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THE DEVICE

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DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



www.disproboats.ca

Photo: Mike Windsor

It's a Dippy love-in at Lovesick Lock as more than 20 Dispros filled the lock during the Saturday cruise at the September Annual Regatta held at Viamede on Stony Lake.



President's Letter • October 2014

As the season comes to an end, we can all look back at the DOA activities this past summer.

Robert Clipsham, past president, organized three great UUMMTs this year. The June event was a two day tour led by Betty and George Piper at Pickerel River. This was a new and very interesting venue for our group and 22 boats attended in spite of the mosquito season. Many expressed the desire to return to this neck of the woods in the future.

The July event took us to the Muskoka River starting near Patterson Kaye Lodge and traveling south past Bracebridge to the falls and power dam and then back again. This delightful trip on another beautiful day was set up by Mary Storey.

As we look back on the summer, much of it was rainy, as was the day of the August UUMMT, but it was reported to me that 8 brave boats completed the tour in a heavy downpour. It was unfortunate that the weather was so grim after all the effort put forth by Robert Clipsham in its organization. I am advised by boats that did not launch, that they would like to return to this venue for another adventure, hopefully on a nice day.

The annual regatta was successfully attended by 26 boats at the Viamede Resort on Stoney Lake. The weather cooperated just in time for the early Saturday excursion through locks at Burleigh Falls to Love Sick Lake where we stopped for a very nice lunch at Westwind Inn. The excursion was, for the second year, organized by Prior Smith and he also arranged for escorts from the Peterborough Boat Club to keep us safe from the many underwater hazards. Prior has a beautifully restored 1921 Dippy, which has not yet left Stoney Lake, but I understand that he has ordered a trailer in order to participate in more distant DOA events next year.

That evening we attended the wine and cheese reception so well orchestrated by the Storeys and other helping hands. Following dinner we all attended the auction, so ably organized by Sheila Burk to the extent that she may be holding this position indefinitely.

The next day we continued with excursions around the islands on Stoney Lake returning just before lunch for the official Dippy Races organized by Mike Windsor. There were two races, the slowest boat and the fastest boat for which we have trophies donated by the Philips Family from Amherst NY. These beautiful trophies were created for the invitational Dippy races that were aborted due to bad weather in Buffalo last year. It was unfortunate that the Philips family had to cancel out this year at the last minute. As some will recall, the races were then reorganized at our regatta last year and the winners presented with the awards for the first time. This year, Ron and Jeff Hill won the slowest boat award in their newly restored "Harry", a 1925 Uncle Sam with a D engine. The fast boat award went easily to Ian and Barb Dickson, notwithstanding their wind breaking costumes, in their 1954 Greavette with a Coventry Victor pushing a 3 bladed prop and possibly some other undisclosed modifications.

After lunch Happy Thompson and Valerie Otton presented the Epifanes Varnish awards, generously supplied by Gord Laco. The Bad Luck award was presented to Jim Onions based on two unfortunate experiences which he might disclose after some wine.

At the end of the day we got all the boats reloaded and safely home after another memorable regatta.

While I have reported on some of the responses from the member survey, one of the concerns expressed, is that boat owners are getting older and that we should develop plans for continuing interest in Dippys with younger people including children of owners. This will be on the agenda for the DOA executive meeting next month. With this in mind, it is noteworthy that at this year's regatta, there were four boats with children of the owners as follows: Jeff and Ron Hill; Brad and Ethel Armstrong; Bill, Barry and Barbara Otton; Amy and Paul Dodington.

Cynthia and I would sincerely like to thank all the volunteers and participants that made this regatta possible. We especially want to thank our American members who have come such long distances to have fun with their Dippy boats. Thanks to Keith and Karen Billet with their new 1920 Tonawanda from Wrightsville Pennsylvania. Thanks to David and Nel Deardorff who have come to many recent regattas all the way from York, Pennsylvania. Thanks to Laney and Carol Staples from Fairfield Glade TN with their 1936 Lindsay Sport. Thanks to Jeff Hill who has been coming regularly from Texas to help his dad, Ron. Thanks to the Philips family from Amherst NY who intended to come but had to cancel at the last minute. We are indebted to you for the beautiful race trophies. Hope to see you next year!

