

ISSUE 47

# THE DEVICE

AUG 2019

DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

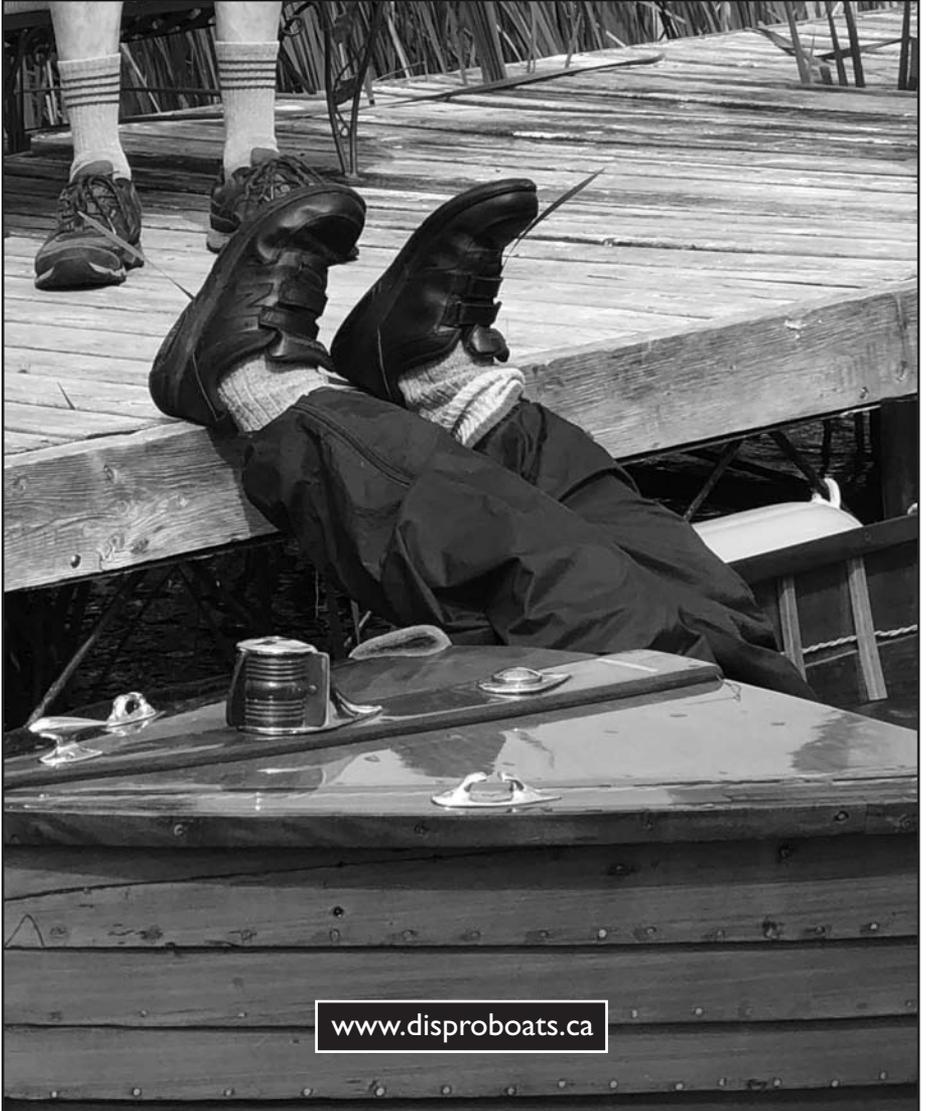


Photo: Ronda Turner

[www.disproboats.ca](http://www.disproboats.ca)

*Sometimes you have to contort yourself or nearly stand on your head to get a good view of those parts that you suspect of causing your Dippy to malfunction. Here Paul Dodington is perfectly positioned to access a Coventry Victor's lower workings. Chemong Lake UUMMT, August 17.*



## Presidents' Letter • August 2019

It seems that Dippies have many hidden talents. A ride in our dippy has been offered as a prize at events to help community organizations raise much needed funds. On one occasion the highest bidder was a couple visiting from Edmonton with their eight year old child. The sun shone and wind was minimal on the appointed day – perfect ingredients for a Lake Muskoka cruise. The parents sat in the forward seat and their daughter climbed into the stern seat where we coached her on boating etiquette – that is, to smile and wave at passing boaters and those on the waterfront. Initially she was very shy, but as she started to receive lots of smiles and waves, she took to this task with great enthusiasm.

