

Calendar of Event Updates

- Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> ,7:30 pm, Monthly Meeting.

Anyone interested in volunteering for these events please call the SPLASH hotline. (516) 378-4770

Meetings held first Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM at

Freeport Recreation Center  
130 East Merrick Road  
Freeport, N.Y. 11520  
(516) 378-4770

**OPERATION SPLASH on the web!**

Visit us on the web at [www.operationsplash.net](http://www.operationsplash.net) to download the newsletter, check out info on our latest events, pictures, and links to other pertinent information.

If you are interested the accessing the SPLASH newsletter via the website or e-mail so we can save on postage, please email and let us know! The SPLASH newsletter is always looking for information. We welcome your input! Anyone with a story idea, thoughts, questions or comments, write to Splash at our new email address: [operationsplash@optonline.net](mailto:operationsplash@optonline.net)



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
FREEPORT, NY  
PERMIT NO. 30

**SPLASH** Mailing Address:

Operation SPLASH  
PO Box 228  
Freeport, NY 11520

Telephone: 516-378-4770

Website [www.operationsplash.net](http://www.operationsplash.net)

E-mail: [operationsplash@optonline.net](mailto:operationsplash@optonline.net)

SPLASH is an all-volunteer

Not-for-profit organization

**OUR MISSION:** To provide a solution to the growing problem of waterfront pollution through public education and individual participation.



# SPLASHnewsletter

Volume 16 Number 4 A Publication of SPLASH, Freeport, NY, USA

October 2006

**Skipper's Log...**

Well folks, looks like we can add another notch in the main mast of the good ship *SPLASH*. We were voted by The South Shore Estuary Reserve Council (SSER) to receive the very prestigious 2006 Environmental Group Stewardship Award. As always, we appreciate all of the citations, declarations and proclamations we have received in the past but this one was especially gratifying and a darn good reason to throw a party. So on September 20 the hard working *SPLASH* Captains and their crews along with members of the SSER council boarded the magnificent Nautical Princess, which was completely, donated by Capt. Mike Dannon and the staff of The Nautical Cruise Lines for a day on the bay. We cannot thank them enough.

We headed out of Woodcleft Canal under clear skies. The three levels and the height of the boat made for excellent viewing and the 130 plus people on board got to see a bird's eye view of one of the most spectacular places on earth; the salt marshes of the South Shore. Along the way we received many complements on how clean the marshes looked considering we live in a very heavily populated area. As we headed west, we were greeted by Captain Rob in the Wantagh boat with the big *SPLASH* red, white, and blue kite flying high aloft, it was quite a seen.

The atmosphere on board was fun and relaxing as Captain Mike Dannon piloted the large vessel through some back bay area's and right into Baldwin and Freeport's waterfront giving the folks a real understanding of the bay and its close relation to the bumper to bumper houses along the waters edge. As we rounded Waterfront Park towards the end of our "three hour tour," I realized how far we have come since Mr. Grover and his daughter Joanne dipped that first net into the water and how many thousands of times it has been repeated since then. That was over 225 tons of garbage ago. We have come along way in 16 years and have lots to be proud of. So to all my fellow keepers of the bays, please take a moment and know that our hard work is greatly appreciated. I can't wait to sea what we can accomplish in the next 16 years.

- Sea ya on the water ...Rob

**OFFICERS**

**President**  
Rob Weltner

**First Vice President**  
Don Harris

**Second Vice President**  
Stefanie Reis

**Third Vice President**  
Skip Zawrotny

**Recording Secretary**  
Peggy Laibach

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Deborah Murphy

**Treasurer**  
Kathie Stella

**Publicity Director**  
Don Miller

**Education Committee**  
Don Harris

**Newsletter Staff**  
Stefanie Reis  
Ann Tarantino

**Director of Film Operations**  
Tom McCavera

**Webmaster:**  
Al Isaacs

Email:

[operationsplash@optonline.net](mailto:operationsplash@optonline.net)

Visit our web site at  
[www.operationsplash.net](http://www.operationsplash.net)

## August 2006 SPLASH Meeting Recap

(Kathy Stella, Treasurer, Stefanie Scherner, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, absent)

Previous meeting minutes were read and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current account balance was reported.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report – Don Harris

Don received a letter from Fairfield Schools thanking him for the SPLASH presentation. He also reported that Team Tuesday never knew about the inception of SPLASH; so he explained that it was a concept of one woman; Joann Grover; her vision has brought this project to fruition.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Stefanie Scherner;** No report.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Skip Zawrotny

The marshes are yielding a lot of heavy material; the canals are pretty clean. Skip said the alternate Captains are working out well. And, there is a new Captain for Sunday who should be available soon. He also reported that the parts for the Wantagh boat didn't come in so they bought a new engine. Bill Norton asked for copies of the Captains list to be put in the boat for crew members to take.

