

Calendar of Event Updates

- **Tues., April 4th, 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

Another SPLASH Holiday party success!

Thank you to all those who have contributed their time and efforts to have made our Holiday and end of the year party such a huge success!

OPERATION SPLASH on the web!

Visit us on the web at 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



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SPLASH Mailing Address:

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PO Box 228
Freeport, NY 11520

Telephone: 516-378-4770

Website www.operationsplash.net

E-mail: 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 1 A Publication of SPLASH, Freeport, NY, USA

April 2006

Skipper's Log...

Are you part of the solution or just watching from the bleachers? ...This is a question I would like you to ask yourself. I sincerely hope you don't think it doesn't matter. I can tell you from experience that you DO matter. Every member of *Splash* is extremely important to the cause of clean, safe, fishable waters. We have gotten so much accomplished lately because we have so many members and, our elected officials recognize the amount of votes we can influence. It is like F.D.R. said, "walk softly and carry a big stick." People... you are the big stick! As a matter of fact you are so important that at the last board of directors meeting it was decided that *Splash* is going to help you stay on board by lowering the dues. Effective for 2006 all individual memberships will be \$10 and all businesses will be \$25. That's all you have to do to become part of the solution. Just look at what we accomplished last year...

Boat results for 2005 season...in 171 trips we gathered 543 barrels of garbage...449 bags of garbage...1403 pieces of wood...482 pieces of Styrofoam...4 propane tanks... 20 plastic pails...10 hatch covers...5 coolers...5 telephone poles...4 boat gas tanks...3 mail boxes...18 plastic chairs...a couch, a mattresses, 3 doors, 5 BBQ's, 3 TV's... 6 boat seats... 7 abandoned floating docks (that Wild Bill Norton's crew had to bring chain saws and winches to drag off the marshes), an old 16'boat...a podium, yes a podium and a bunch of traffic barriers.

If that is not reason enough to have you running for your check books here are some other projects we are also working to address. We're meeting with the E.P.A. and other government agencies to address the sewage treatment plants that are dumping millions of gallons of effluents into our waters every day. Our education programs reach out to hundreds of students and adults every year. Be part of the solution! It's time to renew your membership and renew your involvement... just come to the meetings to hear all the great things going on. It is so important we all stick together. Great things get done this way!

Sea ya on the water...Rob

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operationsplash@optonline.net

Visit our web site at
www.operationsplash.net

November 2005 SPLASH Meeting Recap

(Treasurer, Kathy Stella, 2nd VP, Stefanie Reis, 3rd VP, Skip, absent)

Treasurers Report

Current account balance was provided. \$4,200 has been paid for work to the boats. We now have (1) boat and (1) wave runner up for sale.

1st Vice President – Don Harris

Reported that the Wantagh SPLASH boat partially sank during the bad rains in October. Don got help for its recovery from Nassau County Marine Bureau. Rough estimate of the damage is \$400 to the engine and \$4,000 in lost electronics; but we were lucky that the main electronic brain of the engine did not go under water.

President’s Report

Rob reported that the old Wantagh SPLASH boat has been sold for \$1,000. Mill road trap collected 19 barrels of garbage during the heavy (4) days of rain. Don Harris added that he had contacted News 12 and the Leader re: the runoff problem caused by the rain. News 12 didn’t respond, but the Leader wrote an article about storm drain runoff and trap collections of floatables. Year-to-date, 125 barrels collected have been collected at the Mill Road site. Rob reported that he met with Nassau County maintenance reps re: traps to be installed at other county parks.

