

ISSUE 36

THE DEVICE

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DISPRO OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.disproboats.ca



Photo: Gary Campaigne

Dippies line the docks of Clevelands House at the Annual Regatta, September 9-11.



President's Letter • October 2016

With the boating season over for most of us, I'm going to start with a brief reflection of this summer's events. The ACBS show in Gravenhurst was successful and congratulations are in order for Jim Onions and his Dispro for being the first Dispro to win Best of Show at Gravenhurst and later Eric Luks with his Dispro taking Best of Show at Clayton. Okay, I know that ego massage, judging and the petty politics that go along with it aren't part of the DOA's mandate, but to me it does help to elevate the status of the Dispro in other boating circles.

Next year's AGM will be on April 30th, 2017 to coincide with the ACBS Spring Tour for those who travel from far away. This is a week later than normal. Also, the 2017 regatta has been planned for Glen House in the Gananoque area on September 8, 2017. The registration form for the event will come out in the next mailing, but for those who want to register ahead for the hotel can do so directly. A \$200 deposit is required. The number is 613-659-2204.

Our membership stands at about 235 people and this fall I've met quite a few people who have just purchased a Dispro, and a few who are looking for one. The number of boats for sale seems to be shrinking at the moment. This brings me to my current rant for this newsletter .

As somebody who has restored boats for a living for 30 years now, the question usually comes up "What's it worth?" – then there is the matter of "what's it going to cost?" In my time restoring boats for other people I did have one customer who got a famous boat with the right pedigree and managed to find the right buyer and sell his boat for a one million dollar profit. All the power to him, but that is not the usual case. Your Dispro is not your TFSA or your RRSP! I could never understand where the mentality came from that lets most people accept an enormous depreciation on their car, but expect the wooden boat to be an investment that would outperform most indices.

A few years ago I restored a boat for a businessman who had incredible enthusiasm for the boat and the enjoyment that he got from watching it come together and the eventual use of it. Then came the time for my final invoice. I had prepared a statement and summary of the shop logs and every penny that had gone into it. It was a pretty thick pile of paper. When I presented it to him, he looked at me and asked if that was going to show the total of what he had spent on the boat? "Yes" I replied, "it's all broken down in here". He looked at me and told me that he really didn't want to know what he had spent and that I should keep the statement because it would probably make him afraid to drive the boat. I know that there are also people who need to know what every screw and nail costs. I have a file folder full of bills recording what I've spent on the my boats, should the day ever come that the government wants to share in the sale price of my boat, and I want to deduct what it costs, but to date I have never added them up.

When I built my Dispro 'Carolina', people used to come into the shop and comment that I would know exactly how much it would cost to build a Dispro. My reply was usually that when it becomes about how long it will take and how much it was going to cost, then it becomes work. If I'm doing it for somebody else then it becomes my ethical obligation to be meticulous about costs and documentation of that. The problem with letting your hobby become your business is that it can ruin your hobby.

All I know is that building Carolina took 4 years of my spare time instead of the one year that I thought it would. And, then there was the drive and the weekend in Northern Michigan to chase down a lead and source the engine; the drive to North Carolina to buy a lathe and some tooling so that I could make the gas shut off valve for the dash; introducing myself to Bob Skinner and persuading enough people to buy copper water jackets, and then back to Bob and convincing him to make a few now that more people wanted one, and that it would be worth his while; the drive to Florida to source some real old growth cypress, then having it shift inside of the covered U- Haul trailer and jamming the door shut; the trip to Perth, Ontario to get a guy to make the priming pump knob. From a business point of view this was insane, but what a great bunch of experiences that I can think of every time that I use the boat.

Bottom line is that I haven't regretted one penny that I spent and have had 10 years of enjoyment from the boat to date. When discussing the whole investment perception thing with Ian Dickson, he added another great observation, that he could not put a price on the value of the wonderful experiences and friendships that he had gained just from owning a Dispro. If you're not planning on selling it, then it's priceless.

Mike Windsor

Order Your New Permanent Name Tags

Are you tired of those sticky name badges that fall off or forgetting the names of fellow club members – well . . .

The Dispro club will be purchasing individual name tags which can be worn at all Dispro events. These tags will be magnetic, printed with the club logo, along with your name. The cost per tag will be \$5.00.

You can order your tag when you renew your membership for 2017, later this fall. Look for the application form on the **renewal form** and add an additional **\$5.00 per tag**, along with your renewal fee.

The **deadline** for name tags requests will be **March 31, 2017**, allowing time to have them made before the AGM in April. The name tags will be available for pick up at the AGM and at all club events next year.

