

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: [GSAF 2006.06.30.b](#)

DATE: Friday June 30, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Florida Keys (Monroe County), a string of small islands southwest of Miami, USA.

NAME: Bebe Hall

DESCRIPTION: A 28 year-old female, the younger sister of Gary Hall.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 23% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, June 25, 2006. First Quarter, July 3, 2006.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Unknown, but Gary Hall usually goes spearfishing about three miles off the Florida Keys.

DISTANCE FROM BOAT: 200 metres or 215 yards



Bebe Hall

NARRATIVE: Gary and Bebe Hall were spearfishing when Gary speared a large snapper. Bebe spotted a large reef shark, so they decided to head back to their boat. Gary held the snapper out of the water while kicking on his back, as Bebe kept an eye on the shark that began to swim toward them. Suddenly, Bebe felt a bump on her shoulder. Unobserved, a second — and larger — shark had been attracted to the two divers. Bebe turned and saw the shark's head at her shoulder.

"Another shark, larger than the first one we saw, came in from the side and bit (Bebe) on the arm," Gary said. "I didn't realize Bebe had been bit before the shark was on me. It was swimming after me and thrashing and had its back arched in a frenzy mode." As the shark swam between Gary's legs he kicked at it punched its snout.

Gary yelled to Bebe to reload the spear, which she did, but with the shark between herself and her brother, she knew that if she missed the shark, she might hit Gary.

"I was eventually able to get underneath it and roll it off of me," said Gary. "That's when it charged toward my sister." Bebe had already been bitten, but she had reloaded her speargun. As the shark charged her with its mouth agape, she shot it. The spear went down the shark's throat. "This was our last weapon, and we had a ways to go to the boat," said Bebe, "so I pulled [the spear] out of [the shark]. The shark swam away and they managed to get back to the boat.

INJURY: Bebe was bitten on the left upper arm, sustaining a three-inch gash, two lacerations and a puncture wound.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The pair returned to the boat where Gary cut a sling which they

used as a tourniquet for Bebe's arm. Once it became obvious her injuries were not life-threatening, Gary said his sister was laughing on the way back to shore. In fact, Bebe joked about the incident to *Swimming World*, which first reported it online. "It was pure self-defense," she told the website. "It must be credited to the women's self-defense course I took my freshman year in college."

Bebe's injuries were repaired with 19 stitches.

SPECIES: A 1.8-metre black tip 'reef shark' (*C. limbatus?*)

SOURCES: Swimming World Magazine,
<http://www.swimmingworldmagazine.com/lane9/news/11533.asp>
Surfersvillage Global Surf News, July 19, 2006

