

# NJ Parents Club

## Tailgating Handbook – 2017

### Committee:

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Steve Wexler – Breakfast and entertainment [sww203@aol.com](mailto:sww203@aol.com) (732) 300-7881

The purpose of this Club is to establish a strong link of friendship between all parents of Midshipmen; support the brigade of midshipmen with emphasis to NJ midshipmen; to promote a better understanding of the US Naval Academy; to assist the US Naval Academy Administration, as requested; and to promote the good & welfare of the Membership. This organization is separate from other organizations such as the New Jersey Blue and Gold Officers, Navy League, US Naval Academy Alumni Associate, etc. and will cooperate with these in support of the United States Naval Academy. The Club shall be non-political in nature.

The USNA-NJPC tailgating experience fully supports our club mission. We organize, produce and promote a home-game football tailgate experience for the entire Brigade of Midshipmen. We welcome parents, friends and supporters from across the country to participate in the fun. In fact, we have a short slogan to that effect:

### **Bring friends, bring food, bring friends food!**

The following may be helpful to supporters looking for some direction on how to participate.

1. **Game Day** - rain or shine the tailgate will run if the football game is played. There have been some horizontal rains and some light snow squalls but the tailgate is there for the mids.
  - a. An equipment group will set the space early to outline the flow and begin to receive early donations of food and supplies.
  - b. See the game! We strongly encourage Plebe families to see the games and fill-in as they can with the tailgate. Everyone is expected to serve if their time permits. The site can easily be your “home base” for the day with some dry storage space in the trailer or stop by for a cold drink. There is no obligation to participate, but it is contagious and ridiculously satisfying. We hope you’ll want to put in some time.
  - c. March-On – This pregame display goes right next to our tailgate. We have been asked to NOT give out food as the mids only have seconds before entering the stadium. We do hand out mints, Twizzlers, and small packed items they can stuff in their pockets for enjoyment during the game.

- d. Blue and Gold – The alma-mater is sung at the close of the game. If you have not seen it or felt the power in the stadium stay in for the viewing. The mids will be RUNNING to our tailgate immediately following the close of the song.
- e. Serving is dual chow lines with each station manned by a parent to serve, interact with the mids, make them feel at home and keep the food neat and presentable
- f. “Clean up” entails covering all trays that have usable food left for delivery to the ward rooms at Bancroft Hall. Empty trays are tossed. Garbage is all bagged and put in a neat pile for collection by stadium staff. Our tent is lit for service later in the season. The tent and chairs are rental items and we need the chairs to be stacked under the tent for a Sunday pick-up. All the tables get rinsed and wiped and stored in the box truck for storage and delivery to the next game. This is our only shot a cleaning tables so they go back CLEAN. All utensils are bagged for Sunday washing. The grills are scrubbed to transportation but a thorough cleaning is back in Jersey for perfect presentation the following week.
- g. A truck will go back on the yard with left-overs for the mids on duty or disabled. A call to several of the “Mates Desk” numbers will get a “work party detail” down to the Sub Monument for pick-up. This is a quick turnaround and brings plenty of smiles back at the companies.

## **2. Parking**

- a. Perimeter parking is limited and the passes distributed by seniority and service during the tailgate. Individuals pay for these passes. They are not a club expense.
- b. Neighborhood parking There are lots of options across Taylor Rd from our tailgate. Also, in church parking lots, or on designated front lawns -- all roughly \$20.00 for the day. Expect that these fill up, so several hours of lead time is in order to avoid a long walk. For those with cash to burn and football support running in your veins you can always buy a named space in Admirals Row. Many of our members rise to this support level but it is not a requirement.

## **3. Food donations**

- a. We suggest you bring what you would serve your midshipman and his friends during a home visit. Home-cooked favorites; main dishes, vegetables, sides; meats that grill relatively quickly (boneless chicken, steaks, pre-cooked homemade food (pastas, chili, vegetables, etc.) that can be easily heated up in a pan (or by putting tray on the grill); salads, fruit, ethnic foods or other food that transports well. We do NOT provide deserts. These items are the South-Eastern Pennsylvania Parents Club role and they do a great job of it. Please sign-up [on google docs](#) by mid-week prior to the game. This is also a good place to see what is needed (ie sternos, papergoods, etc) and what others are bringing (so there's variety). Think in terms of 25 servings or more. We use standard full size aluminum serving trays so delivery of your food in a tray is helpful. Half trays work well in the serving frames as well.

