

ISSUE 37

THE DEVICE

MAR 2017

DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THE COVENTRY VICTOR "MIDGET"

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President's Letter • March 2017

It is with deepest regret that I share the news of the passing of DOA member Bryan Hollebhone from Ottawa.

This will be my last presidents letter and the conclusion of my first foray into club political office. Some people thrive at politics and I will be the first to admit that I don't. I'm usually a keep my head in the sand type when it comes to politics. I think that Robert Clipsham caught me in a weak moment when he recruited me into the DOA executive. My motive when I said yes was mainly one of service to pay back an organization that had enhanced the enjoyment and use of my Dispro. After all, if nobody steps up to the call, then there isn't really a club anymore and just a bunch of people who eventually go their own ways.

The DOA is an amazingly eclectic collection of people from all walks of life. Perhaps it is the commiserations and joys of owning a Dispro that is the common thread that brings together "A" type personalities that need to be humbled? It is a great group of people who aren't too tightly wrapped and know how to have fun.

The club is very fortunate to have people like Sheila Burke, Ian and Barb Dickson, Gary Campaigne and Paul Jenner who really make the mechanics of the club happen year after year. And I have to also thank our past president Mary Storey for gently "suggesting" what I should be doing. There is a core driving force in the DOA and we all know who they are. I have also been preceded by people who excel in organizational talents and have done wonderful things for the club, like the 100 Year Anniversary, the historic plaque, a web site and many other enhancements to the club. These have been a hard acts to follow.

I remember a few years ago talking to a former president of the DOA whom I hadn't seen at any events in a while. He commented that he was burnt out from the club thing. I can see how trying to live up to the accomplishments of my predecessors could take me to a state of resentment, from doing more than I was comfortably able to do on top of my other commitments in life. This happened before I joined the executive and I made a mental note to myself that I would perform my duties to the best of my abilities and not to the point of resenting the sometimes cantankerous pile of cypress, copper and brass that had introduced me to this organization in the first place.

Perhaps I have lowered the bar for anybody thinking that they couldn't live up to the expectations of becoming a member of the DOA executive? I am a big believer in Murphy's 2nd law which states "If you fix something long enough you'll eventually bust it". A good example is what happened to our government after they introduced income tax as a temporary measure to help with the war. Look how improved that gets every year. Complicating things is as much human nature as entropy is to the universe. I remember talking to Less Rue once and listening to his comment about ACBS politics. He commented that a club is not one of those things in life that you have to do – not like working and paying taxes. If it isn't fun I can find other things to do. I have to agree. Last week I met a couple from the Adirondacks in NY state who came by the shop while

shopping for a fast mahogany boat. They both commented on how much they loved the Dispros and how they had never heard of them until the Clayton boat show. They also commented on how much fun everybody seemed to be having. This was a collective effort of several members to promote the Dispro by making the trip to Clayton. And when I think about it anybody who has ever seen any part of a UUMT from launching, to the trip, to retrieval must be intrigued by what draws a group of people to own a Dispro. And why do they like traveling in groups? I think one reason is that it's nice to have lots of potential tow boats around.

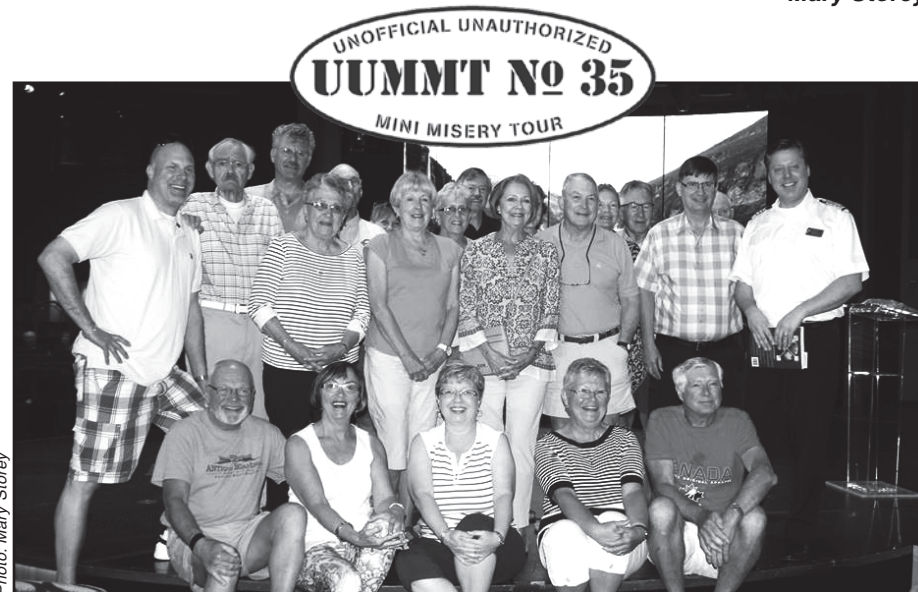
Mike Windsor

Cover Story — What a Surprise!

