

ISSUE 46

# THE DEVICE

JUNE 2019

DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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



Photo: DOA Archives, donated by Mark Jermyn

*It's great to see old photos of Dippies in use as working boats. We don't know where or when these photos were taken but these boats were earning their keep and were obviously the ideal craft for the pursuits of fishing and hunting. The top photo shows the fellow with a fine looking catch, perhaps soon to be dinner with those cooking pots lined up on the shore. In the lower photo, the fellow at the front is sitting on a board straddling the engine. Watch out for that spark plug!*



## Presidents' Letter • June 2019

Those long, cold, dark days of winter are an incentive to organize and purge. To our delight the 1986 DOA membership cards fell out of an envelope. That was the year we first acquired our dippy – in less than cruise worthy condition. With two very young children, busy family life and work, the necessary restoration was put on the back burner. Many years later when Kerry retired it was time to tackle this project. Three winters were spent replacing wood, sanding, varnishing, mechanical repairs and upgrades until it was time to test the waters.

We learned that you don't have to go very far from the dock to have an adventure with a dippy. Our first DOA event was to join UUMMT # 29 Muskoka River (Bracebridge), June 2014. We launched and motored to our dock the previous day, but when it was time to leave, the engine would not cooperate. After some tinkering, it finally started to putt and we excitedly pulled on the steering line to swing the bow around from our dock into the lake. Our inexperience with the required circumference needed to turn a dippy meant that the side banged into a pier, damaging the fresh varnish and some pride. Not the most promising start to an outing! We were now at least one hour behind schedule but nevertheless cruised up the river in time to join the flotilla circling Bracebridge Bay.

As you know, there are lots of numbers tossed out when you start to restore, and then maintain and operate a dippy – fuel to oil ratio, cruising speed. But there are also lots of numbers in the history of our boats and club – 104 years since the first launch – 3100 boats built – 300 known survivors – and celebrating the 41st anniversary of this wonderful club.

When asked to become members of the executive, we didn't hesitate. This is very much a group effort and we have a great team. Welcome to the new secretary, Ian Gibson. Thank you for this honour to be President.

*Kerry Harmon and Karen Boyer*

## Members Respond to the Vintage Photos in the March Issue

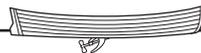
**Roger Dymont** writes: Love the vintage pics. I would think that the photo of the four guys in the front of the Dippy are involved in a bailing exercise. The one in the bow has his legs raised and there seems to be a person with a pump. There also looks to be an apparatus to direct the bilge water over the side. Wonderful that pics like these have emerged. Hope to see more.

**Paul Dodington** writes: These photos were all taken near the warehouse in the summer of 1921, as the boats all have the new style engine cover.

Garth Tassie can be seen in both photos: he's sitting on the foredeck in the smaller photo. He owned the camera used to take the pictures, and I have most of the negatives, which I salvaged from the Tassie attic after his passing in 1978. I even have the camera!

It has long been my suspicion that nearly all the existing photos of the Port Carling operation were taken with Tassie's camera, either by him personally, or by someone he handed the camera to, such as 18 men in a Dispro, which is the most famous.

It would not have been possible to have done such a comprehensive job on the Dippy book had I not had access to the vast quantity of documentation in the form of original colour catalogues, papers, original letterheads, photos, and even personality sketches of many of the factory personnel. And the keys to the door!



## Obituary

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of Doug Brown. He was a long time member of the DOA and served as President from 2000-2001. Doug was a man of many talents but was a quiet presence, always smiling, always friendly and very willing to share his knowledge and to help others. He will be greatly missed by his friends in the DOA and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.



Every organization needs to remember where it has come from. Keeping accurate records of past events, past decisions, past financials and memorabilia helps an organization remember the past and look to the future.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons that the Dispro Owners Association (DOA) has been successful for so many years, having celebrated 40 years in 2018.

Thanks to the very attentive founders of the club, Irene and Joe Fossey, a collection of all paperwork from the very first thoughts of when the club was started in 1978. They kept, sorted, labelled and organized all papers that came their way for the first 31 years of DOA. With good judgment and thoughtful future thinking, they placed all this paperwork, about eight banker's boxes in the Archives Room at the Muskoka Discovery Centre in Gravenhurst. Many other items have been added to this collection.

The Dispro Owners Association archives reside in Aisle 1a in the large archives room of the Muskoka Steamships and Discover Centre, Gravenhurst. The DOA Archives share the long shelving units with the archives of the Antique and Classic Boat Society – Toronto. They are in good company!

