

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2012.03.14.a

DATE: Wednesday March 14, 2012

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

NAME: Nick Romano

DESCRIPTION: He is a 17-year-old male from Longwood, Florida.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 15h47, New Smyrna Beach recorded scattered clouds and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 77°F, dew point 60.8°F, humidity 57%, sea level pressure 30.23 inches, and wind direction was ENE at 8.1mph

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 51% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, March 14, 2012.

SEA CONDITIONS: Onshore breezes were creating textured/bumpy to semi-choppy conditions. The surf was three to four feet and clean. The sea surface temperature at 12h57 was 67° to 69°F. Mean high tide at 13h59.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 16h00 (accounts vary: one says 15h00, most say 16h00)

NARRATIVE: Nick Romano had just caught a wave when the shark bit his leg. “[The shark] spun up and gripped my leg,” said Romano. “I saw the full thing right in front of me. The tail whipped right in front of me, and I just pushed him off.”

INJURY: There was an arc of closely-spaced somewhat shallow lacerations to the right calf.

TREATMENT: He drove himself to Bert Fish Hospital in New Smyrna Beach where his wound was repaired with 17 stitches

SPECIES: Not identified. The shark was said to be about 4 or 5 feet in length.

SOURCES: WFTV.com, March 14, 2012; News 13, March 14, 2012; Click Orlando, March 14, 2012; Daytona Beach News Journal, March 14, 2012; WTSP.com, March 15, 2012, <http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/244845/19/Shark-Attack-Mother-watches-as-shark-pulls-daughter-under-water>