

# AROUND THE POINT



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division VII, Eighth District Eastern Region Newsletter  
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**“Seek to understand before you seek to be understood”**

## Ron Bogdan, Mr. Patch

Norman C. Arbes, VCDR, DIV VII Eighth District Eastern

It all started at the age of ten when an uncle gave Ron a German belt buckle from WW I, the war to end all wars. His first patch was an original Flying Tigers patch from WW II and went from there. “Bogie”, as his friends call him, has managed to collect over 172 Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary patches and displayed them all in large picture frames. It isn’t necessarily a unique collection, but one that has been put together with a knowledge and full explanation of each of his patches. Ron also designed a patch for the Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh and is designing logo patches for Division VII and Flotilla 72.



Ronald “Bogie” Bogdan displays part of his patch collection.



Patch designed for MSO now MSU Pittsburgh

In 1958 Ron went to the Coast Guard recruiter to sign up but found there was a 4 year waiting list. The draft was in effect so he went to the Army Recruiter. If you volunteered for 3 years the Army would guarantee any school of your choice, so he took the Nike Schools hoping to get stationed at the Nike Site in Oakdale, Pa. where his Uncle was stationed. Yes, there were Nike missile sites that surrounded the city of Pittsburgh in the late fifty’s and sixty’s. He finished 8 weeks basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and went onto electronic schools at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, then on to Redstone Arsenal, Alabama for Nike- Hercules and Nike Ajax Acquisition Radar and Computer Repairman. After completing these schools Ron was sent to a new Nike Missile unit in Pyong Taek, Korea.

After his discharge in 1962 he was in the inactive Army Reserve for 3 years. Ten years later he signed up for the Coast Guard Reserve Unit in the Port of Pittsburgh. He came into the USCG as an electronic technician but later changed his rate to a Port Security man. Bogie remembers that the “the Port Security rate was a new rate and I was able to advance rather quickly because I loved what I was doing and gave it my all. I made Chief in 8 years which is unheard of. It usually takes no less than 10 years to make Chief. I continued to

strive at my rate and eventually made Senior Chief and then Master Chief. I was forced to retire on April 1, 2001 after 31 1/2 years of service.” The next day he joined the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 72 in Pittsburgh where he holds many qualifications and served as VFC.

Ron collects all military patches from all of the services and his military collection now totals 404 excluding y foreign ones. .

Pictured below Bogie displays his collection of 172 Coast Guard patches and continues to look for new Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary patches and would like to hear from anyone who can contribute to his collection. Contact Ron at [ronbogdan@hotmail.com](mailto:ronbogdan@hotmail.com)



## Division VII 2012 Boat Crew Training Program



We proudly salute the following members of Flotilla 72 for signing on for the Boat Crew Training Program, Richard Allen Ashner, Daniel Arthur Beahm, Jonathon Bradford Brewster, Rebecca Sue Kennedy, Josh Langford, Morton McAnally, Andrew Paul Stefanic, Ralph R. Unglo II, Douglas W. Suehr, and David Atchison.

## Short Stories

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Rebecca Sue Kennedy, FSO-MO



Several years ago a decision was made to create a new staff office at the flotilla and division level for one of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Four Cornerstones, Fellowship. The then XO of Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh, LCDR Higmann, said a similar office on the gold side was the Morale Officer and thus the Division and Flotilla Morale Officer staff positions were launched. The division appointment was given to Erda Pino and Becky Kennedy was appointed the flotilla position. "Fellowship remains an essential ingredient in making any organization of volunteers successful." AUXMAN.

Becky has performed the wide variety of tasks that are a part of her staff office with sometimes little recognition but with great appreciation. She is also the coordinator for the two summer picnic meetings at the Greater Pittsburgh Aquatic Club on Neville Island and also the very successful Holiday Awards Party at Hoss's Steakhouse in Moon Township. The creative decision to move the party to Hoss's was embraced by the membership and will return there again for the 2012 Holiday Dinner Party.



Corey Edward Gaffey, New Member



Wall of Fame



Proudly on display at CST (Cutter Support Team) is **the Flotilla of the Year** perpetual plaque won by Flotilla 72. The award is presented for the flotilla's overall effort and accomplishments in Public Education, Human Resources, Communications, Vessel Exams/Program Visits, Public Affairs, operations, and for their commitment to being Semper Paratus, Always Ready. Josh Langford placed the new Flotilla 72 flag and staff next to the wall at CST and attached all the award streamers on the top of the flag staff. All the members should be proud that they are so well represented on the "Wall of Fame" for the awards and recognition given to the flotilla over the years. Pride in Accomplishment.



