

ISSUE 26

THE

DEVICE

JUNE 2014

DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

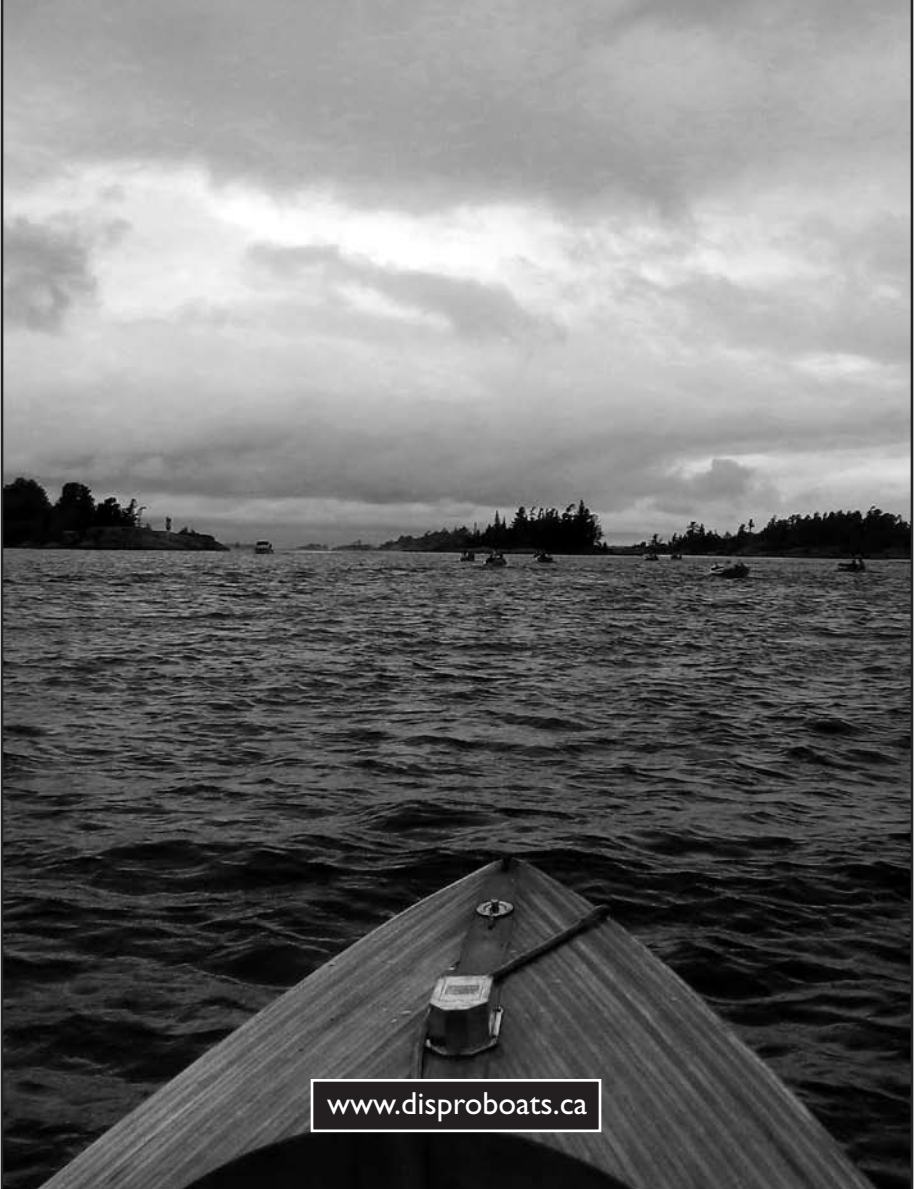


Photo: Paul Jenner

www.disproboats.ca

Storm clouds on the horizon and heading for a sheltered anchorage. Georgian Bay Regatta 2012.