Barb Dickson



38th Annual Dispro Regatta

Clevelands House, Lake Rosseau • September 9-11, 2016

The Annual Regatta was again held at Clevelands House Minett, Muskoka. Over 45 boats participated along with over 100 people. The weather was beautiful all 3 days!

Friday, found lots of help at the launching docks with the Burk family, John Storey, David Deardorf and crew. For those of us with stiff upper joints, poor trailering and launching skills, it is very consoling to know that there are these experts to take over or guide us.

After launching, several couples, and children were found swimming at the beach and amongst the water toys. Exuberant adults loved the water slide. Water was warm enough!

Friday's buffet dinner was held in the Porch Room where all congregated on the deck or at the table to enjoy old and new friendships. Our president Mike Windsor addressed the crowd and prepped them for the following day's journey. Paul Doddington instructed captains where and where not to go, with lots of details for areas around Brackenrig Bay and around San Souci. Of course some may not have heeded his warnings.

What is your favourite boating lake in Muskoka? Rousseau seems to be an unbeatable beauty with its many islands, coves, hide-aways, pines, places to visit, and fascinating waterways. Saturday saw the launch of the parade of Dippies towards Port Carling in decent weather. It is still as intriguing as the first time I saw it in 1960. The Old Muskoka still remains along side the upsurge of the New.

We lucked out in Port Carling to have our boxed lunches at the picnic tables under the overhang at the main dock while the rain came down. Rain over, we took off for the second part of our journey to discover more islands around San Souci (formidable tales), Windermere House, and those unforgettable sailing boats and boathouses. Lots of history in these parts.

The Wine and Cheese this year was pretty hard to beat. Helen and Stan Byrne put many hours into making this a special occasion for us. All kinds of goodies and those homemade



Photos: Robert Clipsham

Three generations of Ottos enjoying the cruise. Start them young and get them hooked on Dipping.

by our members were especially appreciated. Balloons and blue hydrangeas set the scene for a great party and dinner.

Auction Time! Gregarious Sandra Turnbull and the Prophet family were the capable auctioneers . . . "turning prophets". Sheila Burk along with her capable crew (Pam, Ronda and Mary) ran a smooth auction. We did like the turn of profits, even though Ian Dickson may not have liked his absentee ownership of items.

Rendezvous Sunday found us on the upper shores of Lake Rosseau with many more beautiful homes, new and old, to admire but most of all the scenery itself. On the way back, the winds and water got a little more choppy and challenging.

The Races this year consisted of 2 heats. The first heat: Keith Billet with crew Eric Luks, Ian Tucker with crew Mike. It was decided that Keith won the race but with some deviousness (once Ian grabbed the balloon he was told by Luks that he had to go around the island). The second heat: John Storey, Gary Campaigne (crew – the exhausted Ian Dickson extended across the boat). Winner – Storey. Ran out of time for finals.

Here are the coveted Varnish Awards:

Paul Gockel – racing heart – sure glad they let you out of the hospital for Saturday – no more turkey jerkeys

Jake Fulmer – Burk's 13 year old grandson for his superior docking skills

Ian Tucker – long distance award, from Keewatin, Northern Ontario (Kenora), not to mention the other long distance around the island in the race

Prophet Family – A+ effort for buying and installing new battery in Port Carling at lunch

Bob Burk – ran without greasing the motor

Silvia Sumner – landed on a rock and the boat had to be lifted off by Jim Butler

Art Clarke – left the gas valve open and the bilge pump running all night – ran out of gas Sunday morning

There could have been a couple of other awards but persons involved were happy it happened after awards.

Vice-President Helen Byrne addressed the Dispro group laying out some exciting plans for a Regatta at Glen House next September. She also encouraged all to attend the Workshops on October 15, 2016 in Gravenhurst at Grace & Speed.

Another successful Regatta!

Ann Verth





Dispros at the Antique Boat Museum • Clayton, NY

52nd Annual Antique Boat Show & Auction, August 4-7, 2016

Photo: Mary Storey

Excitement was in the air as the Dippies arrived in Clayton. Twenty-three of our prized boats were in the water and on land, exhibiting all of their shining features. No wonder the museum chose them as the star of the show.

ABM staff and friends extended warm hospitality to us. Some took advantage of a cruise of the Thousand Islands Thursday afternoon. Friday, most of us attended a Picnic Dinner Cruise to Rock Island Lighthouse . . . great cruise, great history, great food and most of all great company, to send us off for an unforgettable weekend.

Saturday's intrigue was the Auction. Eric Luks could not resist (Cynthia sat 500 yards away trembling) bidding on the Butson Boat, a Gentleman's Racer. Someone else got that one and Cynthia was happy. No one would miss any part of that famous auction.