OPERATION SPLASH FUND “RAISER”.....RAISING THE BETTY ANN

For the last 5 years no one wanted to touch her. Her once proud bow, sticking just above the water line at low tide while her stern rested in the mud 17’feet down. The 30’ houseboat “Betty Ann” had been an eye sore and deal buster for years. Salvage companies had asked for a small fortune to raise her and no government agency would go near her. So when a friend of *Splash* asked for help, we couldn’t refuse. On a cold December night some *Splash* members got together to come up with a plan. After an exploratory dive and couple of drawings, showing how the boat was sitting on the bottom, a plan was born. It was decided to get two steel cables under the boat. Due to her deteriorating condition we were afraid that she would fall apart if we lifted anywhere else. The first attempt was a little rough, Betty Ann was leaning to starboard deep in the mud and the water temperature was 39 degrees. After several hours of working in the cold water with zero visibility the divers and topside crew called it quits for the day. The next day started out the same. The steel cable that was being pushed under the boat was deep in the mud and out of the divers’ reach. After lunch a second attempt to grab the cable took place. As the diver descended to the bottom all we on the surface could do was watch the other end of the cable to see if it moved. We were already talking about a different plan when Chip yelled that he saw the cable move. About 30 seconds later and full of mud our diver Les, surfaced with cable in hand! One down and one to go. With the deep stern cable now in place, we all thought the bow cable would be a breeze. Yea right. It would take 3 more days and the Freeport fire department, and a new dive boat to get the second cable under the Betty Ann’s bow.

It seemed to all of us that the boat just didn’t want to go. Now with the cables in place, Paul Nugent and sons was contracted to lift the old girl off the bottom. The day of the lift was warm and sunny by February standards. Some of the crew took the day off to see if she would float. We were all worried, would the steel slings hold? Would the big barge with the crane be strong enough to break the boat free from the suction of the mug? As the cranes cable and slings around the Betty Ann tightened, the barge started to lean way down in the water. The crane operator, Pat Nugent glanced over to all the folks on the dock. The boat was much heavier than we all thought. Pat waited a minute or two before he put more tension on the cables. Now with his barge and crane leaning dangerously low the Betty Ann started to roll to port and level herself for her ride up from the bottom. As soon as her gunnels were above the water Nugent’s crew manned the pumps and remove the water inside the boat to see if she would float on her own. As if to say enough already the now barnacle encrusted boat sat proudly as she was rigged to be towed back to Nugent’s Yard. Hand shakes and pints of beer were the order for the rest of the day (and a little into the night). As she was led down Hudson Canal for her last cruise you could not help feel some sadness for her. To think back to the day of her first voyage, it must have been grand, but like everything else...time leaves behind what cannot keep up. Operation SPLASH would like to thank the following SPLASH members for their help with “Raising Betty Ann”: Carl Laibach, Jack Collins, Chip Batcher, Ex-Captain Steve Cooke, Captain Scott Braun, Ex-Chief Lee Tucholski, Les Endo Jr and Sr and Tom McCavera for all the great photos and the neighbors on W. 2nd. To see some of the photos go to the SPLASH web site at operationsplash.net.

November 2005 SPLASH Meeting Recap (continued)

Re: the Storm drain decal project in October: Patrick Cooke, Eagle Scout, gave out 600 decals at his Eagle Scout project: he thanked the SPLASH membership who made up ¾ of the attendance that day. Jerry Glavin asked for decals in Point Lookout; Joanne Boe said that will be next project. Steve Cooke asked about the open-end (unfenced) side of Mill trap; Rob said that Village of Freeport hadn’t required a fence on their side.

Point Lookout Chapter

Jerry reported that the Bring Back the Bay news release will be circulated to newspapers. It contains “Public Awareness Bulletin #1 – ‘Did You Know?’”. (A copy of this release can be found our website: www.operationsplash.net.)

Old Business

Dave Denenberg said work orders have been issued for signs saying “No Fishing and Littering” at Milburn Creek. Gary asked about Mill Pond/Bellmore: Dave Denenberg said the project has already started with soil testing (which will help in determining dredging and disposal). The project will be completed in the summer. Marvin asked about litter at the Twin Lakes; Dave said that his office has already gotten letters on that problem

New Business

Rick Balla, representative from the EPA/NYC office, gave a presentation regarding responsible environment laws, the clean water and air act, and the Superfund Law. Rick explained that he works a lot with Peconic Estuary. He said that EPA has identified 28 estuaries as “essential” but they do not include our South Shore estuaries. He said that New York State has recognized the South Shore Estuaries as essential and the South Shore Estuary committee is the State authorized body overseeing this area. 50/50 was won by Rob. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

SPLASH MEMBERSHIP 2006 is Due

SPLASH relies on membership donations to help keep our boats running, offset the cost of our website & educational materials. If you haven’t already sent in your membership donation please make checks payable to:

(All donations are tax deductible)

**Operation SPLASH
PO Box 228
Freeport, NY 11520**

Individual \$10.00 Business \$25

Name: _____

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