

After work on Wednesday evening, September 9, 2009, Cindy LaRosa and Kevin Magee joined the final trip of the year for Aqua Specialist's midweek one-tank evening dives off the "Holiday." An attempt had been made the previous week on September 2, but rough 3'-5' seas foiled the attempt to dive the "Old Crib" on that trip. It proved impossible to hook the crib buoy, and an attempt to anchor the boat resulted in the anchor becoming fouled in a steel cable that required an impromptu dive to free the anchor. For this final trip, the seas were again looking bad at 4'-5', so it was wisely decided to stay in sheltered waters near the Cleveland breakwall rather than venture out into the lake. Since there was a northeast wind blowing, it was decided to dive the west breakwall. A total of 6 divers and one bubble watcher ventured out. In addition to Cindy and Kevin, the divers included Steve Moysan, Rich Schmidt, Mike Gorek, and Dick Patton. Dawn Moysan was the bubble watcher.

The "Holiday," piloted by Captain Wayne Bratton, left the shelter of the Cleveland inner harbor through the west cut at Edgewater Marina and hugged the breakwall. Calm water was found on the western edge of the breakwall, but a good anchor hold proved elusive, so it was decided to head further east until directly behind the western jetty that projects out into the lake at the Cuyahoga River's exit. Here in the nook at the base of the jetty was found 1'-2' seas and calm conditions that allowed for a dive to take place. Captain Wayne anchored the boat near the wall, and everyone swam over and submerged near the breakwall. Bottom conditions were found to be acceptable at 3'-5' of visibility. The large limestone boulders from the breakwall were followed to the sandy bottom at 20' depth, and the edge of the wall was explored. Seen were logs and various pieces of debris stuck in the nooks and crannies, including a plastic water/fuel tank from a recreational boat. Two large sheephead were seen as well as some small perch, and dive treasure was found and recovered.

As the sun set, visibility noticeably decreased, causing some to cut their dives short after only half an hour. However, given the really bad conditions in the lake, all were thrilled to be able to do a dive with acceptable conditions. This was made especially clear as the boat headed back to the inner harbor by traveling through the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. The enormous seas and rough conditions in this brief passage from behind the shelter of the jetty made it obvious there was no diving possible elsewhere. Everyone enjoyed their sandwiches and drinks as the boat headed back up the Cuyahoga River to Collision Bend, where the boat was docked. After unloading the boat, everyone said goodbye to the final lake dive of the season and headed home.