

ISSUE 18

# THE DEVICE

JUNE 2012

DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## AGM



[www.dispro-owners.ca](http://www.dispro-owners.ca)



## President's Letter • June 2012

The very successful and well attended AGM in April was a wonderful start to the boating season. It was a time to meet with friends, enjoy a good lunch at the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre and to carry out the Annual meeting in our 34th year. During the meeting the members elected the new executive. Now it is my turn to be your President. According to DOA custom, I was handed 'The Corroded Connection' and the gavel – the symbols of office, by Gary Campaigne, outgoing President. Mike McGarrell moved up to Vice-President and Eric Luks was elected Secretary. We are pleased that Happy Thomson and Sheila Burk are continuing with the Membership and Treasurer positions. Thank you to the members who organized the excellent lunch and the meeting.

During the meeting we had a lively debate on how best to carry out the Purpose and Immediate Goals of the DOA as set out in the DOA By-Laws Articles III and IV. As a result of this debate, the membership agreed to (1) financially support the work of the Muskoka Lakes Museum to maintain their restored Dispro as well as other displays and (2) to support the work of the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre to maintain the DOA archives and the Dispro displays. Donations of \$1000 were given to each organization. I learned a lot about our organization from this discussion. Many members have contributed so much to the DOA in past years as attested to by the attendance of 16 past presidents.

We will have three UUMMTs this year which have been organized by John Storey. June 23 on Lake Rosseau, July 21st on Six Mile Lake and August 11th on Kennisis Lake. So, in addition to the good work of the DOA to 'preserve' the Dispro heritage by supporting static displays in local museums, these Mini Tours provide the opportunity for us to continue using our boats and explore Ontario's many waterways. I am amazed when I read stories about the work carried out by these early motorized craft – loaded with people, groceries and supplies for cottagers with water access only, as well as those used for commercial purposes including daily use by commercial fishermen.

Once again we have been invited by ACBS to provide the Dispro display in the Field of Dreams at the ACBS Annual Boat Show at Sagamo Park in Gravenhurst on July 7th. This event is being managed by Mike McGarrell and he would appreciate assistance with the operation of the display. This is a nice opportunity to volunteer and spend some time at the tent where you can talk to many interested people about the history and operation of the Dispro. ACBS is also organizing the "100 Mile Cruise" on August 18th to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the RMS Segwun and Dispros are welcome to join with other wooden boats in this celebration on the water.

Our Regatta this year is at the Delawana Inn at Honey Harbour, Georgian Bay from Friday September 7th to Sunday the 9th. The plans are in place for a fun Regatta and many members and boats are registered. Room block reservations and rates are being

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held until July 1st and if you're not already registered, you can contact Delawana Inn at 1-888-335-2926 or email [karen@delawana.com](mailto:karen@delawana.com). The Saturday and Sunday boating tours have been planned among the beautiful islands in protected routes. This year our leaders, Valerie and Bill Otton, will be providing us with more detailed and coloured charts. This year is also AUCTION year. Please bring all your interesting things and extra gadgets for your fellow friends and members to bid on at this fun event!

I am looking forward to seeing you in your boats!

**Robert Clipsham**

## T'ain't No Dippy



T'ain't no dippy, but I believe this boat was powered by a Kingfisher engine. The photo location is adjacent to the CN train station on Bala Park Island, dated July 1931. There is a photo on page 151 in *Summertimes* of Bala's waterfront showing a boat that looks identical to this one, (lower right, bashing into a dippy). It's probably the same boat. There you can see a copper-jacketed engine. Noting here what appears to be plastic covering the engine, it's surprising the boat has no engine cover of its own. Nor does one appear in the *Summertimes* photo. Of course, she carries the omnipresent oars.

Do any members know definitively what make of boat this is? (No. It's not a Ditchburn or a Minett.) I have an idea but no way to confirm it. Hint: That's my mother, age 3, standing on the dock. Besides my mother, the only thing that still exists from this photo is the small four-posted pavilion in the misty background, just past the 1931 idea of Muskoka's monster boathouse with rolled roofing. I've been there; I know. Have fun.

