

On Wednesday, August 29, after work Lisa Gonesey, Mike #1, Mike #2, and Kevin Magee went diving out of Whiskey Island Marina in Cleveland. Cindy LaRosa had previous commitments and could not make it. Along for the ride and to watch the boat was Mike #1's wife. The waves were 2' with whitecaps and a steady wind was blowing, but by the time the dive site was reached, the seas and wind had subsided to a calm 1'.

The dive site was the "Dundee," which both Mikes had been on several times earlier in the year but Lisa had never dove. It is an excellent wreck because unlike the shallower wrecks closer to shore, this one actually looks like a ship instead of a lumber pile. It is a large wooden schooner-barge that sank in 70' of water the early 1900's, and although both the stern and bow are collapsed, most of the ship is intact with easily penetrated cargo holds and interesting deck equipment to view. There are also very few zebra mussels on the wreck, making all items easily identifiable.

The marker float on the wreck was spotted, but there was some difficulty in snagging its mooring line, so it was decided to anchor into the wreck instead. This, however, was thwarted when the anchor decided to go MIA after initially snagging the wreck. Kevin did a quick snorkel dive to attach the boat to the float's mooring and to repair a ladder step, and then everyone geared up to enter the water. After descending, conditions on the bottom were found to be very good. The thermocline was at 50' with 76 deg F above it and a warm and tolerable 53 deg F below it. Visibility both above and below the thermocline was a very good 20'. Lightning conditions were a little dark due to the late hour, but a light wasn't necessary until the latter part of the dive. Starting to circle the wreck, the MIA anchor was quickly discovered on the deck snagged to the lip of a cargo hold with its clevis pin missing. Kevin attached his lift bag to it and moved it over to the mooring line, and then the dive was continued.

The wreck was circled twice, and the bow (west) was examined with its donkey boiler, large windlass, and hawser pipes with anchor chains running through them. The stern (east) was examined with its standing rudder post, and the deck was examined with its winch, bits, mast stubs, and rigging turnbuckles. Viz was good enough to see the lake bottom from the deck, and boards could be seen in the debris field. A swim through some of the cargo holds was also done below decks. When it came time to ascend, the anchor was brought up with them. Overall, it was a great dive, and the sunset was beautiful as everyone boarded the boat. On the drive back to Cleveland, the stars came out, and Mars could be seen over Cleveland guiding us back ashore.