The DOA Archives, ably presided over by our volunteer archivist, Mary Storey, and housed at Muskoka Boat & Heritage Museum, include the past issues of newsletters and The Device since inception in 1979. In each of those mailings is a message from the current president – I know because I read every one from 1979 to 2019 as part of the research for Dippy Tales. There were poems, stories, and humour, but one passage stood out in particular. Gavin Brown who was president in 1994, closed each of his messages with this gem “Let a smile be your other device”.

It would be lovely to speak with him and hear his thoughts on what he meant, but sadly he has passed on, so we have come up with our own interpretation. Dippies are fun, unique, historic, quirky boats, with low environmental impact, and worthy of attracting attention. Let's use that advantage for the benefit of our communities and put smiles on many faces.

### Hard Working Volunteers & 2019 UUMMTs

Helen and Stan Byrne planned a most perfect UUMMT at Tornado's Resort on the Pickerel River for our first event of the boating season in June. July's UUMMT, hosted by Gary Campaigne, occurred in the middle of the heat wave so being on Gloucester Pool was a delight. The August UUMMT took place on Chemong Lake, kindly hosted by Roberta and Terry Philpot who showed us their fabulous collection housed in an old dance hall. All of these UUMMTs are covered in depth in this issue.

The executive members meet on August 20, with enough agenda items to fill the afternoon, kindly hosted by Ian and Barb Dickson at their cottage. A sincere thank you to all members of the club who so generously give their time, expertise, and monetary donations to ensure each event is successful, safe and fun.

**Kerry Harmon & Karen Boyer**



## Pickerel River • June 22

Flowing westerly from the Port Loring area and running just south of and parallel to the French River, the Pickerel is a gem. The

valley it resides in flourishes with hemlock, white pine, yellow and white birch trees. The trees give a sense of the mixed forest further south. So as you glide slowly upstream a sense of quiet charm can embrace you.

In this valley, on the south side of Hwy 522, sits the venerable old resort Tornado, our host for this event, and our point of departure for this Saturday UUMMT which took us upstream about 10 kms to Port Loring where, at the town dock in a protected headwater



Photo: Helen Byrne



The attendees gathered to socialize in the large cottage at Tornado.

bay, sits our rest and lunch stopover “Port O' Shore”, convenient, modern and engaging. We enjoyed it all for awhile and some ventured “uptown” curious to see the heart and soul of this quaint enchanting village. Then it was downstream back to Tornado by a different alleyway, revealing some history - logging especially, of the region.



Photo: Pauline Byrne

Stan Byrne gives a tow from one of the support boats.

Almost all of this was eagerly laid out for us by DOA member Wilf Cosby, a local, long time resident and on retirement, an escapee from the south. Wilf, who built his own Dispro, was history personified and provided us with two of our three support craft, one leading and the other a backup rover, although Paul jokingly proclaimed our third support boat as “the border collie”.

Forty club members attended, some for extended visits, and they brought 13 Dippys. The weather and the wildlife were more then lenient with us thereby

encouraging us to enjoy the beautiful and serene landscape. Does this sound a bit over the top? From my perspective what was evident was the sound of laughter and music, the feeling of comfort and relaxation and the sight of all these dippy folks enjoying themselves. The truth of an event reveals itself most confidently in the event itself. Who could not say that it was a good time held by all?

Thank you to Tornado for the gracious attention, to Wilf Cosby and family for such enthusiasm and generosity and to all who participated and whose spirit made this UUMMT such a memorable event.

**Helen Byrne**



# Celebrating Stephen Leacock and His Dispro

Most readers will be familiar with the author and humorist Stephen Leacock, born in Orillia, Ontario. What you probably do not know, is that Mr. Leacock owned a Dispro. An interesting anecdote about Leacock is when he took his Dispro out on the lake he had a habit of imbibing in something stronger than water. When he fell asleep in the boat, his caretaker would need to go out on the lake, find him and bring him back. This happened so frequently that the hull of the boat was painted red so that it could be easily found. In celebration of the 150th year since Leacock's birth, the Orillia Heritage Centre volunteers held a three-day event on the property of the Leacock Museum and National Historic Site in Orillia. On Saturday, July 13th, members of Dispro Owners Association were invited to bring their boats and participate.