**Paul Gockel**





# The 34th D.O.A. AGM 2012 in Review

**Dispro Owners Association Annual General Meeting  
Sunday, April 22, 2012  
Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, Gravenhurst, ON**

President Gary Campaigne called the meeting to order at 12:30 after lunch. He thanked various members who had assisted with association functions this past year including: John Storey, past president, who organized the three UUMMT's, Ian Dickson for organizing the workshop Oct. 22nd, 2011, UUMMT local arrangement facilitators, Garnet and Marilyn Shaver for Temagami, David Stringer for Algonquin Park, and John and Mary Storey for Cobocok.

**Minutes:** The president requested approval of the minutes for the 2011 AGM April 17 as published in the June issue of the Device. The acceptance was moved by Sandra Turnbull and seconded by Pat Young and was passed without revision.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sheila Burk presented a detailed report for the year end Dec. 31, 2011. She distributed well organized financial statements and went through it in detail for the assembled members and is summarized here as follows:

Income	\$9,476.29	Cash @ TD Bank	\$ 8,449.54
Expenses	\$9,827.69	Reserves	Savings @ ING \$10,268.97
Net Loss	\$ 223.89	Total cash assets	\$18,718.51

The financial report was approved by motion of Valerie Otton and seconded by Art Clarke.

**Membership:** Happy Thomson advised that she had sent out 262 renewal notices and 240 have responded to date with 22 still outstanding. Two new members were introduced from Port Carling: Lynne Schryer and Paul Galloway.

**Device and Trader:** Paul Jenner spoke briefly about the Device and Trader which he prepares and publishes for the association. He asked that members kindly and punctually report back when any boat advertised in the Trader is sold. One member inquired if the Device could be posted online on the DOA website. Gary Campaigne's view was that most members prefer to receive a printed version. This was clearly confirmed by a show of hands.

**Archivist Report:** Joe Fossey advised that this is the 34th AGM since the first inaugural meeting at the Continental Inn in Barrie in 1979. There were 29 members present and each paid \$5.00 membership fee. There are still 13 of the original members with us and 10 were present at this meeting. Mary Storey provided supplementary information regarding the archives at the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre and advised there has been a recent acquisition of boat plans from the estate of Bert Hawker, more than 300 plans, including some with Dispro drive that were on display at the meeting. Mary confirmed that Joe Fossey's Dispro records are safely archived at the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre.

**Historian Report:** Paul Dodington presented records from A. W. Blatchford of Mozenga Island, and displayed an original bill of sale dated May 20th, 1921. The Dippy was delivered to Minett for a total price of \$400.95, having hull #2617 and engine #270. In 1926, Blatchford had some repairs done and together with storage and insurance, the bill came to \$10.00.

**2012 UUMMTs:** John Storey reported on the planned UUMMTs for this summer.

- Sat. June 23** UUMMT 22 – Lake Rosseau, Muskoka
- Sat. July 21** UUMMT 23 – Six Mile Lake, Muskoka
- Sat. August 11** UUMMT 24 – KENNISIS LAKE, HALIBURTON

Going forward, John asked members to make suggestions for future UUMMTs.

**Regatta September 2012:** Robert Clipsham reported on the 2012 regatta which will be held for the second year at the Delawana Inn on Georgian Bay and asked members to register early. The Saturday outing will be organized by Valerie and Bill Otton and there will be more distinct flags this year to prevent members from losing their way. We were also advised that this will be an auction year and members were asked to start collecting articles to bring.

**Election of Officers:** The following slate of officers was prepared by John Storey, chair of the nominating committee, for the year 2012/2013 :

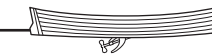
- President: Robert Clipsham
- Past President: Gary Campaigne
- Vice President: Mike McGarrell
- Secretary: Eric Luks
- Treasurer: Sheila Burk
- Membership: Happy Thomson

Without further nominations from the floor, John Storey made the motion for approval of the proposed slate and it was seconded by Paul Dodington. The motion carried without dissent. The new president was presented with the gavel and "corroded connection" as is the tradition. President Robert gave his acceptance speech including his personal connection with the Dippy leadership. He thanked Gary and Rachel for their diligent leadership of the DOA and presented Gary with gifts of appreciation, one of which was a very nice scope cover.

