

ISSUE 42

THE DEVICE

JUNE 2018

DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



AGM 2018



www.disproboats.ca

Photos: Gary Campaigne, Mary Storey

Although the screen told us that 2018 was already a great year, many members attended the AGM in April to find out what was coming up in the year and of course to socialize and catch up.



President's Letter • June 2018

Welcome to a new and exciting 40th year of our Dispro Association. As your new president (along with Tom) I am also looking forward to getting on the waters of our beautiful Ontario Northland in that special boat. This little boat never fails to provide surprises.

April 28, our annual AGM was inspiring. To see so many smiling faces welcoming old and new friends, countless volunteers again giving you their time and experience and of course planning for the season ahead. See Kerry's summary.

For those of you who don't know us....we have been around Muskoka for a while. Tom was on the Indian River Port Carling from 1948-1978 at which time we purchased on Acton Island, Lake Muskoka, 1978-2011. We purchased our 1946 Greavette Dippy in 2004 from Paul Doddington. We now reside in Paris, Ontario in the summer and Sarasota FL in the winter. Our door is always open!

Here's a brief run down of all the events planned for 2018.

UUMMTs (Mike Windsor)

#39	Sat. June 16	French River, Dokis Marina	10:00am
#40	Sat. July 28	Kawagama Lake, Mt. Trout House Marina	10:00am
#41	Sat. Aug. 18	Point au Baril, Beacon Marina	10:00am

ACBS Dispro Display & Run (part of Muskoka Boat Show)

Sat. July 7 (Kerry Harmon)

Please see Kerry Harmon's Dispro Articles for Sale ad in this issue.

Annual Regatta

September 14, 15, 16***

Patterson Kaye Resort, Lake Muskoka
1360 Golden Beach Road, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1W8
705-645-4169

Rate: according to the accommodation chosen, \$200 downpayment

Meal Plan: \$188.13 per person including HST and gratuity.

Includes 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 1 box lunch, 1 lunch.

This rate is separate from accommodation allowing for off sight participants. If you are off sight you must book this meal plan at the lodge.

Boat Launch: at the government dock 1 km away with trailer parking. Boat docking is at the lodgelodge.

Wine & Cheese before dinner Saturday (Kerry/Karen Harmon)

Tours: TBA

This is Auction Year after dinner on Saturday night. Save and bring all those treasures. (Sheila Burke)

Fall Workshop – Sat. Oct. 27 – Muskoka Discovery Centre, Gravenhurst 10:00-2:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00 (prior registration will be required)

Downstairs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Dippy Operation, Theory & Practise | Kerry Harmon |
| 2. Sharpening Tools for Your Dippy | Paul Gockel |
| 3. Volunteer needed | |
| 4. Volunteer needed | |

Upstairs:

- Organizing, downsizing, decluttering, etc. Carol Southcombe
Each participant to bring one tip for organization.
- TBA suggestion or volunteer

2019 AGM – Sun. April 28 – Muskoka Discovery Centre, Gravenhurst 10:00AM
519-442-6166 519-755-1744

Dipplingly Yours,
Ann Verth (and Tom)

verth1234@rogers.com

P.S. Don't forget your name tags for all events

DOA Clothes and Crests for Sale

This year we will be offering a selection of clothing items,
all sporting embroidered DOA logos.

All prices shown include taxes.

Long sleeved blue and white striped shirts at \$55. each

Yellow Rain Jackets at \$100 each.

We need a minimum of 12 pieces to proceed with order for above two items.

Twill Bucket Hats at \$20. each

Minimum order of 24 pieces to proceed.

3 by 2 1/4 inch embroidered DOA crests at \$15,

each suitable for sewing on any garment.

Minimum order of 24 to proceed.

All orders to be received by July 15, 2018 in order to meet the suppliers deadline.

Please complete enclosed order form and mail, with cheque payable to the DOA, to:

**Kerry Harmon
1025 Bowyers Beach Road
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1W8**

*Due to the cost of mailing we would like to distribute the items at the Regatta;
although other arrangements can be made in exceptional circumstances.*

*If we do not receive sufficient orders to proceed your form and cheque will be returned
so it is very important that you include your contact information and mailing address.*

Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting • April 29, 2018

Helen Byrne, President, opened the meeting at 1:00PM by welcoming the members in attendance and thanking Mary Storey for the Power Point of the 2017 event.

