Point, Friday, September 5 through September 7. 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 Laura Hickey 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 flagpole, 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. Laura will be at Kings Point Thursday the 4th, 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 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 varsity shop and NEX 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 2012 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. Laura will be
at Kings Point Thursday through Saturday.

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

USMMA ALERT SYSTEM FOR PARENTS

The United States Merchant Marine Academy has
established a cell phone and email alert system for
parents to inform you of any developing campus
emergencies. This system will supplement a separate
on-campus system for midshipmen, faculty and staff.

Please read the letter from the Superintendent at
[http://www.usmma.edu/parents/AAS_Letter_from_SUP
T.pdf](http://www.usmma.edu/parents/AAS_Letter_from_SUP_T.pdf).

You can register for the system by going here:
<http://www.e2campus.com/my/usmma2/signup.htm>

WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIPS

A White House Internship is an opportunity for current
students and recent graduates to experience everyday life
at the White House while working with high-level
officials on a variety of tasks and projects.

The application deadline for Fall 2008 White House
Internship is June 3, 2008.

Strong applicants should exhibit:

- Sound academic credentials
- A demonstrated interest in public service
- Solid written and verbal communication skills
- A history of community involvement
- Strong character and leadership skills

Applicants must be:

- At least 18 years of age on or before the first day
of the internship
- Enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program
at a college or university (or have graduated the
previous semester)
- A United States citizen

Beyond experiencing the day-to-day operations of the
White House, interns participate in a speaker series,
tours, community service projects, and other White
House events.

For more information please visit our website at:
www.whitehouse.gov/intern.

Applications should be submitted to

intern_application@whitehouse.gov on or before June 3,
2008 for the Fall 2008 Internship.

There are rolling admissions into this program for
academy internships do to their limited scheduling
availability.

If you have any questions please contact White House
Personnel at 202-456-5979.

ACADEMY GRADUATE PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Engineering Graduates - Are you interested in advancing
your professional status an engineer? Many practicing
engineers find that an advanced degree in engineering is
a very effective way to distinguish themselves and set
the stage for professional growth and advancement.

The Academy has been successfully offering an on-line,
practice orientated distance-learning Master of Marine
Engineering program since September 2006. Program
details can be found at

<http://www.usmma.edu/gradcourse/>

The terminal degree is a Master of Science in Marine
Engineering from the United States Merchant Marine
Academy. The program is based on a six semester
system.

First Term

EM610, Computational Methods

EM621, Advanced Marine Power Plants(1)

Second Term

EM631, Electrical Power Systems

EM622, Thermal System Design and Optimization

Third Term

EM623, Advanced Marine Materials

EM650, I.C. Engine Analysis & New Technologies

Fourth Term

EM670, Marine Industry Policy

Elective 1(1&2)

Fifth Term

Elective 2 (1 & 2)

Elective 3

Sixth Term

Elective 4

Elective 5

The Academy is presently accepting applications for students interested in commencing the program in September 2009. The program is available to U.S. and international students. Admissions criteria and information on applying can be found on the MMarE web page noted above.

FALL TRAVEL PLANS

They will want to leave campus as soon as possible after the completion of their last exam and checkout. Try to make travel arrangements that accommodate their requests. There are a number of simple ways for the kids to return to Boston from NYC. For your convenience we have included the information below.

BoltBus

A division of Greyhound, Bolt Bus began offering budget travelers a new option to get from New York City to Boston beginning in May 2008

With seats selling for as low as \$1, and onboard amenities like free wi-fi and power ports to charge your electronics, the discount bus line has proven themselves a strong alternative mode of transportation between the two cities.

This month, Bolt Bus began servicing two new routes from its New York City hub, connecting travelers to Philadelphia and Boston. The Boston stop is located at the South Station Terminal.

The bus line has also added a new NYC stop, at 34th St and 8th Ave, by the Tick Tock Diner, for those traveling to Boston routes. Philadelphia riders can also use the current NYC stop at 6th Ave between Canal and Grand, which also services the Washington, D.C. route.

Boarding

Once your online purchase is complete, you'll be given a confirmation number with a boarding group. When your group is called, it's your turn to board. Passengers who book tickets online are guaranteed a seat; however, they must arrive 15 minutes prior to departure or their seat may be sold to a standby passenger. Standby passengers who purchase tickets at the bus will board last.

Bolt Rewards

Bolt understands that customers expect simplicity when it comes to traveling on a bus. And when it comes to a frequent rider program, we're keeping it simple as well.

Introducing the Bolt Rewards program. No miles, no restrictions. Simply take eight trips on BoltBus and you're eligible for a free one-way ticket trip.

That's it. No strings attached. Valid at any time, regardless of time of day, day of week, or even holiday travel. You've earned it, so why not use it whenever you want?

How do I sign up?

It's simple. Click on the "Join Us" link on the Buy Tickets page and register. No card to carry, just remember your e-mail address, userID, and password. (If you forget the userID or password, we can send it to you via e-mail.)

You only get credit for trips where you have logged on as a member, so don't forget to log in prior to making a reservation.

Your awards are just that: yours. They are not transferable to family or friends.

Log in from the Buy Tickets page and the number of trips logged to date is shown in the "My Bolt Rewards" section. Isn't that simple?

Chinatown Bus Services: *Due to popularity of chinatown bus, most buses will be very full, please make reservation ahead of time to guarantee your seat.

Midshipmen will take a taxi or bus or grab a ride from another midshipman from the Academy gate to the Long Island Railroad Station in Great Neck. They will take the LIRR to Penn Station NYC.

