

## Dory Project Chat Sheet #7: On Building Outdoors...

Bob Davis

Deciding to build the boat outdoors, because of insufficient covered space to build this big boat indoors, meant I had to contemplate protection of the boat from bad weather – and protection of myself from same, and also from the cancerous Sun.

In theory, summer ought to be better as a period for building a boat outdoors than winter, but we all know the havoc that summer storms can wreak.

In terms of protecting the plywood and timber, I decided that nothing goes near the boat site outdoors until it has been epoxy saturated – with lots of attention to ply edges - and that work all happens under cover, in the shed. That ought to mitigate the potential risks of rain-carried rot spores getting in during the construction stage. A little rain thus won't do any harm.

However - hot sun and still-curing epoxy are not necessarily a good mix, and the epoxy needs to be given a good UV resistant primer and paint covering. Shade is essential until that can be done.

A couple of years ago, when my son had his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party, I bought a couple of metal tube framed 'temporary carports' from an Auto shop, and I used them together to create a big marquee outside for the youngsters to revel in. I still have them, and their covers – and a spare roof cover, so I didn't need to acquire another solution for the problem of cover for the site.

You can buy these temporary carports for just a few hundred dollars, and spare roofs are well under a hundred dollars, so they're a very cost-effective approach for temporary cover for a boat building site.

End-to-end these create an adequate cover for the evolving boat structure. A few star pickets cunningly located with the posts gets rid of the problem of guy ropes and camp-style pegs everywhere. A boat building site doesn't need trip wires.

Time will tell how well this cover system works.



Note the green nylon-coated wire as a ground-level centreline,  
the temporary uprights and the concrete paving slabs

The one fiddly bit with the temporary carports is timing! Yes, I needed the shelter erected early; but I couldn't erect it until the hull was constructed to the stage where the topsides are connected to the stem post, and at least to the transom frame.

After connecting the topside sheets to the stem post, you have a giant Vee shape to deal with! Any carport uprights would simply be in the way, until the stern ends of the topside panels are connected to the transom frame, then the structure is stabilised with the widest beam frame.

Once that was done, the structure could be positioned onto its planned support positions, over the centreline – and then the carports were erected. Until the time came to connect the topsides panels to stem and transom frame, they remained sheltered, and it was important to pick a good weather day as “connection day”. It's all in the timing and sequencing.

In my yard I have a stretch of lawn directly in front of the old shed that's reasonably level, with a firm sub-structure pressed down by years of vehicle traffic into the shed.

As station frames with their temporary cross beams are added into the hull, frames at regular intervals will have temporary vertical support struts attached to the bottom beam of the frame and its temporary cross beam.

The top end of the stem post, and the bases of these vertical frame support struts all rest on concrete paving slabs set into the lawn area. These slabs will be recycled later to pave a BBQ area.



Temporary carport structures for site cover