Helen recognized the original members present; Doug Brown, Paul Dodington, Paul Gockel and John and Happy Thompson.

Motion: Cynthia Luks moved the Agenda be accepted, seconded by Bob Burgess, carried.

Motion: Bob Burke moved the 2017 AGM minutes be accepted, seconded by Happy Thompson, carried.

Sheila Burk presented the 2017 Financial Report be accepted after review by Past President Mike Windsor. Motion: Art Clark moved to accept the report after review, seconded by Paul Dodington, carried. Sheila also reminded us that this is an action year, to be held at the annual Regatta. She then reviewed the List of DOA assets.

Barb Dickson presented her Membership report and has notified and followed up with members who had not renewed. Barb welcomed the new members in attendance; Genevieve and Sandy Keith, who have the ex Jim Dom dispro Heaven Knows, and Clarke and Janet Smith, with no boat yet! Barb gave us an update on the very successful glassware sale, everything has pretty much solid but for a few seconds. She also gave away three cans of varnish to; Eric Tozer for being the first member to register, Gary Campaigne for guessing that 'Clark' is the most popular dispro owners surname and then she tried to give the last can first to Jan and John Templeton, then to Ian and Barb Dickson and finally found takers with Mike Windsor and Ronda Turner. Be forewarned that there may be a question as to why this happened next year!!!

Paul Jenner reported that the new distributed work process for assembling and mailing the Device and Trader is a great help and he will continue as Editor! The 12 page format has been well recieved and contributions to the content of stories and pictures is always welcome.

Gary Campaigne, who manages the website, reported 420,000 page views, 73,000 visits and has renewed the name for 5 years. Gary also answers or distributes any questions to the website for response.

Paul Dodington didn't have any new historical revelations so shared the results of his quest for a universal joint replacement in stainless steel.

Mary Storey, DOA Archivist extraordinaire, also archives material for ACBS and the Gravenhurst Resource Centre at the Centre. She has almost everything published on the dispro and continues to add the association's agendas, minutes and publications, local news items of interest to the members and submitted items. She recognized Karen Boyer's assistance and John Cooper's contributions of early copies of the newsletter and more.

UUMMTs, Mike Windsor provided dates and details for the three 2018 outings, see the June Device for details.

Ann Verth reminded us that the 2018 Regatta will take place at Paterson Kaye Lodge on September 14-16, one week later than normal. Details on the Meal Plan cost will be in the June Device, book now!

The ACBS Show will be in Gravenhurst on July 7th, with recognition of the DOA's 40th. Details of the Fall Workshop will be in the Device.

Helen Byrne thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as President then blamed it all on Eric Luks for catching her in a weak moment, that is, for getting her involved!

The normal slate of 2018 officers are: Ann Verth – President, Kerry Harmon – Vice President, Secretar – Ian Dickson & Robert Clipsham, Sheila Burke – Treasurer, Barb Dickson – Membership Secretary, Paul Jenner – Device and Trader Editor and Gary Campaigne – Web Site Guy.

Mike Windsor made three calls for Nominations from the floor, none were offered.

Motion: John Storey moved that the Officers be elected as above, seconded by Eric Luks, carried.

Ann Verth presented a gift to Helen Byrne for her service to the Association and in return received the gavel and the rusted connection from Helen!

John Storey introduced John Gullick, an expert in 'Safe Boating' with numerous articles published on this subject. John gave an excellent introduction to inflatable PFDs, their selection, benefits, operation and care. They completely replace the need for a lifejacket but must be worn in the boat at all times while in the boat to qualify and more importantly to be effective.

They are highly recommended as 'You cannot get back into a Dippy once you have fallen out'!

Motion: Paul Dodington moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mike Windsor, carried.

Kerry Harmon

A Case for Wearing Life Jackets

Today, most of us are aware of the requirements of providing suitable sized floating device, Department of Transport approved for each person aboard. They are often stored out of the way under seats and in storage bags. There are no requirements to wear life jackets in vessels 6 metres or less except for race boats.