Upon gathering the mail, I noticed a brown envelope whose sender was Greame Lang. I knew the name was familiar, something to do with boating, but could not remember who he was. My husband, John, quickly reminded me that Greame sold us our Dispro eleven years ago.

The envelope contained an original version of the Coventry Victor Midget Care & Maintenance booklet. A note from Greame stated that his mother had passed away and he found this booklet among her papers. What a thoughtful gift and he even had our address. Wow, did he get a long thank you note, along with a picture of Dispros at the 100th celebration.

Mary Storey



DOA members have found a great way to take the misery out of both a UUMMT and the cold winter. Go for a Caribbean cruise in February with 30 other DOA members and just muse about getting your Dippies going in the spring.

Our launch site was Fort Lauderdale, Florida on February 19th. We boarded Holland America's newest cruise ship MS Koningsdam along with 2500 other guests and at 4 pm departed for Half Moon Cay, Bahamas. What a luxurious ship it is, just what Dispro owners are used to when sailing the high seas. We all adjusted quickly to our

... continued on back cover

No More Cork

Paul Gockel

Ninety year-old cork floats immersed in ethanol-laden gasoline don't spell a good future for carburetors and a sweet running dippy. Epoxy is all right but it adds weight. Time to switch float material. Although many of us are still running with cork, it won't be long now till it disintegrates and becomes the crap clogging your jets.

Nitrophyl is the new stinky synthetic to which most antique car people turn when float replacement time comes along. It has the buoyancy similar to a Ping-Pong ball in mercury, machines way too easily, is non-absorbent, requires no shellac (which would probably dissolve it), but its durability still needs the test of time. In the meantime, it's the best we have and it's great. Here we go.



Turning outside taper.

Then I drilled a hole through the centre large enough to accept the boring bar in the hole. Repeated measuring with calipers got me to the correct smallest bore. In the boring process, the smallest bore is the starting point.

¹I sized a number of old successful floats and averaged their diameters to establish my own diameter.

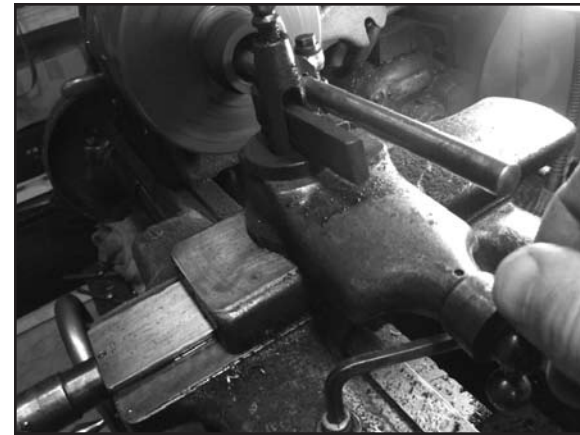
You may have noticed that the outside diameter and the inside diameter of your old Kingston floats are tapered.



Boring the ID

I selected a bar of the stuff nearly the same diameter as a Kingston float. I probably could make four floats from this length of material. I chucked it in the lathe. Just a tiny bit of machining was necessary to get the large outside diameter the same as an old cork float.¹ As soon as you machine this stuff, that nice smooth moulded finish disappears and you're left with a rough un-smoothable surface. Don't worry about it.

Photos: Paul Gockel



Boring inside taper with compound set at 84°

pencil mark on the boring bar so I'd know when I was far enough in the hole. Using the cross slide, I dialled it away from centre. As soon as the tool touched the float I let go of the cross slide and backed out the boring bar using the compound, establishing the inside taper. Even though this stuff is easy to machine it's not strong; the boring process could have been done in one pass but I might have ended up with shrapnel instead of a new float. As a result, I took many passes.

I rounded off the bottom narrow end with a file and sandpaper and then parted the new float from the stock. Finished! It only awaits the customer's screw bushing so I can drill its 5/32 or #22 hole as necessary to accept the float arm to the float. A little recess might need to be hand carved in the float to allow for the bottom of the bushing the way they did for the corks.



Parting. Tool extended to avoid interference with chuck.

Since these new floats are so buoyant, float-level adjustment will be necessary. Although nitrophyl machines more easily than cheese, it has no strength. You could easily break it while bending the float arm attempting to establish a new float level. I suggest the laborious operation of installing, checking, removing, bending, re-assembling and checking again to get things correct without damaging anything. I know it sounds awful but it must be done. The long way 'round is the shortest way home.

Upcoming Events in 2017

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.

Sun. Apr. 30 – AGM at Muskoka Discovery Centre, Gravenhurst

11 am Enjoy lunch with fellow members and get caught up with all the news! The registration form is included with this mailing so please, don't forget to **return registration form to Mary Storey by Friday April 21.**

Sat. June 17 – UUMMT 36 – Dwight, Lake of Bays

10 am Lake of Bays always offers something different for our Dippy group, so get the boat on a trailer and come along. Look for Dwight Beach just off Highway #60 in the village of Dwight, Muskoka. This is the departure point with public washrooms and parking is close by. On the left side of Dwight Bay is the mouth of the Oxtongue River. Follow the tranquil river to view Marsh's Falls. On the return trip down the river we will turn left and cruise to the second bay docking at the cottage of Joanne and David Dymont, son of Betty and Roger. Enjoy your picnic lunch on one of the many docks and patios. After lunch, we will proceed west and then north to explore the historic Portage Bay and Rat Bay before returning to Dwight Beach.