President's Letter • June 2014

With the Dippy Annual General Meeting just behind us we are beginning this fiscal year with a new executive. The results of the election appear in the minutes of the AGM elsewhere in this Device. New to the executive is Mike Windsor as secretary. I think he is well known to all of us from the Windsor Boat Works in Gravenhurst where he has restored many Dippys including mine. He did an amazing restoration of the basket case that I brought to his shop. That's a story for another day. We also welcome Valerie Otton to the board as membership Chair. She is married to Bill Otton, a former DOA president, and we also know his brother Barry and wife from Georgian Bay. You may recall the Honey Harbour Regatta a couple of years back when the Otton brothers valiantly lead us through the Georgian Bay channels and safely back in some stormy weather.

I was elected as your president at the AGM and while I may be known to the regular active members it occurred to me that while there are some 50 regulars we have a total membership of about 220 and to many I might be an unknown. To that possibility, I will provide a brief introduction. My wife Cynthia's family has a history in Muskoka going back to the 1930's and when I met her in 1957 she introduced me to Windermere and we have not missed a summer since. In 1972 we acquired some land on Tobins Island on Lake Rosseau and soon after built a cottage. Later in 1986, my wife, Cynthia spotted this very nice house in Port Carling and thought we should acquire it, which we did and she ran an art gallery and tea room there for several years. In later years it became a satellite orthodontic office that I operated on weekends up to last year when I finally retired. In any case, we discovered during our tenure that this was the Johnston House that Billy built for his new bride Mae Sands in 1924. There is a lot of history here which I will share with you in a future Device.

I had an interest in wooden Muskoka boats going back many years and in 1975 we acquired a Ditchburn named Chickadee, who is still with us. It was not until 2007, when Les Rue was president that Sandy and Nick Turnbull introduced us to the DOA regatta at the CNIB that fall. The camaraderie of the organization was appealing and we decided that we will needed our own Dippy especially as we were the custodians of the Johnston House. A few years later we were introduced to a pile of gray wood that had the right smell by Paul Dodington. It was a 1924 dippy built at our waterfront at the factory which is no longer there. It was a good fit with the Johnston House, her sister Chickadee and brother, a McLaughlin Buick, all built the same year. The following winter Mike Windsor and Paul Dodington saved one more Dippy from the grave where many have gone over the years.

It is one of the goals of the DOA to encourage the preservation and use of all Disappearing Propeller Motor Boats and equipment. Unfortunately, I heard of one Dippy that suffered its demise this winter when "Annette" belonging to Faye and Peter Rice was crushed beyond repair in a collapsed boat storage facility due to the heavy

snow. It is reported that she was a beautiful example of one of the last built Greavette dippys of 1956. Very sad, and I hope that we did not lose other boats from the winter or other circumstances.

Going back to our membership, it is apparent that most of our members are not active and the board is looking for ways that we can serve the members in a more meaningful direction. In regard to the possibility that we can do better, enclosed with this mailing you will find a survey which we are asking all to complete and return to my Toronto office in the envelopes supplied. Please add your personal comments and sign it if you like. We are wondering to what extent members are using and enjoying their boats.

If any of you are not having fun yet, please consider attending one of our events this summer. The details of our UUMMT's and Regatta are elsewhere in this Device. One of my responsibilities is the management of the annual regatta at Stoney Lake this fall. Prior Smith, of "Canada Calling", will be leading our tour through the Burleigh Falls locks to Love Sick and Lower Buckhorn Lakes. I am advised that the Viamede resort has restored many of the rooms in the main lodge for our enjoyment. So far our registration is somewhat less than expected and if you are considering this event, please sign up so, that we can get a handle on the numbers for the various meal functions etc. Garnet Shaver who is in charge of the weather has promised sunshine. Sheila Burk is in charge of the auction, which will be held this year and I encourage you to bring some artifacts or other items for this delightful evening. Mike Windsor will organize the dippy race which was won by Gary and Rachel Campaigne last year. Mary and John Storey, will be hosting the Saturday evening cocktail reception. Hope to see you there and if you have not been to a regatta recently, I encourage you to reacquaint yourselves with this great annual event.

Paul Jenner, the editor, of this Device is going to give me trouble unless I sign off now, but before I do that, I want to mention that we have started on the planning for the "Dispro Centennial Celebration" to be held at the Bartleman Island in Port Carling early August 2015 (next year). We are looking for upward of 100 Dippys attending this special event. Ian Dickson has taken on the leadership of this event and if you would like to volunteer and assist with this celebration he would be most delighted to hear from you.