Next year is special being the 100th anniversary of the Dippy patent registered March 16, 1915. The celebrations will start off with a prominent Dippy display at the annual January Boat show at Toronto. In July the Dippy will be the poster boat for the annual ACBS boat show in Gravenhurst. The show will feature the Dippy and there will be a prominent shore display as well as in water display of Dippys in motion. On August 8th we will organize the Centennial Celebration at the Island in Port Carling and calling all able boats to attend. We are looking for 100 boats, so if there is work to be done, there is still time to complete repairs over the winter.

Because of the expected participation in the centennial events we will be having only one UUMMT in June 2015. At the end of the busy season there will be the annual regatta at Cleveland's House on Lake Rosseau.

Wishing everyone a happy winter wherever you may be, and see you at the AGM in April. Many thanks for the cards and notes that prove that we are still having fun.

Eric Luks



ANNUAL 36TH REGATTA

VIAMEDE, STONEY LAKE

SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2014

The 2014 Annual Dispro regatta was held at Viamede resort on Stoney Lake. Aproximately 25 boats were in attendance with good weather for both days.

On Friday night, Paul Dodington showed a home movie taken with Mrs. Johnson at the Dispro factory in the 1960's shortly before the building was demolished. Sandy Turnbull then showed an excellent slide show of past regatta's going back to the club's beginning.

The Saturday cruise was lead by Prior Smith and other members of the Peterborough Antique Boat Club, through Lovesick Locks and on to Buckhorn Lake. At one count there were 22 Dispros in the lock at the same time. The cruise was followed by the traditional wine and cheese party put on by Mary Storey and several volunteers. This was an auction year and the auction was a great success with fast paced bidding and several great deals. This years Auction raised over \$2000 for the club.