Sat. July 8 – ACBS Summer Boat Show – Gravenhurst

Sat. July 15 – UUMMT 37 – Campbellford, Trent Waterway

9 am Let's celebrate Canada's 150th birthday by being part of the Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce's boat parade from Campbellford to Hastings. There is a full weekend of events. Lock fees are complimentary. Decorate your Dippy and crew in red and white and join the parade.

Friday, July 14th we are invited to a welcome reception with dinner and entertainment at the Campbellford and District Curling and Racquet Club in Campbellford at 5:30 PM. On Saturday morning start your day with a free breakfast at Campbellford's Old Mill Park provided by the Campbellford Rotary Club at 7:30 AM. Then launch your boat on the Trent Severn Waterway at the south side of Campbellford near the Ranney Falls lock or at the tennis courts. At 10 am, we will be joined by the Trent Severn Antique and Classic Boat Club, and a variety of cruisers as we become a flotilla through the Town of Campbellford and on to the Village of Hastings. There are two options available for the length you wish to travel:

Travel the entire way from Locks 11/12 to Lock 18 in Hastings. Shuttle service will be available to take you back to Campbellford to pick up your vehicle and trailer.



Or, you may choose to only travel part way by boat and then return to the boat launch. Everyone is invited to complete the day of festivities in Hastings with an afternoon BBQ and entertainment.

Book your accommodation early as there is a limited number of motels and B&Bs. For a list of this accommodation, please contact Mary Storey at mstorey@cogeco.ca or call 705-684-9560. This event is organized by the following partners: Campbellford and District Curling and Racquet Club, Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce, Trent Severn Waterway, Parks Canada and the Municipality of Trent Hills

Sat. Aug. 19 – UUMMT 38 – Parry Sound

10 am We'll put our boats in at 27 Waubano Beach, Prospect Street, beside the Coast Guard property in the town of Parry Sound. Lots of parking and washrooms are within this park. We'll cruise across the Parry Sound bay to the north west and pull up on the sand beach of Kilbear Park, just past the lighthouse. After our picnic lunch, we'll head along the shore of Parry Island, viewing Depot Harbour, now a ghost town but was once the western terminus of the Canada Atlantic Railway and a busy port on Georgian Bay. If time permits we will tour the inner harbour of Parry Sound, home to the Stockley Centre, Island Queen boat and the busy activity that supports the 30,000 Islands.

Sept. 8-10 – DOA Annual Regatta – Glen House Resort, Thousand Islands

Thousand Islands here we come! Glen House Resort, just before the Ivy Lea Bridge, sits on the St. Lawrence River. Quiet, idyllic, protected yet beckoning afar. This is it! This DOA Regatta will be our 39th. For it we enclose a Glen House Resort Reservation Form and a DOA Registration Form. Complete both and return A.S.A.P. to Barb Dickson.

Finally, please recall that we agreed to welcome a sustaining addition of younger enthusiasts to the DOA. Towards this goal we encourage the inclusion of your children and grandchildren to this year's Regatta.



Photo: Mike Windsor

new surroundings including hot tubs, pools, spa, entertainment and fine dining. In the days following we also visited and toured Grand Turk, Dominican Republic, Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba learning their history and culture. Excursions included shopping, bicycling, snorkeling, swimming, and a variety of tours all in search of Dispro parts of course or cheap rum for those who don't need parts.

On board, we were treated to a DOA exclusive cocktail party in the Crow's Nest Lounge on the 12th deck. The cruise was officially sanctioned as a UUMMT when Eric Luks presented a plaque made of Dispro Cypress wood to the organizers, Barb & Ian Dickson. We thanked accompanying travel agent, Lisa Shelley, for her special efforts booking the cruise and organizing a brief meeting with Captain Emiel de Vries who lives in Barrie, ON. We presented him with a cruise on RMS Segwun in appreciation of a fine job done by him and his crew of 1000.

Later during the cruise, Marilyn and Garnet Shaver held a team trivia competition using facts from the Greatest Little Motor Boat Afloat book. Tough questions, Garnet. Does anyone know the name of the man who built the first Greavette Dispro? Guess which team won the competition. Of course, it was Ron Hill's team. What fun!

Everyone certainly enjoyed the reunion with fellow club members while soaking in the warm Caribbean sun and breezes, longing to soon hear that putt putt sound again.

John Storey



John Storey and MS Koningsdam in port – Ian Dickson receiving the UUMMT 35 plaque from Eric Luks..

Photos: Mary Storey



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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 2 weeks prior to the first day of the publication months.

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