Hope to see many of you at the summer events and happy "putting"

Eric Luks

Provincial Plaque Granted to DOA

In January, we received good news from Ontario Heritage Trust that our application for a provincial plaque to recognize the invention of the Dispro had been approved. The unveiling of the plaque will be part of the Dispro Centennial Celebration taking place in Port Carling in August 2015. The plaque will be another way to share the story of the Dispro with the public and ensure the Greatest Little Motor Boat Afloat survives for another 100 years.

John Storey



A similar plaque commemorating steamboating in Muskoka.



The 36th D.O.A. AGM 2014 in Review

Dispro Owners Association Annual General Meeting
Sunday, April 27, 2014
Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, Gravenhurst, ON

Call to Order Mike McGarrell
74 people in attendance

Approval of agenda

Motion by Valerie Otton, seconded by Jim Domm that the agenda be approved. Carried.

Minutes of 2013 AGM

Moved by John Storey and seconded by Bill Otton that the minutes of the April 2014 be adopted as printed. Carried.

Reports:

Treasurer Sheila Burk

The Executive was asked to consider email communication as opposed to mailing. Moved by Sheila Burk and seconded by Sandra Turnbull that the Treasurer's report for 2013 be accepted as printed. Carried.

Membership Happy Thomson

Sent out 240 notices. Have 217 members as of this date.

Device and Trader Paul Jenner

Thanks to those who have contributed photos and articles. Concerning the Trader, please notify Paul if you no longer need the repeated ads. Thanks to Paul for the last issue, the 25th, a milestone!

Archives Joe Fossey/Jim Domm/Mary Storey

Joe Fossey spoke to the several Greavette Dispro items he has just donated to the Dispro Archives. Mary Storey reported on the activities in the Dispro archives during the last year. Jim Domm reminisced about the Ladies Auxiliary and their song was played.

History Paul Gockel

Paul Dodington was unable to attend. Paul Gockel reported on original Dispro ribs and the ribs for his steamboat.

Centennial Committee Ian Dickson

Ian reported on the many activities of the Centennial committee including the postage stamp, the approved Ontario Heritage Trust plaque, the 2015 ACBS boat show theme, the DOA boat show in Port Carling (tentative date August 15/15).

Thanks to John Storey and Paul Jenner for the submissions and the anonymous donor of \$500 for this special year.

May 24th weekend a Centennial meeting will take place and those wishing to contribute contact Ian Dickson.

2014 UUMTs Robert Clipsham
Robert explained the 3 upcoming events:
June – Pickerel River, July – Muskoka River, August – Sparrow Lake/Severn River

2014 Regatta Eric Luks
Eric reported on the Sept. 5,6,7 event at Viamede Resort. Reminder that this is Auction year.

Election of Executive Robert Clipsham

New Executive: Past President- Mike McGarrell

President – Eric Luks

Vice President – Mary Storey

Secretary – Mike Windsor

Treasurer – Sheila Burk

Membership – Valerie Otton

Directory – Happy Thomson

Device & Trader – Paul Jenner

Eric Luks presented Mike McGarrell with a gift and thanked him for his efforts as president for the 2013 year. Mike presented Happy Thomson with a departing gift and roses (after 33 years of dedication to DOA).

Adjournment and have a great boating season!

Mary Storey



Photos: Paul Jenner

Outgoing president Mike McGarrell presents the incoming president Eric Luks with the badge of office – the "Corroded Connection."



Happy Thomson was presented with gifts and received great applause in recognition for her 33 years as membership secretary.