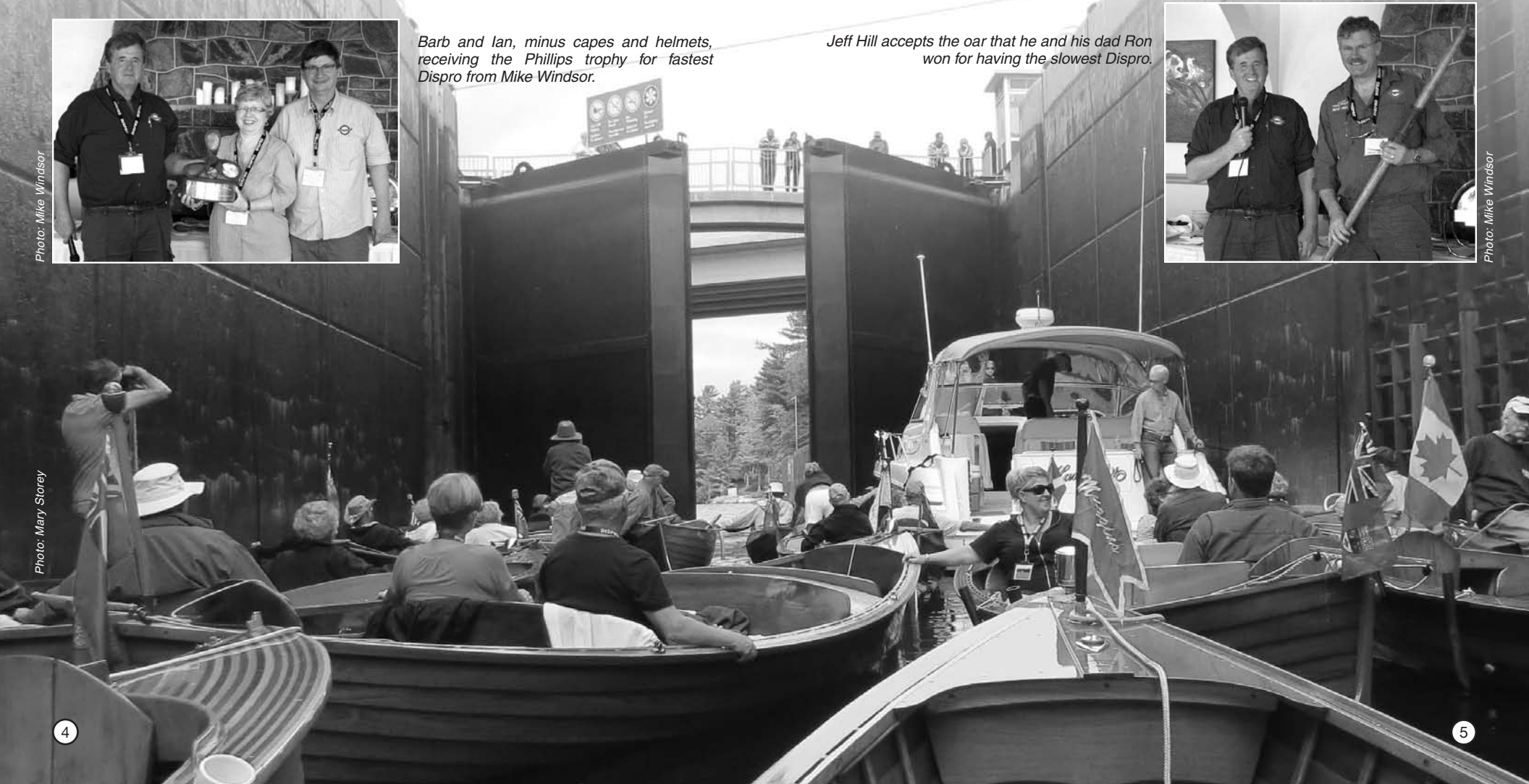
Following Sunday's outing, the club ran two Dispro races. There was a fast race for the Phillips trophy. The competition was fast and furious, with a Le Mans style start from the beach. Barb and Ian Dickson managed to win the trophy this year in their 1954 Greavette with a field of 6 competitors as well as defending cup holder Gary Campaigne. The second race was a slow race to see who had the slowest boat. The object of the race was to see who could maintain a low speed idle without stalling their engine. If a competitor stalled they were disqualified. Ron and Jeff Hill took the oar in this event, in their Port Carling Dispro "Harry".

Next years regatta will be held at Cleveland's House and we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Dispro.

Mike Windsor

Barb and Ian, minus capes and helmets, receiving the Phillips trophy for fastest Dispro from Mike Windsor.

Jeff Hill accepts the oar that he and his dad Ron won for having the slowest Dispro.



Severn River from Sparrow Lake to Swift Rapids

On August 16th I awakened to a dismal weather report, and cloudy skies in Gravenhurst. I entertained the idea of trailering the Dispro down to Severn River with no real intention of launching. At the last minute I decided to leave the boat at home, and just go down and take some photos for the Device. To my surprise there were about 25 people at the launch ramp at Sopher's landing, and approximately 9 boats. Everybody managed to successfully launch their boats, even Gary Campaigne who was a bit confused as to why his boat wouldn't float off of the trailer, until somebody pointed out to him that the boat was still tied on. After ensuring that everybody was successfully launched Robert and Pam stepped into a fully enclosed pontoon boat, and followed the Dispros on their way to Swift Rapids as the heavens opened up and it started to pour down rain.

Mike Windsor



Gary and Rachael Campaigne, among others, exhibited that true dippy spirit of adventure as they headed out (or perhaps were coming back) in less than ideal conditions.

But on the other hand, there were those that choose a drier and more comfortable option!

Dispro Display at the Toronto International Boat Show (TIBS)

We have a great opportunity to kick off our centennial year by participating at the Toronto International Boat Show held at the Direct Energy Centre at the CNE grounds, Toronto during January 10 to 18, 2015. The Dispro from the Muskoka Lakes Museum, Port Carling, will be carefully taken to the display. Large archival photos, a separate device that can be lifted, an engine, signage and 100th celebration decorations will make the display complete. Our display will be in the Antique and Classic Boat Society – Toronto booth on the south side of the building.

