

USCG Station Lorain



Photo by Joe Weatherby III

LORAIN, OH - Station Lorain is on the western end of Sector Buffalo's AOR on Lake Erie. The station is on the Black River in Lorain, Ohio and is home to 21 active duty Coast Guard, and the station's dog, "Hawkeye", a young golden lab. The station is the center of operations for Flotilla 4, in Division 6. Activities are also supported by four other Flotillas from Akron to Huron, Ohio.

The station's AOR is 15 miles wide from Avon Point to just West of the Vermilion River and north 15 miles to the Canadian border in the middle of Lake Erie.

The station is under the leadership of BMC



Andrew Coppa, and is a multi-mission, small boat station that executes all Coast Guard missions, including search and rescue, ice rescue, maritime law enforcement and homeland security.

The station has no boat ramp, but has a belt hoist to remove its 41-foot UTB (Utility Boat Large), the last one in the Sector, for service and storage. It can accommodate the 45-foot RBM (Response Boat Medium) from Cleveland, and the station is scheduled to get a new 45-

foot RBM in the summer of 2013. It also has a 25-

foot RBM and a 15-foot Ice Rescue boat, and is the summer home to the Lorain County Sheriff's NBI (Northern Border Initiative) boat.

Lorain is a deep water port for ore carriers that supply taconite to the old U.S. Steel mill, about two miles up river, and to cement and stone companies on the river. Lorain is home to the yearly International



Festival of Nations and Bazaar, with over 30 ethnic and American food vendors. Numerous river tours & other activities are under the watchful eye of Station Lorain and the Auxiliary, such as Kayak races and Pro Walleye fishing tournaments.

Lorain's harbor is guarded by the Lorain Lighthouse, built in 1917, decommissioned in 1965, and now a historic landmark. Lorain Port Authority offers tours of the Lighthouse and river during the summer.

www.eastwind.a092.uscgaux.info

Left: Station Lorain main building and dock area. Top: 25-foot RBS Defender Class and 41-foot UTB, vintage 1975. Bottom right: Station Lorain's golden lab, Hawkeye. Photos by Jack Benton

Originally established by the US Lifesaving Service in 1904, Station Lorain continues to serve in the Coast Guard tradition of excellence.

- Jack Benton
MCPO (ret)
FSO-OPS
Flotilla 64