The DOA Archives are comprised of the following boxes or sections:

**Plaques** – one for every year except 1, 15, 25, 29

**Membership lists/Directories** – at least one copy of each, three copies of most

**Financials** – for each year of the organization

**Minutes** – for all Executive and Annual Meetings of the club

**Yearly files** – for each year with all papers and newspaper clippings for that year

**Device and President's letters** – for each year of the club

**Posters** – at least one for each created

**Parts of boats** – a rusty fly wheel, some seats and back rest, four original oars, engine wrench

**Box of books** and all magazines that feature articles on Dispros

**Box** with approx. 100 4" x 6" pictures of boats and events, including the first Regatta

**Various lapel pins**

**President's Binders**

**Technical information** – organized by engine manufacturer and boat manufacture and workshop notes

If you would like to visit the DOA Archives, please make an appointment with me.

**Mary Storey**

*archives@realmuskoka.com*



# Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting • April 28th, 2019

The meeting was held in the Gravenhurst Opera House, a comfortable venue to enjoy comradeship with fellow members. After a very excellent lunch provided by Well Fed, President Ann Verth opened the meeting at 1 p.m. with a warm welcome to the members and a special welcome to the original club members who were present.

Motion: Eric Luks moved that the Agenda be accepted, seconded Sandra Turnbull

Motion: Mary Storey moved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting 2018 be accepted, seconded Sylvia Sumner, carried.

Past President Helen Byrne presented the financial statement for 2018 that had been prepared by Treasurer Sheila Burk. Helen noted that she had reviewed the financial statement and all the documentation and found it to be excellent and in order and moved the adoption of the financial statement. Motion: Seconded Happy Thomson, carried.

Barb Dickson, Membership Secretary reported that the members renewed 192 with 11 new members. Reminders have been sent out to 53 members and 29 have not responded.

Ann Verth conducted a draw for a can of Epifanes varnish that had been donated by our sponsor for the Annual Regatta Gord Laco.

Paul Jenner reported from the "World Headquarters" for the Device and Trader. Paul explained that he enjoyed preparing The Device and from his experience knows that it joins us together as members of the DOA and that its success relies on the continuation of contributions and articles for the Device. The members showed their appreciation with a strong hand clap.

Ian Dickson, speaking for the Website Coordinator Gary Campaigne, noted that the website has received 73,000 hits with a large number looking at multiple pages. The events are now on the website on a regular basis and Gary also responds to all questions received on the site. The photo gallery has been reorganized under the events and is considerably easier to view.

Historian Paul Dodington explained his process for making carburetor floats with a new material that provides superior operation.

Archivist Mary Storey explained that in the archives there is a large volume of material including articles and artifacts and that they are stored at the Muskoka Discovery Centre. Mary along with Karen Boyer and Jim Onions have reviewed the archives and determined that there are many interesting articles that will form a DOA book. This book will be titled 'Dippy Yarns' and the cover has been designed by Paul Jenner. So far there will be approximately 70 articles and personal stories in the book. Mary requested that additional material that some of us may have, to be submitted to her. The book will be ready for sale at the Annual Regatta in September.

Karen Boyer read a story from Dippy Yarns written by the late Ron Hill. Jim Onions read a story written in year 2000 by Doug Brown entitled "My Christmas Dippy Wish List". Both of these interesting anecdotes provide a fantastic flavour for this much anticipated book.

Karen Boyer presented a report from the Regatta Search and Selection Committee. The committee has prepared a list of the requirements for a resort to host the Annual Regatta. The committee has visited many resorts and evaluated them for possible sites for future regattas. The committee found that there are very few resorts available that can meet our criteria for the Annual Regatta. In many cases, the resorts are booked two years in advance for weddings on the weekends in September when the Regatta is usually scheduled. George Piper commented that there are lodges in the North Bay area that may be available after September 1st.

Ann Verth discussed the lists on the tables and asked members to volunteer by assisting with the preparation and carrying out of the year's events. We need volunteers for the ACBS Boat Show, executive and committee positions, and to host or assist with UUMMTs etc. Please call Ann Verth.

Helen Byrne reported that the details of the June UUMMT on the Pickerel River are in the March Device. Ian Dickson provided the details of the July UUMMT on Gloucester Pool, Port Severn, which details will be in the June Device along with the details of the August UUMMT on Chemong Lake (8km north west of Peterborough).

Ian Dickson reviewed the preparations for the DOA exhibit that will be at the ACBS Boat Show July 6-7, requesting that interested members sign up on the volunteer sheets.

Karen Boyer, Chairman of the Regatta Operations Committee, provided the details of our Regatta in September at Glen House on the St. Lawrence River. This year the Navy Room has been reserved for the wine and cheese and dinner will take place in the adjacent Admiralty Room. Karen noted that these rooms are on the upper floor of the resort and are accessible with an elevator from the lower level. Karen and Kerry have worked out, with information from a local person, the routes for the Saturday and Sunday boat trips. They have also worked out alternative routes and activities if we find that the winds are not favourable for safe boating. Karen noted that we are adjacent to international waters and may well find ourselves landing on the US side and therefore **PASSPORTS ARE TO BE CARRIED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS.**

Ann thanked the executive for all of their outstanding work. She acknowledged that many DOA matters have been accomplished during the last twelve months.