Members are encouraged to help interpret the display by signing up to volunteer a few hours any day of the show. Please email Ian Dickson: ibdickson@cogeco.ca or phone 905-628-8263 or cell 905-977-1430 to offer your assistance.

Mary Storey

Dispro Centennial Report

Several new exciting developments have taken place since our Annual Meeting in the spring. The first, was the announcement at the Sunday breakfast meeting at the ACBS Toronto Chapter Summer Boat Show that the theme of next years Gravenhurst Boat Show will be the "Year of the Dippy". This will include a Poster in recognition of the Dispro, and although the details will have to be worked out, a major in-water and land display featuring Dispros will be included.

A few weeks before the Gravenhurst Show saw the completion of the D.O.A. travelling photo display. Tim Duvernet reproduced some key photos from the past history of the Dispro. These were mounted on clear rigid plastic. Then a team of skilled designers, woodworkers and a part time safety co-coordinator arrived in Gravenhurst to design and construct portable easels for the display of the panels. Our thanks to Art Clarke and Dennis Howchin for their efforts.

The portable display was used in our display at the Gravenhurst Boat Show and then taken to the Muskoka Power Show. It will next appear at the M.L.A. Show in Port Carling on August 9. Our thanks to Jim Onions for providing storage and delivery services. Along with the display, the M.L.A. Show will feature a sample of three of the Dispro manufacturers. Our thanks to the MLA and the boat show committee for their support in featuring our boats.

Next years major celebration at Port Carling has been tentatively planned for August 8th 2015, subject to several agreements. In the next issue of the Device we will provide further announcements.

Ian Dickson



A Rallying Call

Bob Burk has the right idea. With the 100th Anniversary of the Dispro just around the corner, let's all get ready to blow our collective horns and spread the word. Let's make it a year to remember!

DOA Shirts Make a Great Christmas Gift for any DOA Member

We will be placing an order for the blue and white striped shirts that were previously sold to members. These shirts will have the embroidered DOA logo. Shirts can be ordered in long or short sleeve style.

Please email: mstorey@cogeco.ca or phone (705-684-9560) Mary Storey to order your shirt by February 1, 2015 for payment and delivery at the AGM in late April 2015.

Sizes: **Mens:** Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL **Womens:** Small, Medium, Large, XL
Long Sleeve = \$34.00 Short Sleeve = \$32.00

Mary Storey

DOA Auction Report 2014

Five dollars bid, now six, seven, will ya give me eight. And so went the “bid calling,” “the auction cry,” “the cattle rattle” or “simply the auctioneering chant” at this year’s auction.

It was a night to remember. The auctioneering of Ray Profit and Sandra Turnbull was fast, fun and furious. No time was wasted. One, two, three – SOLD. Just that fast. In 1¼ hours we had sold a variety of wooden crafts, preserves, jewelry, Dispro clothing – hats, t-shirts, pullovers, lots of boat deck hardware, exhaust parts, Kingston carb, Canadian red ensign, Ray’s wooden Dispro boxes, hand painted lamp, mooring rings, weed whacker, special spark plug, pictures, martini flask, engraved glasses, maple syrup, Reid’s world famous chocolates, a full set of Dispro seat cushions, the list went on. When an item was sold to the highest bidder and there happened to be several of the same item, when asked who else would like one at the same price, the auction paddles popped up like ostrich heads. The donations were of excellent quality and several couples were very generous with their donations as well as their purchases.

I was concerned as to how we would do financially with the smaller attendance at this year’s regatta but we cleared \$2,684 which included \$275 generously donated by Rachel and Barb from the weekend sale of their hand made cards. Absolutely excellent! Just to compare, the auction profits for 2010 were \$1,694 and for 2008, \$1,920.

I would like to **thank** everyone who participated as well as the team who helped me during the event. **Sold!**

Sheila Burk



Photo: Mary Storey

A Special Thanks

A special thank you must go to Gord Laco, distributor of Epifanes products in Canada. Gord very generously donates cans of “the good stuff” for our Annual Varnish Awards at the regatta. The DOA executive greatly appreciates the continued support of Epifanes.

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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