

On Saturday, October 14, Don Blocksom, Martie Truby, Cindy LaRosa, and Kevin Magee decided to do an impromptu dive in the lake, perhaps the last one of the season. The weather was fairly decent with the sun shining, a light breeze, and an air temperature of about 60 deg F. The lake was relatively calm - or at least calmer than it has been lately - at about 2' seas with a bit of chop but no whitecaps. We went in Don's boat out of Rocky River and proceeded to the "117th Street Wreck," which is about a mile offshore of Cleveland in 40' of water.

After hooking into the wreck, which Captain Don expertly nailed on the first try, Martie, Cindy, and Kevin suited up while Don made himself comfortable to do some boat repairs and keep an eye on things. Viz was uniformly poor at about 3'-5', although lighting conditions were good enough that a flashlight wasn't required. The anchor hooked one wooden gunwale of the wreck, and a reel was used to explore the length of that side. The wreck lies north-south, and it was not clear which end is the bow and which is the stern. The south end terminated abruptly, and the north end terminated at a large angled post with some metal pipe sticking out of it. Attempts to explore other parts of the ship off the gunwale did not prove very fruitful because of the extremely poor viz, although Cindy reported seeing some decking on the west side.

During the course of exploring some treasure was discovered and recovered, but it took a little bit of effort and time. The viz was pretty much zero during this portion of the dive, but there was a mild current running east that would clear the water if one stopped all activity for a minute. Bottom time was 40 minutes, and the water temp was 56 deg F. There was no thermocline, so the temperature was constant from top to bottom. Given the fact that the viz was also constant from top to bottom, it would appear that perhaps the lake has finally turned over, mixing the top and bottom layers of water together. In any case, it was a very pleasant day, and we all enjoyed the sunshine during the boat ride back. A good end to another great dive season!