Helen Byrne conducted the election of the executive for 2019-2020. The nominations are: Past President, Ann Verth; President, Karen Boyer; Vice-President, Ian Dickson and Robert Clipsham; Recording Secretary, Ian Gibson; Membership Secretary Barb Dickson; Newsletter Editor, Paul Jenner; Website Coordinator, Gary Campaigne; Treasurer, Sheila Burk. Helen called three times for nominations, there being none, Helen moved the Motion to elect the nominated executive, Seconded Art Clarke, carried.

Ann Verth asked Karen Boyer to come forward and accept the office of president and in so doing Karen was presented with the Corroded Connection and the President's gavel, the symbols of this office. The Corroded Connection was originally created and presented to the DOA by member Jim Domm. Karen accepted the office of president and thanked Ann for bringing expertise and enthusiasm to the executive group. The members expressed their gratitude to Ann for doing a great job.

President Karen invited Robert Clipsham, on behalf of the Executive, to present to the members the new Safety Policy. Robert explained that in 2018 meetings, the executive had reviewed incidents that had occurred during several past boating events. At the October 2018 Executive meeting the Executive discussed their concerns for the safety of participants at both the Annual Regatta and UUMMT boating excursions when there are breakdowns or persons needing assistance.

• Motion 18-21 was passed: For the Regatta and UUMMTs, there will be a lead boat that is familiar with the route with a GPS unit and also a safety boat. Also two boats will be designated to travel together, be in communication with each other and the safety boat, and be positioned at the end of the fleet to ensure that no boat is left behind.



Photo: Mary Storey

Robert noted that a presentation was made at the 2018 Annual Meeting by John Gullick, who is an expert in 'safe boating', on the use of personal flotation devices, PFDs, which automatically inflate when the wearer falls into the water.

A discussion on boating safety ensued: John Thomson explained that sometimes the lead boat runs ahead and does not wait for the fleet. Paul Dodington suggested that each boat should watch for the boat behind and if it is not in sight, to stop and wait for the other boats in the fleet to catch up. Information was presented on the use of automatic inflating PFDs and several members noted that they are comfortable to wear. The discussion concluded that PFDs are strongly recommended to be worn by all members on all DOA boating events.

The date and location of the 2020 Annual Meeting is to be announced.

Paul Dodington Moved that the Annual General Meeting be concluded, Seconded Mary Storey.

*Minutes prepared by Robert Clipsham and Ian Dickson  
June 7, 2019.*

## Safety Considerations During DOA Boating Events

As you will have read in the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes and as some of us are already aware, incidents have occurred during several recent boating events and these were caused by mechanical failure, unexpected actions by fellow crew members or were weather related, etc. At the October 2018 Executive meeting the Executive discussed their concerns for the safety of participants at both the Annual Regatta and at UUMMT boating excursions. This discussion resulted in Motion 18-21 being passed:

- For the Regatta and UUMMTs, there will be a lead boat that is familiar with the route with a GPS unit and also a safety boat. Also two boats will be designated to travel together, be in communication with each other and the safety boat, and be positioned at the end of the fleet to ensure that no boat is left behind.

This DOA approved Safety Policy provides for a lead boat with a route map and suitable navigation equipment and a skipper and crew that has knowledge of the route for each boating event. Prior to the start of each boating event the Executive will organize two boats that agree to stay in contact and to bring up the rear of the fleet in order to be available to assist members who, for whatever reason, are not able to keep up with the progress of the boating event. A safety boat will be provided at the annual Regatta and at UUMMTs to be with the fleet to assist where and when required.

During the members' discussion on boating safety at the 2018 Annual Meeting, information was presented on the use of automatic inflating Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). Several members noted that they are comfortable to wear. The article in the June 2018 Device "A Case For Wearing Life Jackets" written by Jim Onions, describes the use of automatically inflating PFDs. As noted by Helen Byrne, you can find answers to your technical questions at a marine outlet. The discussion concluded that PFDs are strongly recommended to be worn by all members and guests on all DOA boating events

*Prepared by Robert Clipsham  
June 10, 2019.*

## Upcoming Events in 2019

Just a reminder to members that UUMMTs are unorganized and unauthorized and as such the DOA leadership is not in any way responsible for any misadventure that might accidentally occur during any such event. These "mini tours" are fun and we look forward to them each year, but please exercise caution and be safe.

