

ACTIVITY: Body boarding

CASE: GSAF 2010.10.22

DATE: Friday October 22, 2010

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean off the coastal hamlet of Surf, west of Lompoc on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County, California, USA. The accident site is 130 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

NAME: Lucas McKaine Ransom

DESCRIPTION: He was a 19-year-old male from Romoland, California, a junior in chemical engineering at UC Santa Barbara. He was wearing black swim fins and using a black and red board leash.

BOARD: Ransom was using a red bodyboard.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 08h55, Vandenberg Village, Lompoc, CA, recorded an air temperature of 54.3 F, dew point 52°F, humidity 90%, sea level pressure 30.05 inches, wind direction SE at 2 mph with gusts to 3 mph 90% and 0.00in. precipitation.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, 100% of the moon's visible surface was illuminated.

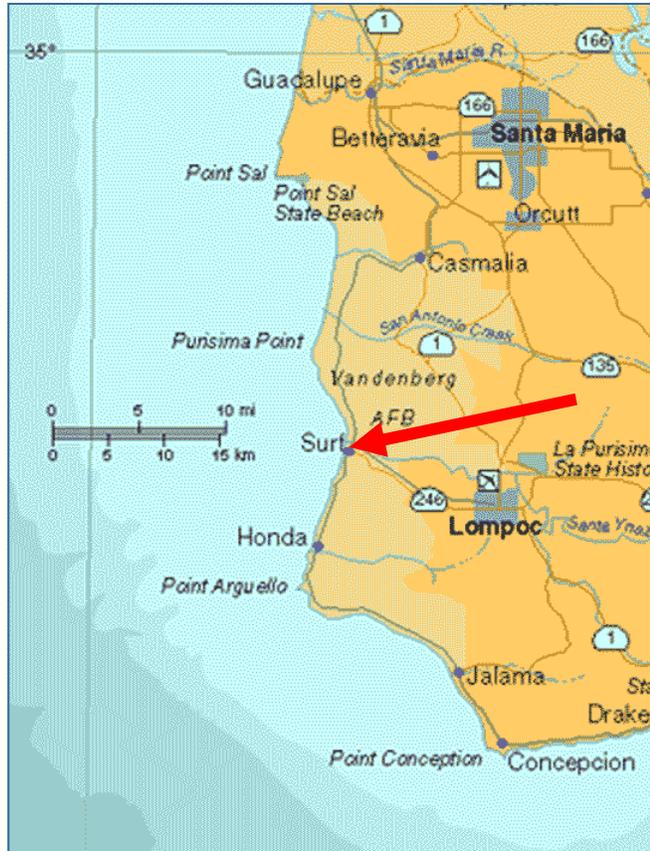
SEA CONDITIONS: The water was blue with good surfing conditions: 8- to 10-foot waves.

ENVIRONMENT: This is the time of year that many of the apex predators return from long open-ocean forays and begin to feed on seals and other pinnipeds at coastal and island rookeries off Central and Northern California.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 to 150 yards

TIME: 08h50

NARRATIVE: Ransom and his friend 20-year-old Matthew Garcia were boogie boarding on the break line. The two were only two or three feet apart when the shark surged up from below, grabbed Ransom's left leg, then pulled him below the surface. "It was really fast, said Garcia. As huge waves broke over his head, Garcia tried unsuccessfully to find his friend in the surf. Unable to locate Ransom, he decided to get help, but turned around again as he was swimming to shore and saw Ransom's red bodyboard pop



Lucas Ransom

up. Garcia swam to Ransom and did chest compressions as he brought him to shore. "He was just floating in the water. I flipped him over on his back and underhooked his arms. I was pressing on his chest and doing rescue breathing in the water," Garcia said. "He was just kind of lifeless, just dead weight." Garcia and two witnesses on the beach managed to bring Ransom to shore. After the accident officials at Vandenberg Air Force Base closed Surf Beach, Wall Beach and Minuteman Beach for a minimum 72 hours.

INJURY: Fatal. Ransom sustained a massive bite to his left leg, and was pronounced dead at the scene by VAFB Fire personnel who responded prior to arrival of the Coroner's detective, It is likely that Ransom died of massive blood loss while in the sea and before he could be brought to shore.

SPECIES: The attack involved a white shark, 17 to 18 feet in length and weighing around 4,000 pounds.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier



(AP Photo/Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department)

This photo, provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, shows the bite of a white shark on the body-board of Lucas Ransom,



This photo, provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, shows the bite of the shark on Lucas Ransom's boogie-board

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Surf Beach is located not far from Highway 1 and 240 where the road dead ends at the Vandenberg Air Force Base. There is an Amtrak Train stop that lets you off right at the beach.



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Scholarship Awarded in Memory of UC Santa Barbara Student Who Died in 2010 Shark Attack

SANTA BARBARA, Calif- As a way to honor a student who wanted to change lives, but whose own life was tragically cut short, UC Santa Barbara has awarded the inaugural Lucas Ransom Memorial Scholarship. Ransom was just 19-years-old when he was fatally injured by a shark while body-boarding at in northern Santa Barbara County.

Two students will each receive \$4,000 in tuition assistance from a fund established by the Ransom family as a tribute to their son. According to his Mother, with Lucas's study in pharmacology, and his passion for helping others, the scholarship fund seemed like the perfect way to honor her son.

The first two recipients are James G. Stanfill, a chemistry major from Oxnard, and John Adlin Scott, a chemistry major from Redding. Both Stanfill and Scott received their award Friday, the day before Ransom would have graduated.

"This is so meaningful and poignant, because Lucas would have been graduating, but, also, this is a celebration," mother Candace Ransom said. "The dream that Lucas had to help others is in the hearts and minds of these students, and they will have the opportunity to continue on where Lucas didn't get to. I feel so proud and honored to see this scholarship finally come through. I just know that each of these students has so much to offer, and they are such inspirational people. They have a lot of gifts and talents, and we hope they will go out and make a big difference in other people's lives."

Scott, whose undergraduate research has included work on a project to improve MRI technology, plans on going to graduate school and become a teacher. Stanfill hope to graduate school and pursue pharmaceutical research.

SOURCE: Kiki Jones, Central Coast News, June 18, 2011,
<http://www.kcoy.com/story/18817262/scholarship-awarded-in-memory-of-uc-santa-barbara-student-who-died-in-2012-shark-attack>