

ACTIVITY: Boogie boarding

CASE: [GSAF 1988.07.04.b](#)

DATE: Monday July 4, 1988

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°02'18.76"N, 80°53'40.63"W

NAME: Ray Bourgeois

DESCRIPTION: A 37-year-old male from Orlando.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 70% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, July 6, 1988.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was choppy and murky.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: No details

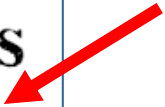
INJURY: Semicircular puncture wounds to lower left leg and foot.

TREATMENT: He was treated at Fish Memorial Hospital in New Smyrna Beach, then transported by private vehicle to Orlando Regional Medical Center.

SPECIES: Shark involvement suspected but not confirmed.

SOURCE: The News-Journal, Tuesday July 5, 1988, page 3C

20 taken to Halifax Medical with man-of-war sting wounds



The surf was a bit more friendly Monday than it was Saturday, in that there were fewer runouts and far fewer rescues by lifeguards, but what the surf brought with it still posed a hazard to swimmers.

About 20 people were taken to Halifax Medical Center Monday after they were stung by Portuguese men-of-war, and one man was treated for a possible shark bite, according to Division of Beach Safety spokesmen.

Lt. Tim Troian said lifeguards ran a total of 34 rescues with 33 victims, including the sting victims, compared to the 171 rescues and 312 victims Saturday and Sunday.

He explained that on a rescue call, more than one person (victim) could be pulled from the surf, accounting for the difference in the two figures.

Overall, he said, this year's holiday weekend along Volusia County beaches was busier than usual.

"Some rough surf, the men-of-war, the big crowds and incoming tides made for a busy weekend," Troian said.

In New Smyrna, a 37-year-old Orlando man was treated Monday afternoon for lacerations which may have resulted from a shark attack, Sgt. Mike Colee said.

Ray Bourgeois was boogie boarding in waist-deep water near Flagler Avenue when the attack occurred, Colee said.

Bourgeois suffered semicircular puncture wounds to his lower left leg and foot, the spokesman said.

Bourgeois was treated at Fish Memorial Hospital and then transported by private vehicle to Orange Regional Medical Center, an emergency room physician said.

"There's no way to verify that it was a shark attack," said Colee, but it was a "good-size wound." Smaller wounds are often inflicted by feeding fish, he said.

Most shark attacks occur in chest-deep water, he said, "because that's where the bathers are."

Colee said that the choppy, murky water made sightings very difficult and that he knew of no reports in the area.