Of course, the reason for life jacket provision is to aid in survival of person in case of collision or upset. Falling overboard often occurs during boarding or landing. In all these cases, the life jacket is of no help to one if it is not worn correctly. In case of sudden storms, one can often find it almost impossible to put on a jacket in an open boat due to the high winds.

Life jackets in the past have often been bulky and therefore not comfortable to wear. However, today modern materials have allowed less bulk and more comfort. Government approval has been issued for inflatable vest that provide even more comfort. Life jackets of the inflatable type must be worn at all times while on board.

If you are among a lot of us who in the past have resisted the wearing of PFD (person flotation devices), please re-consider and encourage your passengers to do the same. Let's set a good example to all!

Jim Onions

~~~~~ Dippy Vignettes ~~~~~

Our Dis; how she became T's Delight.

In 1906 T.J. Seaton, an Ottawa Jeweller with a big house on Frank St., had \$600 worth of lumber delivered by rail to Queen's Park, now Aylmer, Quebec. From this material, local carpenters built a two storey clapboard summer place complete with covered verandas all around as was the style of the time. A dock system was added which consisted of large sections mounted on heavy iron wheels, looking like ancient war wagons, to be rolled into the river in the spring and back onto the lawn for winter. All boats were moored out on anchors to deal with the 2 and 3 foot waves which regularly sprang up from the strong winds and wide expanse of the Ottawa River. In 1908 T.J.'s son Tom, also T.J., arrived and grew up on the river at Queen's Park.

In 1915 Mr. Seaton bought his first Dippy. It was not formally named but simply referred to as 'the Dis' as were the others that followed. It seems Tom took a real liking to the Dis and when the original was replaced in 1925 he put the device, engine and other bits under the house before the hull was burned, because that is what one did with old boats! Tom by this point was a dab hand at operating the Dis, working on its engine as required, and taking family, friends and guests for rides. At some point this one was painted white and was eventually sold down river by the great Aunts, who seem to be blamed for these sorts of ill deeds.

Which brings us to the third Dis. In 1950 Tom went to the Toronto boat show and took a liking to the Greavette show floor model, no. 50-22, with its mahogany splash rail and St. Lawrence electric start engine. He purchased the boat and had it delivered to Queen's Park where she too was moored out in the river under a canvas cover which had to be removed and reinstalled with each use from the rowboat used to reach her. There were no doubt a series of covers as the hull bears two rows of holes for the cover rope cleats. He took great delight in taking all comers out including a young family friend by the name of John Telfer.

Telfer seems to have followed in Tom's footsteps as a devoted river rat and tells great stories about time spent with Tom in the Dis. A few of my favourites are: the one about Tom always working on the engine with a lit cigarette in his mouth and the boat still bears the burn marks on the planks in the engine room, ask me and I'll happily show them to you anytime! During the restoration I removed the blackened and burnt dashboard but the burns in the planks are too deep to remove.

As we all know the cork floats occasionally get saturated with gas and have to be dried out and re-shellacked. Tom's approach was to do this on a sunny day on the river, removing the float, with the engine running by regulating the fuel shutoff valve on the dash, setting the float out to dry in the sun, then shellacking it and again setting it out to dry. Then reassembling everything!

Then there was the incident at Deschene Rapids. With age, Tom would often enjoy a nap while drifting with current downstream from Queen's Park. Telfer was an active member of the Britannia Yacht Club just above the rapids and one day spotted the Dis drifting toward the rapids with Tom in full nap mode! Fortunately, Tom awoke from the nap to the sound of the quickly approaching rapids, started the engine and manned the oars. After a good long struggle he was just able to prevent the Dis from going further

downstream. Perhaps this happened more than once as the boat has three sets of oarlocks, including a set at the mother-in-law seat!