My Dispro Bilge Pump (yes, it's a necessary tool)

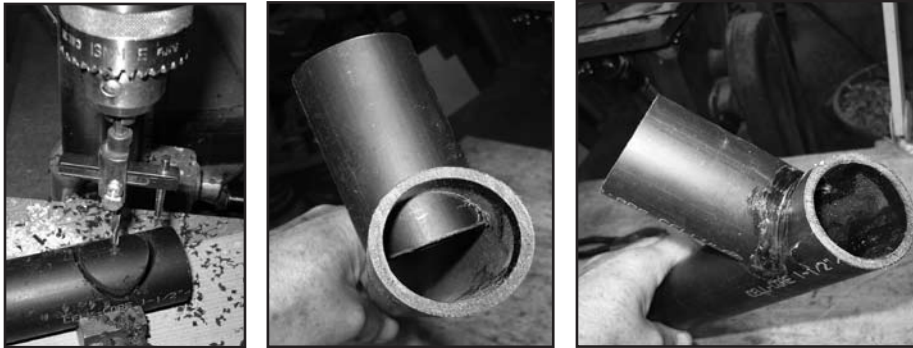
Miro Forest, P. Eng.

Yes, I DO need a bilge pump for my Dippy. It was “restored over 30 years ago and while I have taken very good care of it (e.g. I have not trailered it), over the past several seasons, it's taking longer and longer to “take up” in the springtime.

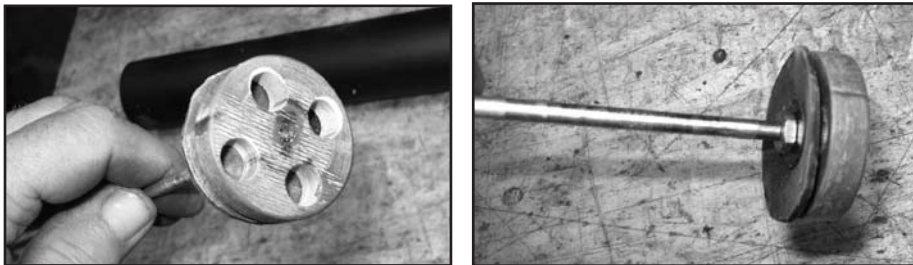
I have a small hand operated bilge pump, but frankly it's not very good, plus my arms and shoulders aren't what they used to be. So I set out to design and make a more efficient bilge pump. I wanted it to haul water out quickly and I did not need it to squirt water 30 ft. I was looking for volume not pressure for each “arm-strong” stroke.

Here's my design – based on an old idea but implemented with more modern materials.

The body is a 1½ in. ID ABS plumbing pipe. I used a length of about 16 inches, so one stroke would move about half a quart of water (0.5 litres of metric water). Using a fly cutter I carefully made sure the OD of the cutter match the OD of the pipe and then made the opening for the spout of the pump. I marked the spout inside the pipe body and used a coping saw to trim the spout to fit the inside of the pipe. I then glued the body and spout together.



With the body done, I now needed a piston and a valve. I used a plastic fiber material for the piston, top cap and bottom cap because that's what I had in my “cultch” pile. The piston is a loose fit and has four 3/8 in. holes in it. The valve is a floppy piece of rubber sheet (e.g. an old inner tube), cut to be a close over-size fit to the inside of the ABS plastic pipe body. On the down stroke, the water flows through the four holes in the piston