### Sat. July 6 – ACBS Summer Boat Show – Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst

### Sat. July 20 – UUMMT 43 – Gloucester Pool – Gary Campaigne

Launching and parking will take place at Bush's Marina/The Grill, at 10:00 a.m. A special all inclusive rate of \$20 per boat has been arranged for the Dispro Owners Association (DOA) in conjunction with the Maple Leaf Antique Outboard Club (MLAOC) and the Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS).

Since MLAOC and ACBS boats tend to be faster, they will have their own agendas on beautiful Gloucester Pool. DOA members will be able to visit Sandy Kennedy's Marine Motor Museum, a collection of 100+ marine motors (both inboard and outboard) along with lots of related paraphernalia. Members will also have the option to stop at the Dunsmoors' cottage where this year's poster boat, The Traveller, resides (they also own a Dippy).

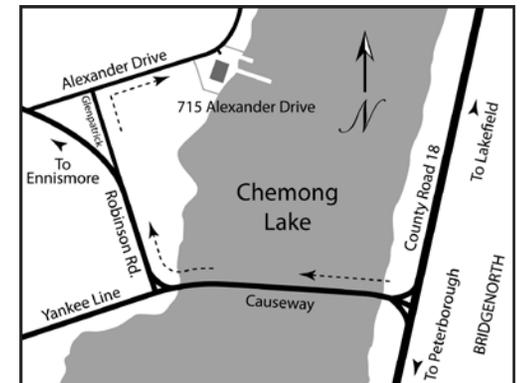
To reach Bush's Marina, take Exit 153 from Hwy 400 on the South side of Port Severn. Port Severn Road will take you into town. Turn left at the stop sign next to the LCBO. You will almost immediately see a sign For Bush's Marina/The Grill on your right. These directions apply to everyone coming from the North or South since the dam in town is currently being reconstructed and cannot be crossed.

### Sat. Aug. 17 – UUMMT 44 – Chemong Lake – Ian Dickson/Terry Philpot

Here is a brief description of our place and a map for directions.

The address is: 715 Alexander Drive, Ennismore, On. K0L 1T0

Ennismore is located approximately 10 Km north of Peterborough on the west side of Chemong Lake. The lake is 10 miles in length and connected to the Trent system. The nearest lock is at Buckhorn which is about 22 miles by water. (Seems like a long run!) The property is 1 1/2 acres and will accommodate both docking and parking a dozen vehicles and trailers. There is a washroom available and accessible from the outside and also from inside the building. The old dance hall will be open. I have a collection of about 20 small wooden boats inside and people and food can be sheltered inside in case of rain. We have lots of tables and about 14 chairs. Those who are looking for overnight (or weekend) accommodation in this area should know that they are welcome to leave their boats and trailers on our property. They won't be left unattended as we live on the premises and the property is fenced and gated.



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*continued . . .*

A few places to stay:

**The Village Inn**

39 Queen St. Lakefield  
1 800 827-5678  
*approx. 10 minute drive from Ennismore*

**Westwind Inn**

37 Fire Route 21,  
Gallery on the Lake Rd.  
Trent Lakes On. (Buckhorn Lake)  
705 657-8095  
*approx. 30 minutes drive from Ennismore*

**Viamede Resort on Stony Lake**

595 Mt. Julian Viamede Rd.  
Woodview On.  
1 800 461-1946  
*approx. 35 minute drive from Ennismore*

**The Holiday Inn**

150 George St. N.,  
Peterborough On.  
1 877 660-8550  
*approx 20 minutes drive from Ennismore*

A few places of interest, perhaps for the ladies:

**The Barn at Fowlers Corners.** This is a large antique/flea market venue with a Craftworks store on the second level. Craftworks has a little bit of everything...furniture, clothing, giftware, some locally made items etc. 10 minutes from our house.

**The Canadian Canoe Museum** in Peterborough, for those who haven't made it there yet, is fantastic!

*No need to bring lawn chairs, we have enough*

**Sept. 6-8 – DOA Annual Regatta – Glen House Resort, Thousand Islands**

On a recent trip to Gananoque, we met with our boating guide and confirmed all arrangements with resort staff. To date, 65 people have registered with 26 boats. Boat launch and trailer parking are on the property at no cost. As there is not a suitable lunch stop with sufficient docking, the Saturday morning cruise will return to Glen House for lunch, then head off on a different route for the afternoon. The wine and cheese reception and dinner will be upstairs (accessible by elevator) followed by a DJ-led dance. There is even a Plan B in case of unboaty weather. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions. **Karen & Kerry**

**UUMMTs & Regatta** – Can't bring a boat, but would like to attend one or more of these events? There are always members who have room for and willing to take passengers. Please contact the lead person for each event who can help match you with a skipper.



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



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