

On Sunday, July 16, Mike Holda, Cindy LaRosa, and Kevin Magee went diving out of the Rocky River marina in Mike's boat "Erie Lady." Overnight, the seas had gone from calm to stormy at 2'-4', but we were again determined and proceeded out anyway. The sky was overcast, the wind strong, and rain squalls could be seen on the horizon to both the east and west. We spent most of our time dodging the thunderstorms and checking out different sites before settling on the "Admiral," a tug which sank in 65' of water about 10 miles north of Cleveland during World War II. By this time, we had been missed by the largest storm and the seas subsided to 1'-3', making diving possible. As we entered the water, the sun came out, and the surface viz was observed to be great at about 20'.

Both the anchor and marker float were found to be off the wreck, but bottom viz was a spectacular 20'-30', and a quick search and a little guessing found the wreck without requiring surfacing. Kevin explored the inside of the wreck by penetrating the main deck's cabin at the bow and swimming the length of the ship before being stopped at the stern by some machinery that couldn't be squeezed past. Lighting conditions were bright and clear, allowing the whole wreck to be observed from top to bottom. It was the best viz Kevin has ever seen on it, and the second best for Cindy and Mike, who saw slightly better viz (30'-35') on it last year.

The wreck is wide open and mostly zebra mussel free. The main rail on the gunwale was observed to be wood, glass with embedded chicken wire was found in some of the rear windows, and the stern with its Dutch arch and cable take-up wheel were clearly seen. The funnel, an unusual item to find on shipwrecks, is in excellent shape and lying off the port side of the ship. All portholes and doors are open, and the interior of the wreck can be easily observed from the outside by looking into the many openings.

The bottom temperature was a warm 53 deg. F, and a distinct thermocline was at 50'. The top of the cabin is above the thermocline, making sitting on top of the wreck warm and pleasant for those that got a little cold towards the end of the dive. We exited the water to find calm 1'-2' seas and a bright, sunny enjoyable day. It was a great way to end the dive and the weekend. We had to return to port, however, because Kevin had to go to work that afternoon. Bummer.