

Saturday, June 16, was a momentous occasion. After working hard on it for more than a week, David VanZandt took his new boat out on its very first dive trip. The boat is a 1985 29-foot Sea Ray Sedan Cabin 300 that has now tentatively been dubbed the "Sea Dragon." Along for this first expedition was his wife Toni, his daughters Stephanie and Shelby, and crew Kevin Magee. After a late start preparing and loading the boat, it left from Cleveland and headed towards the "Dundee," a wooden schooner/barge that sank in 1900 in 70' of water about 15 miles off Cleveland. The weather was good with a clear, sunny sky and 1'-2' seas. Along the way boat handling and systems were tested. Some navigation glitches were discovered, steering the boat was practiced, and the radio and bottom sounder were tested as the "Dundee" was approached. After marking the wreck site with float markers and circling the site for a while, the wreck was anchored successfully on the very first attempt - a good omen.

While Toni and the girls stayed topside, Dave and Kevin dove the wreck. Upon descending a strong thermocline was encountered at 20'. Above the thermocline viz was a spectacular 20'-30', but below it the viz was reduced dramatically to an average but acceptable 8'-13'. Surface water temperature was 60-65 deg F, but the bottom temperature was a chilly 48-49 deg F. The "Dundee" appeared very much as it did several weeks ago (reference previous dive report), although more gobies were noticed on the wreck this time, and some were quite large at 4"-5". Dave suffered some minor free flowing of his regulators, but this did not significantly hamper the dive. After surfacing, the decision was made to head back to port because of the late time and some seasick passengers. Overall, however, it was a great first trip with nice weather, and this will hopefully bode well for the rest of the dive season.