

Congratulations Barry Buchholz, KC8NHI

Greenbush man receives Coast Guard Auxiliary award

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member Barry C. Buchholz, left, recently received a Medal of Operational Merit. The award was presented by USGCG Auxiliary Director, Commander Brad Nelson of the 9CR Cleveland District.

Barry C. Buchholz of Greenbush, a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, recently received the Coast Guard Auxiliary Medal of Operational Merit during a banquet held in Sault Ste. Marie.

A past auxiliary flotilla commander, Buchholz was cited for his outstanding operational performance while serving as a member of the Auxiliary Flotilla 16-04 of the Ninth Central Region in support of the Coast Guard Station in Alpena, from March 2004 through November 2004.

According to the citation, to efficiently perform as a qualified communications watch stander and officer of the day, Buchholz volunteered over 2,400 hours, logged over 3,000 miles on his personal vehicle and purchased a pager solely for recall purposes, all of which enabled him to stand a port and starboard watch rotation at the station in Alpena and become a vital part of the unit's operational readiness.

Buchholz demonstrated outstanding professional knowledge and proficiency on the night of September 5, when the sailing vessel *Nadia* became lost in heavy fog, ran aground, rolled on her side and began to take on water. For five hours, he expertly coordinated the communications and search efforts of land and water based assets of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and local emergency services.

His extensive knowledge of the geographic area enabled searchers to pinpoint the location of the *Nadia* and was essential in the successful rescue of the owner/operator despite conditions of zero visibility.

In addition to his proficient watch standing, Buchholz helped devise and facilitate an intensive four-week training program for the Alpena station that utilized experienced auxiliary members and their facilities. His efforts resulted in the qualification of six active duty and reserve Coast Guard members and two auxiliary members as communications watch standers, boat crewman and boat coxswains.

The citations also states that Buchholz's exceptional knowledge of local emergency services and law enforcement providers helped solidify a strong cooperative relationship between these agencies and the Coast Guard, resulting in a cooperative effort and increased awareness of recreational boating safety.

Buchholz is a former marine deputy with the Alcona County Sheriff's Department. He is currently a licensed ham operator and member of the Alcona County Amateur Radio Group.

He and his wife, Cindy, reside at 1950 Sunrise drive, Greenbush.