Some toured 'La Duchesse', and other grand boats, some listened to historical lectures and some gave lectures. Ian Dickson gave a lecture on the unique features of the Dispro. Mary Storey presented the history of the Disappearing Propeller Boat. We were proud of both of our members as they answered many questions and had many accolades. The day was followed by a Reception and Boat Show Dinner plus a Retro Block Dance in the streets.

Sunday we all attended the Friends of the Museum Brunch followed by the awards. This weekend the Dispros were judged. Trophies and plaques were awarded to:

Cynthia & Eric Luks	Auntie May (1917) 2 awards
Mike Windsor & Ronda Turner	Carolina (2007)
Gary & Rachel Campaigne	Crumpet (1952)
Nelly & Mike Krzyzanowski	Charm (1919)
Kathy & Bruce Marsden	Scout (1951)
Gail & Wes Van Dine	Bounty (1950)

Congratulations to each and every one of our participants. Many of our members took part in the Grand Parade from ABM to downtown Clayton waterfront. It was a beautiful sight to behold and a fitting memory for us all to remember.

Ann Verth

Gravenhurst Fall Workshops 2016

Wowzers! Gorgeous weekend, great workshops and great instructors! Men and women had two workshops to choose from: "Dippy Maintenance" or "Card-Making 101".

Downstairs, Mike Windsor led the way with varnishing. Stripping and sanding must be done with care, but not to get too fussy – such as taking the ribs off and varnishing behind them. Keep the varnish up, don't let it get past the point of no return and use the best varnish you can. Ian Dickson and Dennis Howchin demonstrated how to optimize your Dippy for speed, touching on motor coupling, shaft alignment and propeller issues. Paul Dodington demonstrated magneto cleaning techniques.

All Tom, Eric and Robert wanted to know was how to get the boat in and out of the water without major damage. Cape Vincent, NY member Michael Bashaw, videoed the whole show for himself and others. Good to have our American friends here and involved.

Upstairs in the Muskoka Discovery Centre found a group of ambitious women involved in Card-Making 101. Our member instructors Rachael Campaigne and Barb Dickson spent hours preparing for us to learn the techniques behind our beautiful handmade cards. Simple, step-by-step instructions helped all experience a variety of techniques to include watercolours, embossing, paper cutting, block printing, photo cards. These were applied to Birthday, Halloween (Cynthia was our in house artist), Thank You and the most popular Christmas Cards. It looked like Ellie won the prize for the most cards completed and originals were scored by several members.

Lunch was enjoyable and it disappeared in a hurry. It was an appreciated break. As these special workshops only occur once every two years, we look forward to the next in 2018.

Ann Verth

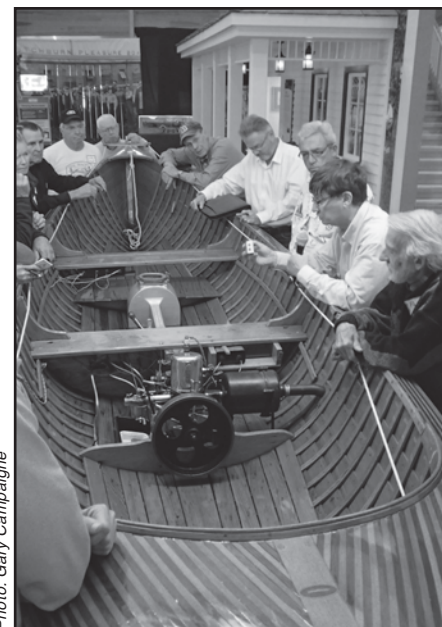


Photo: Gary Campaigne



Photo: Ian Dickson

UUMMTs for 2017

Lake of Bays Starting in Dwight, Muskoka explore the north end of this beautiful lake. Marsh's Falls, the Oxtongue River, lunch at a beautiful cottage and Portage Bay are all part of the day's travels.

Parry Sound Harbour and Killbear Provincial Park Starting at a Parry Sound town park, cruise to the beautiful beaches of a provincial park for lunch and back to the active harbour of Parry Sound.

Celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday on the Trent Waterway Image a lift lock filled with Dispros. This will be our treat thanks to Parks Canada and their free gift of 'no' lock fees next summer.

Dates and full details will follow in the March 2017 issue of the Device.

Mary Storey



Photo: Gary Campaigne

The absolute last thing you want your flywheel to do is, well . . . fly! Paul Dodington, the Dippy Doctor, performs a "key" procedure on Prior Smith's 1921 Dispro to ensure its flywheel doesn't get launched over the side of the boat and end up on the lake bottom. We all accept the concept of the "disappearing propeller", but a disappearing flywheel doesn't bear thinking about. Regatta 2016.



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