**New Business:** Ian Dickson spoke about the plans for the 2015, 100th anniversary celebration of the Dominion of Canada Patent #161692. This will be on the second weekend of August, 2015. He asked if any of the members present knew what number 161692 meant in the Dippy world and Paul Gockel and Paul Dodington had their hands up right away. As part of the celebration, Ian informed us that we are applying to have a commemorative postage stamp issued. We need members to solicit their local MPs to provide a letter of support for our proposal, using a package assembled by Paul Jenner. We will need the support of at least 20 MPs. These letters need to be received by Paul no later than June 15th, 2012, so we need to act now!

Dennis Howchin reported that there will be a Florida Dippy tour in March 2013, organized by Bill Joslyn and anyone interested should get in touch with him.

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## AGM 2011 in Review (cont'd)

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Bob Burk pointed out that the club has a surplus of funds, and we should use some to benefit other related and worthy causes. He proposed a motion that the DOA donate \$750.00 to the Muskoka Lakes Museum and \$500.00 to the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre towards 'non-operating expenses'. The motion was seconded by Joe Fossey and much discussion followed regarding various amounts and beneficiaries. Ian Dickson brought the discussion back on track by advising that we should consider our "core purpose". The final motions are as follows:

**Motion 1** moved by Bob Burk and seconded by Joe Fossey. The Dispro Owners Association will make a donation to the Muskoka Lakes Museum in Port Carling in the amount of \$1000.00 (one thousand dollars). This money shall be designated for 'non-operational expenses' and primarily used for the maintenance of the Dispro display and/or other boat related displays as required.

**Motion 2** moved by Bob Burk and seconded by Joe Fossey. The Dispro Owners Association will make a donation to the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre (Grace and Speed) in the amount of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) which was then amended to \$1000.00 (one thousand dollars).

Motions 1 and 2 were passed by majority vote. The business portion of the meeting was adjourned.

**Speaker:** Mary Storey, who is well known to the membership and also works with the archives of the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, was our guest speaker. The topic of her presentation was "Celebrating 125 Years of R.M.S. Segwun". The Segwun is the oldest Royal Mail ship in the world, the oldest steamship in North America and the oldest vessel registered in Canada. Alexander Peter Cockburn, MP for the area at the time, determined that tourism could be a viable business in Muskoka and he set out to build steamships for access to the lakes. In all, his company The Muskoka Lakes Navigation Company built 22 ships. The Segwun started out as the Nipissing II with twin paddle wheels. She had a colourful history and suffered engine failure, among other mishaps. She was later rebuilt in 1924 by having her paddle wheels removed and new twin engines and propellers were installed. Again she fell into disrepair, and was put up for sale for salvage, but the old lady survived again and she became a floating museum in 1962. Today she still sails, carrying thousands of passengers every year.

This year the Segwun is celebrating her 125th birthday and among other events, there will be a recreation of the famous "100 Mile Cruise" on Saturday, August 18th starting in Gravenhurst and sailing up to Little Lake Joseph. The event will raise funds for the Cancer Society and is sponsored by the ACBS. The plan is to have 100 antique boats accompany the Segwun for this celebratory run. DOA members are encouraged to participate by registering with the ACBS online. The fee is \$25.00 and a commemorative burgee will be included. Dippy members should launch north of the Port Carling locks in order to avoid the congestion there, and also to keep up with the flotilla. We are hoping for a significant Dippy presence.

*Eric Luks*

## Upcoming Events in 2012

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The Dispro Owners Association has planned exciting events for 2012. We would like to see you there! PLEASE, mark these dates on your calendar, so that you don't forget them.