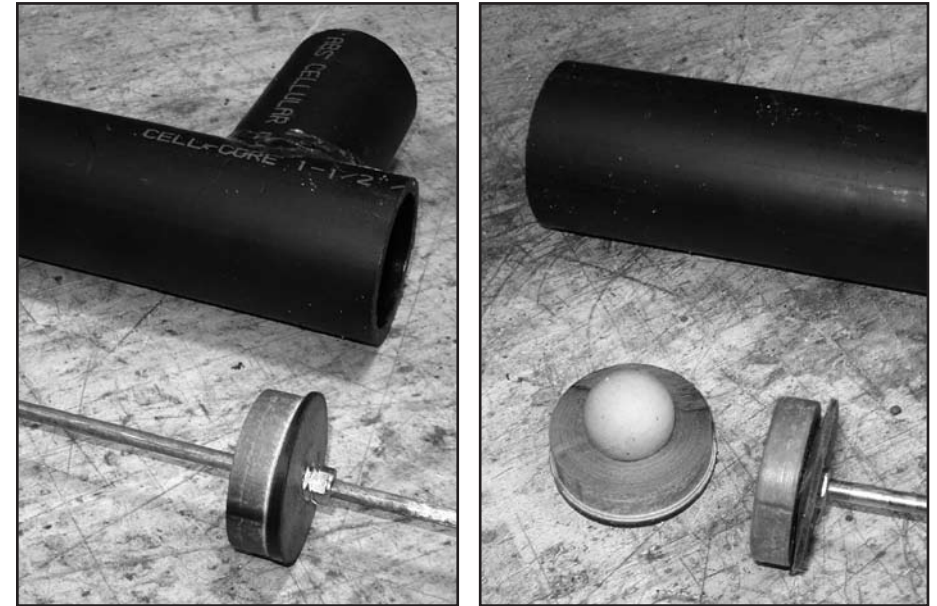
Photos: Miro Forest

and then on the upstroke, the floppy rubber seals the piston and moves the water up and out of the spout. The piston rod is a 3/16 in. stainless rod – brass would be OK too.

For the bottom, I made a 9/16 in. hole in the bottom cap and used a rubber mouse ball as the valve. The mouse ball is heavy and sinks in water. In the up stroke, water can enter the pump body and on the down stroke the mouse ball seals the 9/16 in. hole. The rubber on the mouse ball is pliable enough to make quite a good seal over the 9/16 in. hole.



The top cap is simply there to keep the piston rod aligned with the pump body.



In operation, I dunk the bottom end of the pump in water to “wet its whistle” and then simply start pulling the water in the bilge up and out of the Dippy. It usually take 5 or 6 strokes to move most of the water out. If I get enthusiastic, I put a large diameter hose inside the spout so that I get almost all of the water out of the Dippy because I can hold the pump closer to the vertical position.

So, now, when I go out for a cruise in June , I know that I can get going without hauling the weight of bilge water that used to inhabit my boat. By mid-July, my DisPro has tightened up and the pump is allowed to rest until the following season.

Upcoming Events in 2014

June 21-22 – UUMMT 28 – Pickerel River ‘The Lost Channel Dippy Ride’

This somewhat remote and pristine waterway comprises the Pickerel River and Lake Kawigamog providing over 40 miles of boating!

Contact: Betty and George Piper george.piper@sympatico.ca
Robert Clipsham rec@clipsham.com cell 905 703 0377

Sat. July 5 – ACBS Boat Show – Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst

DOA tent and display will again be featured at the show

Sat. July 19 – UUMMT 29 – Muskoka River ‘From Outlet at Lake Muskoka, to Bracebridge Falls’

Depart: George Street Ramp, Bracebridge at 10:00 am

We will explore this interesting river and adjoining channels from its outlet into Lake Muskoka to Bracebridge. We will see the huge South Falls and the hydro generating station from our Dispros. Lunch stop will be at the park in Bracebridge, near Silver Bridge, with lots of docking and washrooms. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: Mary Storey mstorey@cogeco.ca
Robert Clipsham rec@clipsham.com cell 905 703 0377

Sat. Aug. 16 – UUMMT 30 – Severn River, Sparrow Lake to Swift Rapids (Lock 43)

Depart: Sopher's Landing, McLean's Bay at 10:00am

The Severn River from Georgian Bay to Sparrow Lake flows through a very beautiful part of the Precambrian shield with rock outcrops and treed shorelines. During a previous Regatta and UUMMT 27 last summer we travelled in our Dispros from Severn Falls to Swift Rapids. This UUMMT route will complete our travels on this section of the Trent Severn waterway.

Our guests will be George and Jean Page who cottage at the Swift Rapids. George will tell us some of the history of the early electricity generating power plants first constructed at Ragged Rapids in 1902 and later at Swift Rapids in 1917. Also the construction of the canal will be explained at Sparrow Lake Chutes and at McDonald Rapids.

We will tie up at Lock 43, we will see the 47 foot high lock (1965), the power plant and have our lunch on the grassed area (washroom facilities available). Bring your own lunch.

Contact: Robert Clipsham rec@clipsham.com cell 905 703 0377

Sept. 5-7 36th Annual DOA Regatta at Viamede Resort This year is auction year.

Full details of all events can be found on our website: disproboats.ca

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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