

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2006.04.21.R](#)

DATE: Reported Friday April 21, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off south Melbourne Beach just north of Sebastian Inlet Bridge, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

NAME: T. Davis Bunn

DESCRIPTION: He is a 54-year-old male and a bestselling author of historical and suspense fiction. The author of 14 novels, he has won numerous awards for his writing, and his books are frequent book club selections. He was raised in North Carolina, taught international finance in Switzerland, worked in Africa and the Middle East, and was named managing director of an international business advisory group based in Dusseldorf, and holds a writer-in-resident position at Oxford University in England. He lives part of the year abroad, but also has a home near Floridana Beach with his wife, Isabella, an international law and ethics professor at Florida Tech. He has been surfing for 40 years.

BACKGROUND

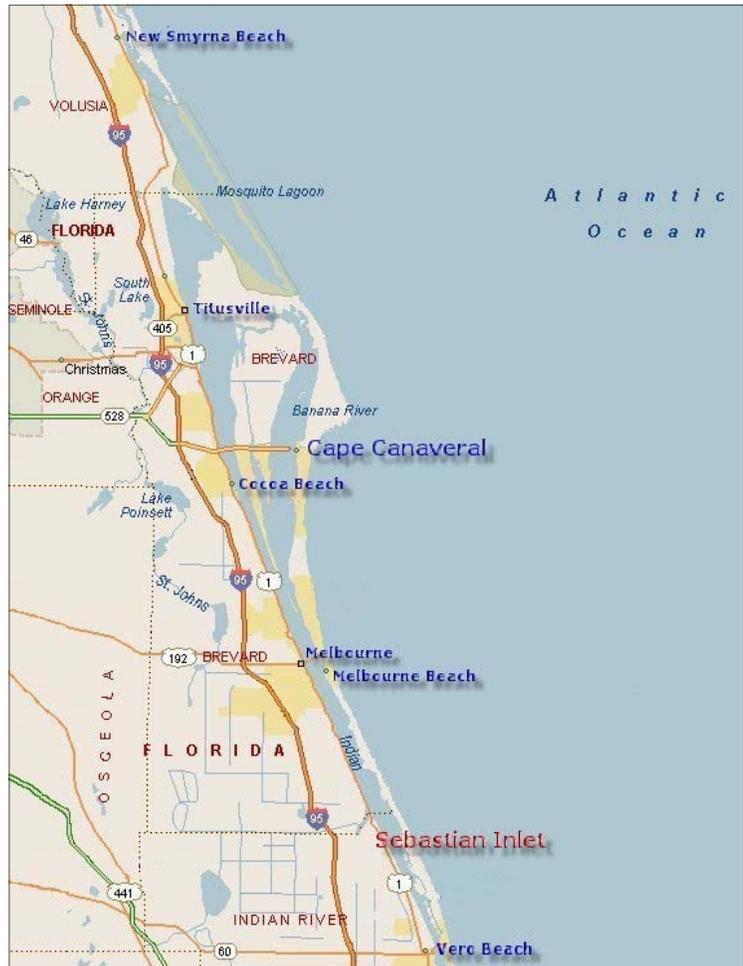
MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, April 20, 2006

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 metres

NARRATIVE: Davis Bunn said he was on a surfboard near Sebastian Inlet when a large shark bit his feet.

"Paddling out from a wave, I got hit from behind and never saw it," Bunn said. "(There was) no warning, nothing." After the incident, Davis managed to paddle to shore where he was assisted by fellow surfers. "There is that desire to go surf the waves by yourself, just you and nature and I will never do it again, never," Bunn said.

INJURY: The surfer's feet were bitten.



T. Davis Bunn



FIRST AID: The surfer made it back to shore without assistance, and some teen surfers helped him get through a long wooded area to a parking lot.

TREATMENT: He was taken to Holmes Regional Medical Center where the wounds on one foot were repaired with 100 stitches, and those on the other foot required 20 stitches. Then not wanting to worry his wife with a phone call, he drove home. Bunn may need an extra operation to fix two skin grafts. Doctors said Bunn may be able to make a complete recovery by the first of the year.

NOTES: Doctors have told Bunn he is recovering well, and Wednesday he received what he hopes are the final two skin grafts for his injured feet: 30 stitches remain on his left foot, 150 stitches on the right one.

After wrapping up his second visit to Holmes Regional Medical Center on Wednesday, he went back to his home near Floridana Beach. Relying on a walker lately, he said it's not clear when he'll be fully ambulatory. He also needs to be in bed for five days for the latest skin grafts to take hold.

SOURCE: Local 6 News