

# HEARTLAND GUARDIAN



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE TWO

Dragon Boats

PAGE THREE

Member Spotlight

PAGE FOUR

Successful Leadership

## PADDLES UP!!



**Dragon Boat Races Are a Major Event for  
Quad Cities Flotilla**



## PADDLES UP!!!

### Dragon Boat Races Are a Major Event for Quad Cities Flotilla

“Oh my, I don’t know what we would do without the Coast Guard Auxiliary. They have become just like family to us” said Patty Bolton. Bolton is in charge of special events for the Mountain States Foundation, which helps fund special services for 14 hospitals serving East Tennessee and parts of Virginia and Kentucky. Among the fund-raising events the Foundation sponsors is an annual Dragon Boat Race, held at Winged Deer Park, on Boone Lake, outside Johnson City, TN. Flotilla 12-07, the Quad Cities Flotilla, has provided a safety patrol for the four days of Dragon Boat practices, as well as the races, for the last six years.

Last year, the Foundation raised enough money from the Dragon races to purchase a van now known as the Heart Coach. It travels into rural areas to bring low-cost, heart-check services to those without the means or funds to travel to the major hospitals. This year, Bolton said more than \$80,000 was raised during the September event. The money will go toward providing oncology services for folks who can’t afford to pay. “I don’t know how we would do it without the Coast Guard Auxiliary,” said Bolton. “They give us such peace of mind. We feel safer with the Auxiliary out there on the water.”

Supporting the Dragon Boat races is big commitment in time and effort for the Auxiliary crews and facilities involved, and it has become the premier event for the Quad Cities Flotilla. This year alone, the commitment involved four facilities, six coxswains, five crew, and almost 100 on-water hours.

To do a patrol like this effectively you need to do a lot of advance planning with the people who are putting it on,” said Ken Farst, of Flotilla 07. Farst is a member of the Mountain States Foundation planning committee for the Dragon Boat races. He helps the group get Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency permission to set buoys and to establish a no-wake zone on the portion of Boone Lake used for the races. Farst provides the information needed to get patrol orders cut by Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley in Louisville, and also involves his own facility, the Vitamin Sea, for patrols during practice sessions. This year, Commodore Rick Washburn, a member of Flotilla 07, crewed for one of those sessions.

On the facility Jesse Lynn, Jerry Stephens and Jerry Haynes, who was PATCOM during the races, maintained a perimeter on one side of the race course. On the park side, the Bee Gee II maintained vigil for errant pleasure boaters. Farst served as coxswain on the Bee Gee II being assisted by Marshall Herron and by Ron and Carol Thomas, members of Flotilla 0700403 in Florida. The Thomas’ are crew qualified in Florida. In order to participate with Quad Cities during the summer months, they became crew qualified on Tennessee waters as well. Coxswain Russ Zemp, of the J. Ossie, and crew members Bob Bruce and Roy Flegel provided continuous support.

The Bee Gee II also played a major role in assuring that the six Dragon boats got safe passage from their launching area at Sonny’s Marina to the race site at Winged Deer Park. Rowers participating in the races weren’t told which two of the \$20,000 boats they were using were paddled in Nova Scotia this July by crews that included Great Britain’s Royal couple, Prince William and Duchess Kate Middleton. Dragon Boats East, out of Halifax, was specially chosen to give the Prince and Duchess their requested opportunity to paddle a Dragon Boat. A brush with royalty didn’t prevent Dragon Boats East from participating in the Tennessee races for their fourth year.

The Dragon Boats, with their green and gilded dragon heads and tails affixed assured that sponsors and paddlers, assisted by Flotilla 07, would once again make the day a success.

Submitted by Carol Thomas USCGAUX

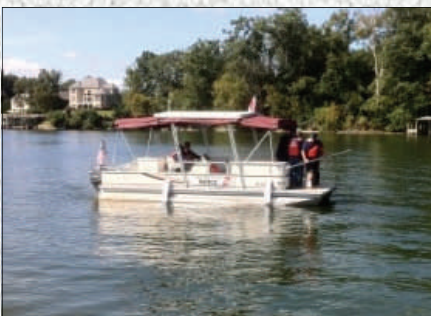


Photo Left: Auxiliary Facility Jesse Lynn

Photo Right: Auxiliary Facility J. Ossie

Photos: Carol Thomas USCGAUX



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Andrew Stefanick**  
**Flotilla 72, Division 7, Eighth District Eastern**

