

On Sunday afternoon, Mike Holda, Cindy LaRosa, and Kevin Magee decided to go diving. Despite stormy weather on Saturday and light rain Sunday morning, the weather for the afternoon appeared to be clearing, so Mike decided to take his boat "Erie Lady" out of Rocky River to check out the "Dundee," which is a wooden sailing ship in about 70' of water 13 miles offshore.

And what a beautiful day it was! Despite the marine forecast, the lake was almost flat with less than 1' seas, no appreciable wind, and bright and sunny. On the way out, the mud line disappeared and the water turned a nice blue-green color, a good omen for clear viz. The first attempt at a dive was aborted due to Kevin's fears that the boat might be drifting. The boat was re-positioned, and it was discovered that there was a slight current running counter to the wind, making the boat appear to be moving away from the wreck and marker float. Near the surface we had at least 20'-30' of viz, and upon descending we found that the ambient light penetrates all the way to the bottom and that there was about 10'-15' viz on the bottom. This was a lot better than we expected and better than anything close to shore, which is zero viz. It was about the same for previous years at this time.

Cindy and Mike reported a newly forming thermocline at about 35' depth, where the temperature dropped from a surface temp of 68 deg F to close to the bottom temp of 52-54 deg F. Kevin never really noticed it, despite diving wet. The wreck itself is in good condition, and - like last year - there are still almost no zebra mussels anywhere and only a couple of small gobies. With the mussels absent, all the details of the wreck can be clearly seen. The dive's maximum depth was 65' for 27 minutes since short fills were used for this dive.

A second dive was also done, and a maximum depth of 65' was recorded for 40 minutes. The purpose of the second dive was to put a float on the wreck, which we did. If anyone finds one, please don't cut it. It was a beautiful day for diving, and for those that didn't get out, you missed it! The secret of good diving right now is to get far offshore.