- b. How to deliver it. Drop off donations in NJ (call: Sandy Deckman at 732-599-9471. He is in central NJ and can connect you with a local contact). Drop off on site at the tailgate beginning at about 8:00 a.m. until half-time. Kindly label the food; bring in aluminum trays or if it is to be grilled being it in Zip-lock bags. Please do not bring a frozen block of food. We have great difficulty in thawing these, likely delicious, morsels.
    - c. We are the only tailgate that feeds the entire brigade. Quantity helps
    - d. Quality home-cooked / prepared foods ; something your midshipman would be excited to eat. We suggest you not go to a big-box retailer for 4 dozen muffins. The mids won't eat them and we want fresh food to serve. If you are bringing steaks, pork, or chicken feel free to marinate the meats in advance. As they are all done differently this adds variety to the menu.
  4. **Cash donations** are welcomed in the event you can't make a game or want to make a donation to fund supplies.
    - a. Our treasurer is Jon Shavel and checks can be sent to him at:  
USNA-NJPC  
C/O Jon Shavel  
13 Roszel Rd.  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
5. **Schedule** – This year all games begin at 3:30.
  - a. Pre-game preparations begin just before 8:00
  - b. Morning set-up is complete by 10:30
  - c. Pre-game cooking and serving is late morning with lunch service around 12:30/1:00. We host the Navy Cheerleaders, Drum and Bugle Corps, Highland Dancers, and numerous mids supporting the pregame workload.
  - d. Cooking begins in earnest after half-time
  - e. Serving: We provide serving utensils and aprons -- just bring arms and a smile! 😊 We expect a warm welcome to other volunteers and all the mids. During the Air Force game we extend a hearty welcome to Zoomies who come by. Several times during the season a Navy ship is in the bay and we welcome the uniformed crew.
  - f. Clean-up help is always appreciated
  - g. Ward room delivery follows departure and takes a few short minutes to the yard and delivery.
6. **Messaging**
  - a. Invite the country! This event is a very positive experience and you should bring your food, some friends, and friends food.
  - b. All parents of midshipmen are welcomed -Everyone should come at least once. It's a great event and an opportunity to give back to the brigade
  - c. All mids welcomed – an upbeat email is sent out to the Brigade before every game. Also have your mid invite his/her midshipmen roommates and friends
7. **Social Media participation**
  - a. FB posts welcomed
  - b. Twitter posts are welcomed
  - c. Photos are welcomed for our webmaster's consideration

