

## Event Updates

Tuesday June 1, 2004

Monthly meeting. There will be a presentation by member groups of the Long Island Offshore Wind Initiative, see details inside.

Saturday, June 4 Noon-8  
& Sunday, June 5 Noon-6

Freeport Nautical Festival – Nautical Mile (Woodcleft Avenue)  
SPLASH Education Display in front of Seaport Museum  
**Volunteers welcome!**

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

Freeport Recreation Center  
130 East Merrick Road  
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

If you are interested the SPLASH newsletter via e-mail so we can save on postage, please email us with your name and e-mail address. The SPLASH newsletter is always looking for information. We welcome your input! Anyone with a story idea, thought, question or comment, tell us about it at [SPLASHnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:SPLASHnewsletter@aol.com)



**SPLASH** Mailing Address:

*Operation SPLASH*  
202 Woodcleft Avenue  
Freeport, NY 11520

Telephone: 516-378-4770

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

E-mail: [SPLASHnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:SPLASHnewsletter@aol.com)

**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

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June 2004

### **Skipper's Log...**

I'm sure you've all heard expressions like "what goes around comes around," "play with fire you're gonna get burned," etc. While these sayings may all ring true and, we may not like to admit it, there's a certain satisfaction when people who deserve it "get theirs." Here's a perfect example of payback.

Ever since the movie JAWS the shark has been tagged the villain of the sea. In all reality there could be nothing further from the truth. On average approximately 10 people are attacked by sharks every year. Most attacks are a case of mistaken identity. With wet suits on, we look like seals. On the other hand, it is estimated that humans kill approximately 60 million sharks every year. There are lots of reasons for this sad number of shark deaths. Swordfish long liners catch and kill untold numbers of sharks every year as well as other fisheries. But there is one particular method that is so cruel it's hard to comprehend. It's called fining. Fining is when a ship targets sharks solely for the purpose of cutting off their fins, throwing the sharks back in to die just for shark fin soup. It seems that in the Orient, shark fin soup has something special about it, some mystical powers. Yeah right.

Now here's the payback. Shark fins contain very high levels of mercury, 10 times the amount of mercury humans should consume. The rate of mercury poisonings in Japan has prompted a public health alert. Talk about paybacks!

The underlying question here folks, "Where does all this mercury come from?" Well. I'm glad you asked. Smoke stacks of old power plants in the Midwest pour million of tons of pollutants into the air each year. Their poison is carried by our nation's weather pattern from west to east. Many states in the Northeast have sued to stop this because the acid rain has wiped out fish populations in many upstate lakes. But some new changes to the clean air act within the last two years have given these huge energy companies a free pass not to have to reduce there emissions. And so it goes. Rain washes the air clean onto the surface of the sea where the food chain begins. The big fish eats little fish cycle starts and so on. This is why our federal Food and Drug administration (FDA) has issued mercury advisories for swordfish, shark, king mackerel and tilefish. Ten states have issued tuna eating guidelines. At the present rate, by the year 2007 your tuna fish sandwich will have enough mercury to be able to tell your temperature. To sum it up, for every action there is a reaction. These mentioned are just a couple of examples of what is happening to our world around us. What we do *does* make a difference. Think globally, act locally.

Hope to see you at the festival June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ...Rob

### 2003-2004 OFFICERS

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[SPLASHnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:SPLASHnewsletter@aol.com)

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## PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

We rely on a safe and abundant water supply for the health of our families and communities.

### What is the source of our water supply?

If you live in a large city, your source of drinking water is probably a lake, river, or reservoir. If you live in a rural area, your source of water may be ground water. In any case, your drinking water starts its journey to your tap from a watershed. A watershed is the land area that drains to a single body of surface water or to ground water. Everything that happens in the watershed can affect the quality of your water supply.

### What Happens in a Watershed That Can Affect Drinking Water?

Our drinking water resources are constantly under siege from multiple threats that directly affect water quality. Some are naturally occurring: storms, floods, fires. Most are caused by us: our activities at home, work and play.

Storm water Runoff is the single biggest threat to the health of our waterways. As this water washes off roofs, pavements, farms, and grassy areas, it picks up fertilizers, pesticides, litter, etc. and deposits them in surface water and ground water.

### Every Year:

- 67 million pounds of pesticides that contain toxic and harmful chemicals are applied to lawns.
- 230 million tons of municipal solid waste. Approximately 5 pounds of trash per person per day-of which contain bacteria, nitrates, viruses, synthetic detergents and household chemicals
- more than 12 million of our recreational and house boats and 10,000 boat marinas release solvents, gasoline, detergents, and raw sewage directly into the waterways.

### S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Hazards)

Many household products contain toxic or hazardous chemicals. Improper disposal of products such as antifreeze, drain cleaners and pesticides may result in contamination of Long Island's groundwater and drinking water. By bringing these product / containers to an S.T.O.P. collection drop off, you can make a significant contribution to the continued integrity of our ecosystem. For more info contact The Town Of Hempstead (516) 378-2200

### 2004 Schedule:

Sunday, June 13:	Bay Park, East Rockaway
Saturday, July 17:	Town Parking Field, Levittown
Saturday, August 14	Greenfield Cemetery, Uniondale
Saturday, September 18	Newbridge Park, Bellmore
Saturday, November 6	Baldwin Park, Baldwin

Skipper's Log continued from page 1

So here's Rob talkin' about power plants. Doesn't he help build those things for a livin'?! What a hypocrite! Hold on my friends let me explain, the power plants that are build today are much, much cleaner and fuel efficient than the older ones. So if you here of a power plant proposed in your area don't put up a for sale sign. Every new plant we build today will help put the old ones to pasture.

### Memorial Day Parade

The *SPLASH* boat will be in the Memorial Day Parade. We will be positioned right behind the Pilot Shop plane, covering their tail, if you will. The parade starts at 10 AM, but we are requested to be at the staging area by 9:15, Brookside Avenue at the Sunrise Hwy end. Anyone who wants to march behind or ride on the boat should **be there early!**

### Long Island Offshore Wind Initiative

At this month's *Operation Splash* meeting there will be a presentation by the member groups of the Long Island Offshore Wind Initiative, which consists of LIPA and a coalition of environmental and other stakeholder groups supporting the proposed 100 to 140 MW Offshore Wind Farm to be built off Long Island's south shore ([www.lioffshorewindenergy.org](http://www.lioffshorewindenergy.org)) . This project is of national and international significance because it may well be the first ever offshore wind project in America. This partnership has been working directly with LIPA for the past 2 years to help advance offshore wind technology and other renewable energy sources that will help meet our region's energy needs while improving public health and the environment. **Don't miss it!**

### Freeport Nautical Festival

Saturday June 5, noon to 8:00 pm & Sunday June 6, noon to 6:00pm. This annual festival typically draws over 100,000 people. This is a great way to expose *SPLASH* and potential members. We need volunteers!! Anyone interested in lending a hand, or two. Come on down...For more info call (516)378-4770. The location is Woodcleft Ave, Freeport just outside the museum. Set up is 9am. Please come down and help make a *SPLASH*!! **Don't forget to wear your *SPLASH* T-shirt.**

*Operation SPLASH* would like to thank Crabby Amies Restaurant (formerly CAPS) of Seaford for organizing their annual clean up .Once again there were plenty of volunteers to fill the town of Hempstead's barge with all kinds of garbage. Amy provided breakfast before the start of the day and a great buffet and refreshments after.

It's a great place to go for lunch or dinner with dock space if you want to go by boat.  
Call 516 783 2554