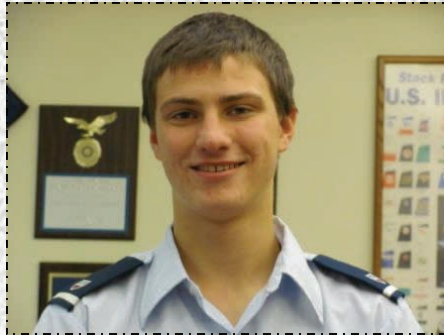


Photo: Norm Arbes USCGAUX

Andy graduated from Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School in May of 2011. His goal was to attend the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut but did not garner the prized Letter of Appointment. He had already established an acceptance at the University of Pittsburgh School of Business where his school of study will be General Management, a major offered at both schools. His ultimate goal is to attend Graduate School allowing him to become a leader in that field. In high school, Andy lettered in baseball and soccer. Attending Pitt has allowed him to continue his career in the Coast Guard Auxiliary since his enrollment in July of 2010. He passed the Vessel Examiner Exam in April of 2011 and will serve as the Flotilla Staff Officer for Secretary and Records in 2012.

Norm Arbes  
Flotilla Commander, 07-02

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Ralph Underwood**  
**Vice Flotilla Commander-Elect 2012**  
**Flotilla 11-05**



Photo and Article:  
Randy Ventress USCGAUX

As a member of the Auxiliary and Flotilla 11-05 since November of 2010, Ralph, Father of one Daughter, Grandfather of three Grandchildren, Great-Grandfather of seven, became interested in the Auxiliary after reading an article in a boating magazine. After further investigation on the Internet, "I liked what I read and typed in my information into the Auxiliary National Web Site. Within a few days I got a call from a Human Resources Officer in this Division and was invited to a meeting. The rest is history".

Ralph was born in Middle Tennessee, in the shadow of Short Mountain. For those of you interested in Geography, Short Mountain is outside Murfreesboro, Tennessee by a few miles near Woodbury, Tennessee. At a young age, Ralph uprooted and moved to Michigan where he grew up and went to school. From here he joined the Navy and gave our Country twenty years of service, mostly during the Vietnam War. Through the course of Service, Ralph held several duty assignments including a three year tour in Recruiting Duty. Ralph moved around the country after Retirement and eventually came back home to the hills of Tennessee where he started a small power equipment and small engine repair business which he still owns. "I have missed being on the water the last few years". Ralph recently qualified as Crew Member in the Surface Operations Program as well as being a Qualified Vessel Examiner. Most recently Ralph has been elected to the Office of Flotilla Vice Commander for Flotilla 11-05 for the year 2012.

## WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL LEADER?

**This month a survey went out to our Division Staff Officers for Publications for input. The challenge was to list the five most important "ingredients" of a successful leader. Some of the responses we received are:**

**Charles Gladwell**, VFC 12-05 suggests:

Integrity  
Leadership  
Fairness  
Compassion  
Excellence

**Geri McKee**, SO-PB for Division 8 contributes:

*L* - Listening--Good listening is required to have people want to follow you.

*E* - Enthusiasm--Enthusiasm gets you the followers wanting to get the job done.

*A* - Awareness--Leaders must have a keen sense that denotes when employees are happy, frustrated, tired or overwhelmed.

*D* - Decisive--Leaders do not ponder; they make quick decisions to difficult problems and find immediate solutions.

*E* - Equal--Leaders understand that "everyone" and "anywhere" in the organization is equal.

*R* - Reward--If people feel that they make a difference, they will care about organizational objectives, if not, apathy emerges.

In sum, the job affects the person and the person affects the job.

**Thom McQueen**, Editor Heartland Guardian, checks in with:

Willingness to accept risks  
Willingness to listen (not just hear)  
Ability to communicate (not just talk)  
Ability to motivate  
Propensity to act fairly, caring and ethically

**Randy Ventress**, Publisher Heartland Guardian, throws in his two cents worth:

Alert to our changing Auxiliary requirements and needs  
Availability to our membership  
Knowledgeable in our many missions and programs  
Flexible in decision making  
Positive in attitude

And remember that the successful Leader works for the Organization and the Organization does not work for the Leader.

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