



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 1982.02.27](#)

**DATE:** Saturday February 27, 1982

**LOCATION:** The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean in Hobe Sound, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA.

**NAME** Richard Bauer

**DESCRIPTION:** An 18-year-old male from Hobe Sound.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, March 2, 1982

**ENVIRONMENT:** Next day the Hobe Sound public beach was closed following reports of a large school of sharks south of the Jupiter Island Club.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 yards

**NARRATIVE:** According to Richard Bauer the shark “came out of nowhere” and hit his hand. “I felt something hit the board. It grabbed my hand at the same time. It shook it back and forth a couple of times.”

**INJURY:** Lacerations to left hand and forearm.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Bauer paddled to shore, picked up his surfboard and ran south toward the Hobe Sound public beach where a lifeguard applied pressure to slow the bleeding and wrapped the surfer in warm blankets to prevent shock. It took surgeons more than three hours to repair damage to tendons and nerves in the surfer’s hand.

**SPECIES:** The surfer estimated the shark was four or five feet in length.

**SOURCE:** Palm Beach Post, Tuesday March 2, 1982, page 19

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# *He Surfed Despite His Fears Man Recovering From Shark Bite*

By Chris Kelly

Post Staff Writer

HOBE SOUND — The water turned crimson around Richard Bauer's surfboard as he paddled to catch a wave. He had always feared a shark attack, he said. It happened Saturday.

"I'd think about it every time I'd go out," he said.

The shark seemed to come out of nowhere and hit his hand, said Bauer, 18, of Hobe Sound. He knew immediately it was a shark attack and all he could do was close his eyes and hold onto his board, he said.

"I felt something hit the board," he said. "It grabbed my hand at the same time. It shook it back and forth a couple of times."

Bauer saw the dorsal fin and a gray flash just below the surface of the murky water. He estimated the shark to be about 4 or 5 feet long.

When the shark let go, he said, "I pulled my hand out. It was mangled. I looked at it and thought the shark would come back and hit again . . . I was very scared. All I could think about was catching a wave before he came back."

It was a long trip to shore — about 200 yards. He started paddling with both arms, caught a wave and lay on his board for the ride to the beach.

When he reached shore he picked up his surfboard and ran south toward the Hobe Sound public beach. A lifeguard applied pressure to slow the bleeding and wrapped Bauer in warm blankets to prevent shock.

It took surgeons more than three hours to repair damage to tendons and nerves in Bauer's left hand. He is expected to regain the use of his hand but may lose some feeling in his fingers.

The attack on Bauer was the second in the area in just more than four months. Van Horn Ely, of Jupiter Island, was attacked last October near the Jupiter Island Club while he and a companion swam about 30 feet offshore.

The shark bit Ely's hand and released it. He suffered tendon damage and lacerations to his forearm and hand.

Following the attack Saturday, the Hobe Sound public beach was ordered closed. It was closed again briefly Sunday, following reports of a large school of sharks south of the Jupiter Island Club.

Commercial fishermen reported seeing schools of 300 to 500 sharks in deep water off Martin County shores during the weekend.

At Jensen Beach, there have been a few sightings but no unusual influx of sharks has been reported, lifeguard Mike Holiday said.

"There's been a couple of sightings but they weren't really close to shore," he said. "It's nothing really different than normal. The surfer just wasn't lucky."