If they take Amtrak, that is where they catch their train. Amtrak runs 17 trains daily from NYC Penn Station to Boston South Station. This trip takes 4.5 hours for the regional service and the Acela (express) service takes 3.5 hours. The one advantage to taking the train is that they can hook up their computer and work on homework (upperclassmen) or watch movies or sleep while they travel home.

If they are taking the Fung Wah Chinese bus then they will follow the Subway directions here:

Take either B, or D to Grand St then walk two blocks south to Canal. Alternatively, take either 6, N, Q, R, J, M, Z to Canal St and walk 7-8 blocks east to the Bowery.

The Fung Wah Bus runs 18 buses daily from Chinatown NYC at 139 Canal Street to Chinatown Boston at 700 Atlantic Ave, South Station gate 25.

<http://www.chinatown-bus.com/fung-wah-flyer.htm>
info: 212-925-8889, 718-438-3300.

If they are taking the Travel Pack/Lucky Star Chinese bus then they will follow the Subway directions here:

Take either B, or D to Grand St then walk one block south to Hester. Alternatively, take either 6, N, Q, R, J, M, Z to Canal St and walk 7-8 blocks east to the Bowery, and one block north to Hester.

The Travel Pack/Lucky Star runs 15 buses daily from NYC at 69 Chrystie St. to Boston 700 Atlantic Ave, South Station gate 13.

<http://www.chinatown-bus.com/travel-pack-flyer.htm>
info: 888-881-0887

<http://www.chinatown-bus.com/lucky-star-flyer.htm>
info: 888-881-0887

Other Bus Services:

Boston Deluxe runs 3 buses Fri, Sat, Sun from 2 NYC Stops. Pickup/Dropoff #1 is the News Stand at 1250 Broadway, at 32nd St and Pickup/Dropoff #2: is the coffee shop at Second Ave, and E 86th St. The bus makes two stops one in Hartford, CT at the Charter Oak Supermarket at 365 Capitol Ave then one in Boston: at the Christian Science Plaza at 175 Huntington Ave.

LimoLiner runs 2-3 buses daily from NYC. The Pickup/Dropoff is at the Hilton New York, 1335 6th Ave (at 53rd St) with Pickup/Dropoff at Hilton Back Bay at 40 Dalton St (at Boylston St).

There are often Upperclassmen or parents who are willing to give rides to underclassmen – the only problem is timing often they will complete their final exams hours or even a day before.

Taking a plane: Here is how to get to and from the airports.

[Classic Airport Shuttle](#) Shared door-to-door services
(800) 666-4949 or (631) 567-5100

Taxi (Nassau County)(Metered)

Friendly Taxi

106 Steamboat Rd

Great Neck, NY 11024

(516) 466-0066

Uniformed Taxi Dispatcher

The amount on meter from airport to NYC limits PLUS double the amount from city limits to final destination.

Private Car/Limousine/Van Service

[Super Saver by Carmel](#) 1-800-924-9954 or 1-212-666-6666

[Dial 7 Car & Limo Service](#) 1-800-222-9888 or 1-212-777-7777

[Westchester Express \(Republic\)](#) 1-800-910-5466 or 1-201-997-7368

[Classic Limousine](#) 1-800-666-4949 or 1-631-567-5100

Other Ground Transportation is available at the Info counter at Airport

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

Kathy Clarkeson - Treasurer

66 Kane Drive

Scituate, MA 02066

email: skibumz@comcast.net

(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 has again taken on the awesome responsibility of coordinating 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

Check out The “official” NNEPA website at www.usmma-nnepa.org today!

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!

PLEASE JOIN US! 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 payable June 30 for the 2007-2008 school 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 send "Boodle Boxes" to all our Midshipmen at the 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.
- Boodle 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 Kathy Clarkeson
66 Kane Drive
Scituate, MA 02066

CONTACT INFORMATION

Presidents: Laura and Steve Hickey
125 Oak Street
South Weymouth, MA 02190
781.331.3747
lhick555@yahoo.com

Vice Presidents: Cynthia Price
35 Elm Street
Webster, MA 01570
508-943-7727

Secretary: Susan Bowman
173 Elm Street
North Atelleboro, MA
02760
508-699-2863
email: susan@e-mallservices.com

Treasurer: Kathy Clarkeson
66 Kane Drive
Scituate, MA 02066
781-545-2503
email: skibumz@comcast.net

Quarterly Newsletter
Publisher: Karen Peterson
24 Penny Lane
Merrimack, NH 03054
603.493.5643
email: karen@mainstream.net

Midshipmen Support
Coordinators: Aaron and Linda Flynn
6 North Mountain Rd
Lanesboro, MA 01237
413.499.7999
email: aaron@flynnr.us

Fundraising
Coordinators: William and Lisa Lyons
38 Greenhouse Road
Forestdale, MA 02644
508.477.4321
email: capemassll@aol.com

Website/Publicity
Coordinators: Craig & Karen Peterson
24 Penny Lane
Merrimack, NH 03054
603.232.9112
email: craig@mainstream.net
karen@mainstream.net

Alumni-Parent
Liaison: OPEN

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/winter 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 License Prep, Graduation Plans and for Plebe parents keep us up to date on your trip to your Plebes experiences.

Please send all information – by mail or email to:

Karen Peterson
24 Penny Lane
Merrimack, NH 03054
603-493-5643
email: karen@mainstream.net

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