Over its life with Tom the Dis had four engines; the original St. Lawrence, two Coventry Victors and finally an Arnolt Sea Mite 20hp. One theory was that being moored out in rough weather the muffler and engines would fill with water and they didn't like it! The installation of the Arnolt required hacking through the main engine mount, extending the centre deck and moving the forward seat a foot or so further forward. The gas tank was remanufactured to a depth of whatever would fit and the transformation was completed with the addition of a most elaborate chromed deck lamp with three forward projecting lights on a curved column. This was added for improved visibility, not so much for Tom, at the speed the Arnolt produced there was no hope of seeing over the bow! This tall light was meant to warn other boaters that Tom was coming home fast.

In 1968 Tom succumbed to the appeal of an outboard powered tin boat and the Dis languished in its winter storage until Tom passed. After several unsuccessful attempts by the ne'er-do-well cousins to sell her, with a giant 1904 Acadian make and break dumped in it in place of the Arnolt, Telfer took custody for many years.

Karen's father, Edward (Ted) Boyer had been a DisPro fan and they had two at the cottage property on Lake Muskoka where we now live. The first a 1926 which unfortunately burned in the Alport Bay Marina fire where she was stored for the winter. Karen has fond memories of early dippy rides. The second was a post 1950 Greavette with a Coventry Victor purchased from Harvey Neilson of chocolate fame. She was named the African Queen and came with the hull painted black, as all Neilson's boats had black hulls! In her teens Karen lived at the cottage with her grandmother Boyer and acquired the skills to operate the dippy. She recalls taking her mother and her grandmothers out for rides on the lake and up the river to Bracebridge for ice cream. My earliest dippy experience was in the early 1970's rowing Karen in the African Queen up the river to Bracebridge from the cottage, as the engine was dead! A near perfect introduction to the world of the disappearing propeller boat.

When Karen heard about the Dis at Telfer's, she had to have it and so we bought our Dis from him. Following a hull refinish and a return to service in 2014 we felt it was high time she had a proper name and settled on 'T's Delight to recognize the three T's who made it all possible.

Kerry Harmon

ACBS Show Volunteer Request

Gravenhurst, Saturday, July 7th.

I would like to thank those who have volunteered to assist at the DOA tent and supply boats for the show, thank you very much!

If anyone else is planning to attend the show and has a couple of hours free to assist at the tent during the day I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Kerry Harmon at kharmon@muskoka.com or 705-645-9513.

We look forward to seeing lots of DOA members at the show celebrating our 40th year!

Kerry Harmon



Upcoming Events in 2018

Just a reminder to members that UUMMT's 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. June 16 – UUMMT 39 – French River

10 am We will be departing from Dokis Marina at 10 am. The marina is on the French River. We will be traveling toward the western end of Lake Nippising. There are a few places to stay overnight the day before for those with a long drive to get there. I would suggest using Google to locate the nearby accommodations. Dokis marina is about 2 hours north of Parry Sound at 1053 Main Street, Dokis First Nation (705) 763-2491

Sat. July 7 – ACBS Summer Boat Show – Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst

Sat. July 28 – UUMMT 40 – Kawagama Lake

10 am We will be leaving from Mountain Trout House Marina at 10 am. Mountain Trout House Marina is about 20 minutes from Dorset.
1508 Russell Landing Rd, Dorset, ON P0A 1E0 (705)766-2292

Sat. Aug. 18 – UUMMT 41 – Point Au Baril, Georgian Bay

10 am This will be the Ron Hill Memorial UUMMT. Point au Baril was one of Ron Hills favorite places. We will be leaving from Beacon Marina at 10 am. Beacon Marina is about 30 minutes north of Parry sound. Launching ramp and parking fees will be payable to the marina.
60 South Shore Rd, Pointe au Baril, ON P0G 1K0 (705) 366-2394

Sept. 14-16 – DOA Annual Regatta – Patterson Kaye Lodge, Lake Muskoka



Please note that this is one week later than the usual time for our annual regatta. More information is found in Ann Verth's President's Letter at the front of this issue. **It's Auction Year** so please start by gathering all those treasures you've been hoarding for years but can now finally bear to part with. This fun event is always a highlight of the regatta.

Sat. Oct. 27 The **Fall Workshop** will also be part of this year's activities. More information is found in Ann Verth's President's Letter in this issue.



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