

ACTIVITY: Standing
CASE: GSAF 2007.09.04
DATE: Tuesday September 4, 2007
LOCATION: Sullivan Island

NAME: Rory Corr
DESCRIPTION: He is a 15-year-old male, a student at Bishop England High School on Daniel Island.

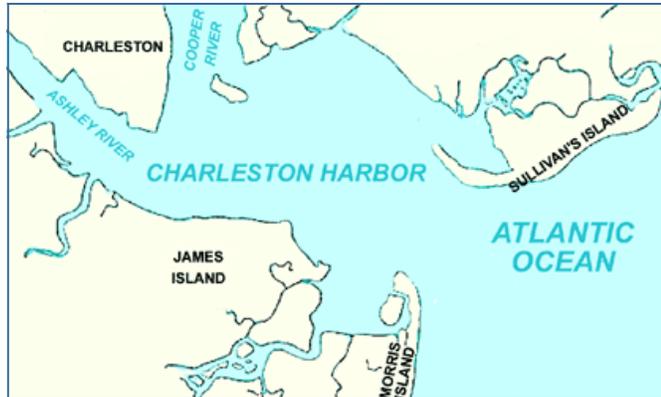
BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, September 11, 2007.

ENVIRONMENT: Sullivan's Island is a barrier island at the entrance to Charleston Harbor.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 8h30 [6:30 pm]



NARRATIVE: Rory was standing in the water, taking a break from riding the waves. He felt a powerful force of water and fins swirling around him. "When it swam it pushed the water everywhere," Rory said. Then something clamped down on both his legs. Rory yelled out to friend, Louis Duffie, 14, who was about six feet away on his surf board. "Louis, I just got bit by a shark."

Thinking it was a prank common since the days of 'Jaws' movies, Louis didn't believe what he heard even after Rory disappeared under water. The shark shook Rory like a dog playing tug of war, its teeth leaving streaking rips behind. Rory felt the teeth, but the pressure of his legs knocking together hurt most. He rose above the surface, and Louis saw the flap of a shark's tail and the water around Rory turn to a bloody cloud. "It was pretty terrifying," Louis said, "to see it happen."

The shark jerked Rory under again and let go. The incident was over in a matter of seconds. Rory grabbed on to Louis' board, and Louis paddled him to shallow water and ran to call for help.

INJURY: The shark had lacerated the left calf and both feet, nearly severing a toe.

FIRST AID: A passerby wrapped up Rory's calf with a T-shirt. Sullivan's Island Fire and Rescue Department arrived soon after, assisting until an ambulance arrived. Rory's mother, Victoria Corr, on her way to the beach, arrived about the same moment, seeing an ambulance and other emergency vehicles. "I was completely hysterical," she said. Rory had just lost his father, Phil Corr, to cancer two months earlier. "I couldn't believe anything like this was happening," she said. Firefighters stabilized Rory's wounds and brought Louis and the Corrs' family dog, Betty, home after the ambulance left to take Rory to MUSC.

TREATMENT: Clinicians stitched up the wounds and Rory left the hospital the next morning.

For the first few days after the incident, Rory could barely stand. Pitt Street Pharmacy lent

him a wheelchair so he could resume classes.

Louis' dad, Clay Duffie, encouraged the boys to thank firefighters publicly. "Very seldom do people ready to serve get much thanks," Clay Duffie said. But Rory stood up using the assistance of a walker at Sullivan's Island Town Council meeting and thanked the Sullivan's Island Fire and Rescue Department members including Fire Chief Anthony Stith for their assistance.

Lately Rory has been getting round by using a cane. And both teens' parents have restricted evening boarding. Both teens plan to keep surfing and swimming at area beaches.

SOURCES: Katie Crawford, Live 5 News, WCSC
<http://www.live5news.com/news/state/9578172.html>

Jessica Johnson, The Post and Courier, Wednesday, September 26, 2007

SPECIES: Not identified.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File