



This presentation began on Parents' Weekend 1997 for the Class of '98 Parents' Meeting. It has developed into an information session that is annually presented to Firstie parents.



# An Unofficial Guide to First Class Year and Graduation

Presented by

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Development

# Initial Thoughts



- Firstie year is very busy time for your cadet.
- Keep the lines of communication open with your cadet – especially regarding:
  - Planning for Graduation Week activities.
  - Planning for that new assignment.
- If planned well, when Graduation Week finally arrives you'll be able to relax and enjoy it.



# Grad Week Accommodations

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- Should be made as early as possible -  
Parents' Weekend is not too early!
- Consider a weekly rental - graduation week  
events begin on Sunday
- When figuring numbers, add one - your  
cadet will probably be staying with you.
- Two popular locations: Hawks' Nest and  
Groton/Long Point.

# Hawk's Nest



# Hawk's Nest



- Approximately 20 minutes from Academy
- Selection of houses rented is typically by the “lottery” method in February
  - House price in ‘03 was \$850.00/week
  - Houses have no heat, air conditioning, insulation, and have only one bathroom (a possible problem on Graduation day)

# Groton/Long Point





# Groton/Long Point

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- Approximately 15 minutes from Academy
  - Larger houses than at Hawk's Nest
- Easy commute to the Academy because you're coming from the east (against traffic).
- Variety of homes with varying degrees of amenities.
- Price range: \$1,100.00 - \$2,000.00/week



# “Tide Rips” – Cadet Yearbook

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- Consider buying an Ad as a special salute to your cadet.
- Over course of year - your cadet will be looking for pictures, etc. for his/her page.
  - 1/c Create their own page with senior portrait, pictures, and comments
    - Parents can add a short congratulatory note
- Send by 15 January to: [tiderips@hotmail.com](mailto:tiderips@hotmail.com) with a copy to [dbishop@exmail.uscga.edu](mailto:dbishop@exmail.uscga.edu)

# Castle Dance



- Held in early spring date TBD
- Held at one of the mansions in Newport, Rhode Island
- A special night that the cadets will always remember

# Billet Night



- Night before Spring Break (early March).
- Duty station assignments are announced.
- Usually a grand celebration - all kinds of phones in use that night to share the news!

# Moving On to that New Assignment



- **Your cadet is authorized to move personal effects/ household goods from Academy and another location (usually home of record).**
- **Academy Transportation Officer will assist Cadets plan for move.**
  - **Cadets will arrange moving date from home.**
- **Movers will contact the family to arrange walk-through to view items being moved to new assignment location.**
- **Choose early what is going – your Cadet will likely still be at the Academy when walk-through is done.**
  - **A good chance to help furnish that new apartment!**



# Dining In

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- Alumni Association sponsored event.
  - A long standing naval tradition.
- Formal evening and “rite of passage” where the officer corps welcomes the graduating cadets into their midst.
  - Usually held in the Officers’ Club.

# Class Wine



- Prepared by a local winery with distinctive label commemorating the graduating class.
  - Great souvenirs for relatives.
- A red and a white wine were selected by Class of '03 @ \$14.00/bottle.
- Profits pay costs of Graduation Week events - picnic, tent, DJ, flowers, etc.



# Graduation Announcements

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- Encourage your cadets to be proactive - they are adults!
  - Orders taken early in spring semester.
- May be ordered on-line by parents, or in person at Leamy by cadets.
- Delivered 4-6 weeks after order submitted by Grad Week Committee.
  - Packages available to meet every need.
- Very impressive Announcements/Thank you notes, etc. Typical package price \$50.00



# Grad Week Ticketed Events

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- Tickets are required for:
  - **Moonlight Cruise**
  - **Golf Tournament**
  - **Gradfest (picnic)**
  - **Awards Buffet Luncheon**
  - **Commencement Dinner**
- **Very important to get orders in early and accurately! Especially for the Commencement Dinner, it is important to know how many guests are coming - you may not be able to add them later.**



# Special Needs

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- For those who have elderly or disabled family members, arrangements need to be made for transportation and seating at the Commencement Dinner and Graduation.
- Contact Ms. Bowen at (860) 444-8478 or email at [pbowen@EXMAIL.uscga.edu](mailto:pbowen@EXMAIL.uscga.edu)
- Don't wait until the last minute to make arrangements - it may be too late.



## Graduation Week- Saturday & Sunday

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- **Saturday** – Arrival Day. **Moonlight Cruise**. Some unofficial events (e.g., sports team parties) are held Saturday evening.
- **Sunday** - **Baccalaureate Service** in the morning, a beautiful, meaningful event. **Sunday Evening Review of the Corps of Cadets** is very impressive. Includes the “flag lowering” ceremony at sunset.



# Graduation Week - Monday

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- **Golf Tournament** - held in the morning for cadets and family members.
- **Gradfest** - picnic for parents and guests. Includes a Search & Rescue demonstration. Good opportunity to talk with other parents. Truly an event for the whole family.
- **Athletic Awards Reception** - honoring the athletes in the graduating class.
- **Musical Evening** - a beautiful performance of the singing groups and the jazz band. Spotlight will be on Firsties in their last Cadet performances.



# Graduation Week - Tuesday

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- **Morning Review of the Corps of Cadets.**  
Fall Term Regimental Make steps off in lead for this Review.
- **Graduation Awards Ceremony** - All of the Academic and Specialty awards are presented.
- **Buffet Luncheon** - Informal gathering of 1/c parents/cadets/guests for lunch in the Cadet Wardroom.



# Graduation Week - Tuesday cont.

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- **Commencement Dinner** - Formal black tie sit-down event in the Wardroom. An opportunity for the Cadets to display their best manners!!
- **Graduation Ball** – Last Formal event of the year. In Leamy Hall right after Commencement Dinner. Very crowded, but thoroughly worthwhile.
- The **Commencement Dinner** and **Graduation Ball** are Formal events: ladies generally wear long gowns, and gentlemen are generally in tuxedos.



# Graduation Week - Wednesday

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Commencement Review of the Corps of Cadets – Spring Regimental Makes steps off in the final Review in which your Cadet will be a participant.

- **Graduation** - The Big Finale! Held rain or shine. Weather in May is quite unpredictable. Ceremony is always an impressive, first-rate event.
  - **Departure** - The new graduates must vacate Chase Hall shortly after graduation usually by 1400 hours. Remember, it is the Cadet Barracks!

# Final Thoughts



- Firstie Year is very busy for both you and your cadet – and goes quick.
- Keep the lines of communication open with your cadet. Ask if he/she has heard anything new about...
- When Graduation Week finally arrives, relax and enjoy it. You've earned it !  
Congratulations!!!