Photo: Mary Storey

We launched the boats at the busy Couchiching Park in the heart of Orillia. It was a short ride to the Leacock dry boathouse where temporary docks had been placed for the event. Barb and Ian Dickson brought, *Jenave*, a 1928 Lindsay Sports Special boat for the land display. They assisted the public in learning about Disappearing Propeller Boats by displaying several easels with text and photos about the history of the boats. Boats in the water included *T's Delight* owned by Presidents Kerry Harmon and Karen Boyer, *Shore Runner* owned by Nancy and Dennis Howchin and *Muggins* owned by Mary and John Storey.



Photo: Mary Storey

During the day, many people stopped by to admire the boats and ask questions. At one point, John Storey challenged an Amphicar to a race, but no one is sure who won!

Mary Storey



## Gloucester Pool • July 20

Gary Campaigne. It was delightful to be on the water, especially when facing into the wind, as the breeze provided a welcome relief from the heat. The help from the marina staff with launching and later with pulling out our boats, was greatly appreciated.

As we came round an island we were happy to see the one hundred year old launch, *Traveler*, gliding gracefully through the water, captioned by its owner, Scott Dunsmoor. In our mind if we could have erased the "tupperware" boats from the scene, it would have felt as though we had time traveled back 100 years.

Gary and Rachel Campaigne provided us with additional cold drinks and a welcome respite for our lunch stop at their cottage. After finishing lunch, many boaters walked next door to Sandy Kennedy's property to see his extensive collection of inboard and outboard motors, a large collection of oil cans, engine parts and other boating memorabilia. Several members of the Maple Leaf Antique Outboard Club joined us there. One person in our group was pleased to be given a copy of the sheet music for the Dispro song.



Photo: Mary Storey

On our afternoon run back to the dock, many boats stopped at Scott Dunsmoor's cottage to see *Traveler* in her slip, along with several other boats, including a Dispro. As a teenager Scott was given a wooden boat and is now working on an engine for a Shepherd boat that is on slings in his boathouse. His intention is to then give the boat to his daughter. As they so beautifully expressed in Lion King, "it's the circle of life". Several other boats were in a workshop on the property.

George Piper was excited to discover a boat similar to one he had used with his family when he was a child on Lake Nipissing. When George's family left the north to go to Brampton during the war they left the boat in the care of an uncle. When his family returned to Lake Nipissing after the war, they discovered that the motor had been frozen and the hull was rotten. George reported that it was a sad day. George had not seen a similar boat since that time and was delighted to share his memories with Scott.





Photo: Gary Campaigne

On our return to the dock some of us took a run through the channel that connects to McLean Lake for a quick look around before heading back to the marina for our trip home. We are so fortunate to have these opportunities to explore new waters, enjoying fellowship with fellow boaters, reconnect with the past and enjoy the hospitality of wonderful hosts. As Betty Piper reported to me in an e-mail, “Dippy people meet and see the most interesting things”.

**Barb Dickson**



## Chemong Lake • August 17

UUMMT 44 in mid August, started out early under overcast skies which turned into sheets of rain. Seven Dispros and their crews arrived at our destination on Chemong Lake near Peterborough, with rain gear in tow. We were warmly greeted by our hosts Roberta and Terry Philpot. With reassurance from Ian’s sister and her husband, who are amateur meteorologists, that the sky would clear a bit later, we toured the Philpot’s museum, workshop and home.

This was an amazing experience and we kept saying how much our friend Les Rue would have loved it. The museum has a gleaming hardwood floor and is filled with a large collection of antique boats, sailboats, canoes, bikes, cars and outboard engines. It truly is a feast for the eyes and sparked lots of discussions and memories. Their home is also a labour of love and contained many beautifully displayed and diverse collections and features.

Our amateur family meteorologists were correct and as the skies cleared in the late morning six boats left for a tour of Chemong Lake. Yes, only six left! Our boat had a stubborn spell and required some extra TLC before finally starting. All was well until we turned off the engine to deal with weeds that had collected on the prop. The engine problems returned and although our passenger, Paul Jenner, paddled valiantly, we had to finally accept a tow back to the dock.



