

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2007.10.07

DATE: Sunday October 7, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place at Venice Pier, Venice, Los Angeles County, California, USA.

NAME: Sam Bendall

DESCRIPTION: He is a 22-year-old male, a student from Los Angeles. He is 6'5" tall, and weighs 200 lbs. He was clad in a black wetsuit.

SURFBOARD: Orange

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: A bit foggy, little wind," according to the surfer. At 20h51, Santa Monica recorded clear skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 62.1°F [16.7°C], dew point 50°F [10°C], humidity 65%, sea level pressure 29.94 inches [1013.8 hPa], and no wind.

MOON PHASE: New Moon, October 10, 2007

SEA CONDITIONS: Glassy surface, one to three-foot wave sets. The water was "somewhat clear" but the surfer could not see the ocean floor. He said that he had seen seals, dolphins, rays and fish but noted no unusual behavior, nor did he observe any fishing activity in the vicinity. A friend had told him that sand sharks had been sighted recently in the area, but the surfer did not see any sharks prior to the incident.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place 30 to 40 feet from kelp

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 80 to 100 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: Four to six feet

TIME: 20h30 [8:30 p.m.]

NARRATIVE: Sam Bendall had been in the water for an hour. "I was surfing and began paddling back out when I felt a sharp stinging sensation on my left hand at the end of my paddle," said the surfer. I immediately reacted by pulling my hand out of the water and as I looked back and saw a brownish figure in the corner of my eye. It looked to be about three to four feet in length. I immediately headed for shore to assess any injuries I may have sustained."

INJURY: "I suffered minor bleeding but nothing deep. I have four scratch marks that are equally spaced in a half circular pattern on my left hand by the base of my thumb and wrist. The scratches range from the top one being the longest and deepest in length to the ones below it becoming shorter and less deep."

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: None required?



SPECIES: Not identified.

SOURCE: Interview with Sam Bendall

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier



Venice Pier

Venice of America was founded in 1905 by tobacco millionaire Abbot Kinney as a beach resort town, 14 miles west of Los Angeles. Several miles of canals were dug to drain the marshes for the residential area and he constructed a 1200-foot-long pleasure pier numerous attractions. The pier has rebuilt several times, and reopened again in 1997. It is "stronger than ever and sometimes it is too crowded with fishermen."