### UUMMTS for 2012

Unofficial Unauthorized Mini Misery Tours are a lot of fun, and a great way to enjoy your boat in the safety and comfort of the company of your fellow Dippyites. Plus, you get to explore new areas that you wouldn't ordinarily venture to in your Dippy! There will be 3 UUMMTs this year so let's get a good turn out.

*Any further details for the UUMMTs will be forthcoming in subsequent issues of The Device.*

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### Sat. June 23 10:00 am UUMMT 22 – Lake Rosseau, Muskoka

Our first mini misery tour of 2012 will start out at the public launch on Skeleton Bay, Lake Rosseau. It is directly off Hwy 141, a short distance west of the Bent River Store and Gas Bar. Once in our Dispros, we will travel from the cliffs of Skeleton Bay, turn south and make Windermere docks for lunch. In the afternoon we will go around the bottom of Tobin Island and up the west side through many island channels, eventually making our way back to Skeleton Bay. Nearest town is Bracebridge about a half hour drive to Skeleton Bay via Route 4 and Hwy 141.

*Contact: John & Mary Storey*

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### Sat. July 21 10:00 am UUMMT 23 – Six Mile Lake, Muskoka (north of Port Severn)

Plan to meet at Six Mile Lake Marina. Travel on Highway 400 north of Port Severn. Exit at Interchange 162 (White Falls Road). Continue north on White Falls Road (Route 34). After it bends to the right, turn left on Vollicks Road. The marina is 2 kilometres on this road. We will explore this lovely lake which has a provincial park and many bays and islands.

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### Sat. Aug. 11 10:30 am UUMMT 24 – Kennisis Lake, Haliburton

Take Highway #118 to West Gilford and turn left onto Kennisis Lake Road (Regional Road #7). Follow it north (about 14 km) and turn left on Wilkinson Road to Kennisis Lake Marina. Launch and trailer parking is available at the marina which will charge a small fee. There are two adjoining lakes to discover here.

*Marina phone 705-754-2352*

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### Weekend of Sept. 7-9 Annual Regatta – Delawana Inn, Honey Harbour, Georgian Bay

*More details to follow*

*See more events on back page . . .*

# 2013 Spring Dippy Excursion in Florida

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In the third week of March 2013, there will be a Dippy excursion in Florida. Planning is well under way. The excursion will consist of two days of boating in a portion of the St John's River, attendance at the Sunnyland Boat Show for a day, and a two day tour of a chain of lakes in northern Florida (yet to be finalized). I am acting as the 'northern co-ordinator'. If you would like to be kept informed about the detailed planning for this excursion, please email me and I will put you on the mailing list for this event.

**Dennis Howchin**

*howchins07@sympatico.ca*

## Volunteers Needed

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The DOA is going to have the Dispro display at the ACBS Boat Show again this year. The show is on July 7th from 9am until 4pm and the display is located in the Field of Dreams, across from the Wharf. We are looking for volunteers to man the booth which is basically relaxing under the shelter of our marquee, consuming cold drinks and chatting about Dispros to visitors. What could be more pleasant?

If volunteers could please let me know their availability, then I can set up a schedule and let them know.

**Mike McGarrel**

## Anything You Ever Wanted to Know About Your Two-Cycle Marine Engine

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Joe Fossey has informed us that DOA member Barry Millar has prepared a never before seen, excellent quality, online reference source that will help members get to know and understand the complete workings of their two-cycle marine engines. The site is specific to St. Lawrence engines as used in Dispros, but most of the information is applicable to other two-cycle marine engines. Here you will find a wealth of detailed information on how the engines work, the ignition system, spark plugs, coils, batteries, carburetion, gasoline and lubrication, the exhaust system, water pumps and cooling, and propulsion.

The site is very user-friendly and the information is clearly presented with excellent diagrams and easy to understand explanations. There are even animations to make things really come alive. The site is well worth a visit. Check it out at:

**[www.goslowboat.com](http://www.goslowboat.com)**

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**The Device** is published 4 times a year in **March, June, August and October**. Deadlines for the submission of articles and photos is normally 2 weeks prior to the first day of these publication months.



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