### Wantagh/Bellmore

Gary offered to contact the local newspapers to try to recruit new Captains. Gary introduced Michelle Sanders who is with the boy scouts and hopes to work on joint projects with SPLASH. (The troop chose SPLASH as their charitable cause). The troopers will get their merits for working on coordinating projects; and we will get 10% of their annual garage sale proceeds. Skip asked her to network with the troopers' dads to find Captains. She also offered their dunking booth space for SPLASH at the Bellmore Street Festival. Gary would like to put together a Fire Island Lighthouse private tour for September.

### Point Lookout

Jerry reported that the crew hasn't been having a good year; but that they are looking forward to putting the storm drain decals around their town.

### President's Report

Rob gave Bill Norton the Citation that SPLASH got from Dave Denenberg and the Nassau County Legislature.

Wantagh boat's got a new engine installed at Outboard Service. The cost of the 115 hp motor with a 7yr warranty is almost \$8,000. Bill added that "Outboard service" did not charge for the installation. Rob also reported that we sold the waverunner for \$3000. It had only cost us \$250 in repairs.

SPLASH has been chosen as the representative at the Marine Trade Environmental committee. In that role, Rob's been working with them on developing a new bottom paint machine. The new design will be tested over at Dante Grover's. It should prove relatively inexpensive and more environmentally friendly than the other machine currently being used. SPLASH will be getting a royalty on each machine that's sold. SPLASH got a \$500 donation from the Freeport Chamber of Commerce last night.

Big news of the night: The DEC released statistics regarding the sewage treatment plants that has been reviewed by the Weidner College law students. They forwarded a synopsis to Rob that gave the last (2) years violations of the local facilities. A lengthy discussion followed with Rob reading about the various violations.

The membership agreed to table the issue so Rob could have time to research how to go about handling the information. One of the sensitive points raised was the timing of the release of the information, given the November election for local officials, as well as obtain better understanding of the impact of the violations.

Weidner College has already offered to sue Jones Beach Sewage Treatment Plant themselves.

**No new business.** Meeting was adjourned 8:49pm

## Captains Corner

By Skip Zawrotny

We've had a good summer....the Bellmore/Wantagh boat is back in action thanks to Bill Norton and his crew for refurbishing a donated garvey, to Outboard Services for cutting us a great deal on a new Evinrude ETEC outboard and Rob DiGiacomo, Vic Consiglio and Joe Schibani for getting a clean-up schedule started.....

We are in dire need for additional Captains and crew members to man the Wantagh boat and expand the sailing schedule. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who may be available to fill our roster please contact the Captains above to make arrangements....the Freeport boat is also looking for new crew members and alternate Captains. Please contact me if your interested. Both boats continue to make a big impact on the way our waterways look.....We are really making a difference.....THANKS for your efforts!

---

Note: The pump-out station at Short Beach/West End Boat Basin is operational and (3) cleats have been installed recently at the site to facilitate its use.

### Making a Difference..

A small boy lived by the ocean. He loved the creatures of the sea, especially the starfish, and spent much of his time exploring the seashore. One day he learned there would be a minus tide that would leave the starfish stranded on the sand. The day of the tide he went down to the beach and began picking up stranded starfish one by one and tossing them back into the sea. An elderly man came along and asked the boy what he was doing. "I'm saving the starfish," the boy proudly declared. When the man saw all the stranded starfish, he shook his head and said, "I'm sorry to disappoint you young man, but if you look down the beach one way, there are stranded starfish as far as your eye can see. And if you look down the beach the other way it's the same. One little boy like you isn't going to make much of a difference." The boy thought about this for a moment. Then he reached his small hand down to the sand, picked up a starfish, tossed it out into the ocean and said, "I sure made a difference for that one!"

---

SPLASH would like to give a special thanks again to The Nautical Cruise Lines and Captain Mike Dannon for their generosity in hosting the award presentation. The food, staff and cruise was outstanding!

Thanks again to Rick's Marina on Bedell Street, Freeport for their support and generosity in donating the fuel for our Freeport SPLASH boat.

We would also like to thank:

- B&R Canvas of Woodcleft Avenue, Freeport for their continued support and diligence
- Mark Burford and Pete Cotter and the Blue Point Brewing Co.
- Ken Budny and the Brookhaven Bayman's Association for their donations on the cruise.

Congratulations to Mr. Wilfred Kleisler for receiving the individual stewardship award! Just goes to show how one person can make a difference.

The members of *Operation Splash* announce with deep regret the passing of Captain Vern Meyer. He was one of the "good ones". He will be sorely missed not only by all his crew members but by all the creatures in the bay. We thank all those who donated to *Operation Splash* in his name.