## 8. Schedule for 2017

9/9 Tulane 3:30 pm kickoff

9/23 Cincinnati 3:30 pm kickoff

10/7 Air Force 3:30 pm kickoff

10/21 UCF 3:30 pm kickoff

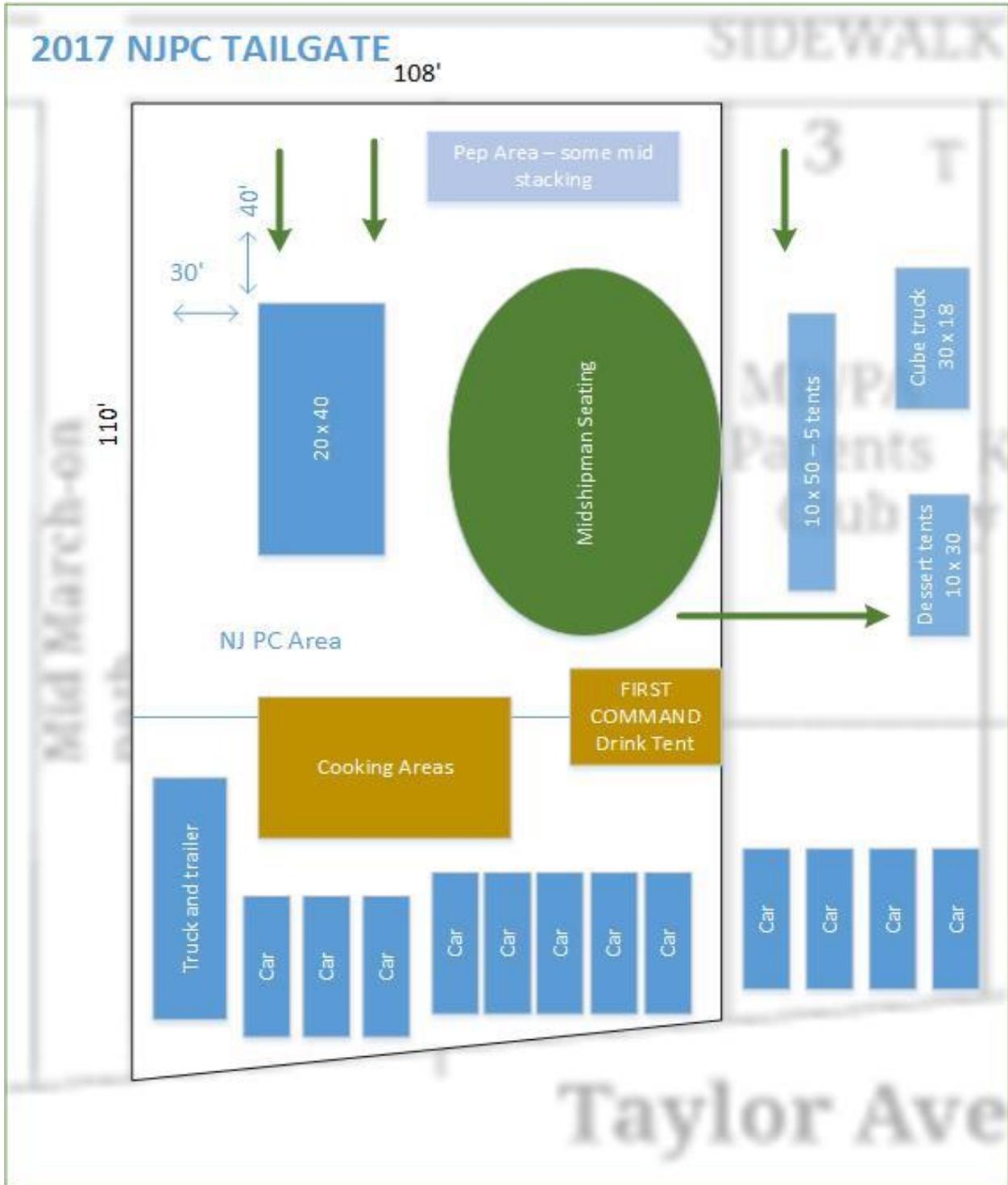
11/11 SMU 3:30 pm kickoff

9. **Liquor** – There is no liquor, beer or wine on-site or in-sight for any of the mids. Occasionally, the morning application of a bloody-mary or mimosa helps get the grill get heated faster.

10. **Our location** is the prime spot on the entire stadium.



11. Our internal layout for your review:



**Feedback?** Yes, we get terrific feedback!

\*Heard from 29<sup>th</sup> Company plebe: “**And during the summer briefing we were told not to miss the New Jersey Tailgate**”

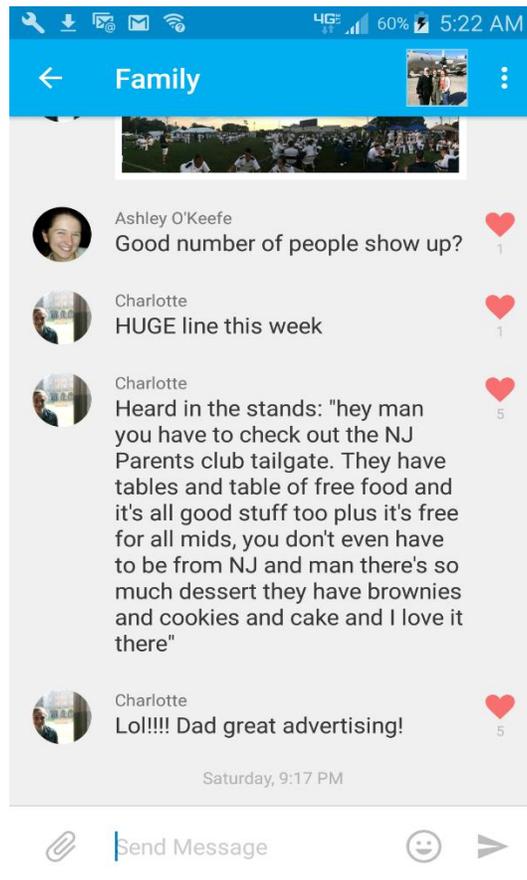
\*From a mid to her West Coast mom during the Army Navy Basketball tailgate:



**\*And the mids actually do RUN to our tailgate after the game:**



\*And the mid-chatter is all positive:



\*And we do **special requests**. This mom wanted some photos of her son and we made a fuss over him.



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👍 Carol Short, Pat Loftus, Donna Hunt and 52 others like this.

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**Bill Asdal** He's a terrific young man and we made a special fuss over all the mlds today

18 hrs · Like · 👍 1



**Bill Asdal** they had marinated steaks, teriyaki chicken, lots of pasta dishes plenty of homemade desserts and goodie bags for the ride home.

18 hrs · Like



**Joli Mellett** My son sent me a text and asked "Why is this guy taking pictures of me....etc". So I had to briefly explain. Thanks Bill for posting. What a wonderful family! Way to go Navy!

13 hrs · Like



Write a comment...



**Bill Asdal** is at United States Military Academy.

16 hrs

\*A grandmother sent two pecan pies from Mississippi made from grandpa's pecan tree. One pie for her grandson, one for the rest of the Brigade. We complied.

\* We get cakes from Texas, Cajun from Louisiana, mango lassi from India, potstickers from Korea and chicken delicacies from Taiwan. It is no wonder the kids hustle over for a plate full of goodness.

We of the NJPC are blessed to have such great kids and the honor of supporting both them and their best 4,499 fellow mids. This tailgate is our first shot at helping build a Navy Family. Let's lead with our hearts, work with our hands, and embrace this event as if all mids are our own. The repayment in satisfaction is glorious.

Can you join us at a tailgate?

Respectfully,

Your 2017 tailgating team,

*Bill, Jim, Sandy and Steve*