**Jerry Shoup, FSO-HR**



Still in training, but constantly learning, Jerry took control of the helm for the flotilla human resource staff office. A quick learner, of course he had an excellent teacher and mentor, he quickly met his stride and has set the pace to reach the flotilla goal of 7 new members for 2012. The Flotilla Commander may have to increase that number because he has already approached half of that number. "It is important to note the first and primary mission of the Auxiliary is to attract, recruit, develop, train, nurture, and retain Auxiliarists for assignment to duty." AUXMAN.



### **D-TRAIN 2012**

District 082 held its Spring Conference at the Marriott Charleston Town center in Charleston, West Virginia from 12 April to 14 April. There is always something to learn at D-TRAIN (District Training) with a wide range of courses offered with quality instructors. Attending from 72 were Don and Mary Colwell and Norman Arbes, Division VII Vice Commander.



**Commodore Rick Washburn poses with Commander Juliet Hudson before the afternoon session and during a break Norman Arbes, DVDCR poses with Kenneth Wirtz, DCPTE**



Josh Maverick Langford, SO-PA



Spring has arrived and the PA Department has been very busy so far this year. Our year started off with the annual Pittsburgh Boat Show and hasn't stopped since. Among our events this year we attended for the first time the Allegheny Sport and Travel Show which had a promising turn out and produced some interest in joining the Auxiliary, this is one show we will be returning to next year. We have also done a few more sportsmen's shows that have been hit or miss with attendance and interest but if you reach just one person and give them information or get them to take a boating safety course I consider it a job well done. I am also happy to announce that Coastie is back and will be utilized in a lot of events for Flotilla 72 and Division VII.

There will be an event at the Sewickley YMCA on 28 April where he will be making an appearance. Our next big event will be taking place in Wheeling West Virginia at Cabela's; this event kicks off National Safe Boating Week and should be a lot of fun. We have many more events coming up for spring and summer including the Three Rivers Regatta.

Lastly, with Memorial Day just around the corner we will be out in force and proudly participate in local parades. We will be in three parades in two days. On 27 May we will be parading in Carnegie, PA. On 28 May we will be Parading in the morning in Sewickley and the afternoon in Coraopolis, PA. Anyone interested in participating in the parades or any event the PA is doing please contact the SO-PA Josh Langford for information and scheduling. Remember you are **ALL** Public Affairs representatives when you put on the uniform. Wear it proudly.



New Boathouse Dedicated



Monday, 26 April was a sunny and bright day for the Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh dedication of its new boathouse in Ambridge. Commander Timme took scissors in hand and cut the ribbon at the entrance of the large new facility. Commander Timme said "it is a great improvement on the car garage boathouse used by MSU the last several years in the Soutside of Pittsburgh." The new building has offices, a meeting room, large spaces for mechanic work areas, a gym workout area, and storage for the 25 footers with trailers with room to spare. Following the dedication, all were treated to a pizza and beverage lunch which included an MSU cake.

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## Vessel Safety Check Team "Tis the Season"

John Franko III, Flotilla Commander and also holding the staff office for Vessel Exams, will be holding the required Annual Vessel Safety Check Seminar following the May meeting. Member Training Officer Norman Arbes will be conducting the seminar. Vessel Examiners are reminded to get your 2012 VSC decals and forms from John. He reminds all that boats can be inspected in dry dock as well as dockside. There are over 25,000 registered boats in the Allegheny County area and many are waiting for an Auxiliarist to do a safety check on their boat. The Flotilla Commander reminds all the vessel examiners that it is quality of the exams over the quantity of the exams you give. Quality over quantity!

## We Salute the Officers and Guardsmen at Sewickley Moorings



**USCGC OSAGE (WLR-65506) AND 100 FT BARGE (CGB-99003)**  
**Officer In Charge:** BMCS E.P.Guerette **Executive Petty Officer:** BM1 R.W.Finch

USCGC Osage is a 65ft Class River Buoy Tender in service with the US Coast Guard's 8th District, Sector Ohio Valley. Homeported at USCG Station Sewickley, the Cutter and its 99ft barge tend the buoys, daymarks, lights and channel markers in its area of responsibility.

Division VII and two of its flotillas are proud to call the Coast Guard Station their home too. The officers and members of Division VII appreciate and respect the permission given to use the base for meetings, training, and public education.