Photo: Robert Clipsham



Photo: Paul Jenner

Our fellow boaters, who by this time, were enjoying their late lunches, reported that they had a lovely tour of the lake. Four hardy boaters headed out for a run after lunch, while the rest of us socialized or attempted to solve the problems of a sick Dippy engine. How many heads does it take to fix a dippy? Apparently many, as the photos from the afternoon will show. Thanks everyone for all of your help. Boats were then loaded onto their trailers and tied down for the trip home under a blue and sunny sky. Special thanks to our hosts for such a delightful day.

**Barb Dickson**

## Upcoming UUMMTs in 2020

**June 19-20 – UUMMT 45 - Lake Nosbonsing, Callander – Ann Verth**

**Cost:** \$180 per 4 persons per cabin per night. ie \$90 per couple per night. Deposit \$150/cabin. Minimum 2 night stay. **6 Cabins:** (24 persons) now available. The other 4 cabins went in the last 2 weeks. **They will hold until November 15, 2019** (we’re pencilled in but I must call shortly to confirm). Overflow can go next door to Big Moose camp.

All cabins are fully equipped with stove, refrigerator, microwave etc. However, you must bring your own bedding, towels, linens according to the cabin you choose. Most have double beds. We bring our own breakfast and lunch. Plan is to go out for dinner in Callander (15min away). Come back to camp for lunch.

**Docking:** plenty of docking, room for trailers, easy launching on the property

**Boating:** Excellent, mostly deep water, 98 miles of shore on 13 mile long lake

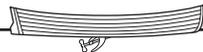
Look it up: [www.cozycampcottages.com](http://www.cozycampcottages.com) or call: **1.877.752.2085**

If you are interested, **please respond as soon as possible.**

**July – UUMMT 46 - The Big Three Muskoka Lakes** Details later.

**August – UUMMT 47 -** To be determined. Details later.

*More information on 2020 events to follow in the October issue.*



# A Non-Starter Always Draws a Crowd

It's interesting how a Dispro that won't start will bring us all together; well the men anyway. The sound of an electric starter whirring away again and again, but with no putt putt to follow, is a sound that seems to call all the men within earshot, to make their way to the boat and its distressed owner to check it out.

We are curious as to what the problem might be. Is it a problem that I have had or might encounter in the future with my boat? The starter whirrs again. If I hang around, I could learn some very important trouble-shooting tips or might even be able to help with advice because I've had that very problem. "Is the gas turned on?" someone says. "Yes" is the sharp retort from a head buried in the engine compartment. "Have you got a spark?", another voice questions from the spectating crowd that has gathered round.

Some of the guys get down on their knees for a closer look as the starter whirrs yet again in another failed attempt at ignition. The owner looks completely puzzled and states, "it always starts on the first go, I just don't get it!"

The event hostess comes by offering ice cream on a stick and all in the gallery choose to partake in hopes that this delicious distraction will somehow clear the mind and offer new insights into diagnosing the problem.

The starter whirrs again but still no joy. "Probably a clogged venturi in the carburetor" someone says. "You need a fine wire, like the kind inside those paper twist ties" a voice proclaims.

The call goes out to all and sundry, "does anyone have one of those old style twist ties with the wire up the middle, like the ones that come with the garbage bags?" Everyone goes on the search and miraculously someone arrives with the very thing.

The "doctor" has arrived and proceeds to wriggle beneath the front seat and position himself to perform the delicate operation. The 'carbu-puncture' only takes a moment as the wire is delicately inserted into the fine orifice and the blockage is removed. The motor starts on the next attempt and feelings of relief and accomplishment percolate through the assembly of onlookers.

The camaraderie we share in the DOA is a wonderful thing. Everyone is willing to help in times of need and this is what makes the club work so beautifully.

After all, we're all in the same boat!

**Paul Jenner**



Photo: Paul Jenner



**EPIFANES** 

Gordon Laco

Epifanes North America Inc.  
411 Hannah Street  
Midland, Ontario  
Canada L4R 2G4  
mainstay@csolve.net

PH/FAX 705.528.1629 CELL 705.937.0694  
www.epifanes.com



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

© Dispro Owners Association 2019