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Real-time sports news for Western Massachusetts

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Frank Sousa, Outdoors »

What fun it was being a decoy for great white sharks

By Frank Sousa
January 30, 2010, 5:18PM
Am I being pursued by great white sharks?



FRANK SOUSA

Our dune-hanging humble abode faces the tip of Cape Cod's Monomoy Island, where this past summer great whites feasted on an overabundance of seals. While shark attacks in our waters are as scarce as hens' teeth, I still found myself looking over my shoulder as I snorkeled and dove here and there.

When I saw the aerial photo of a great white this summer circling the seals in an area of ocean where our family fishes for stripers and blues from kayaks, I determined we should not drag our fish through the water on stringers. It would be like holding the door open to the chicken coop for the local entourage of fox and coyotes.

Rene Lariviere and yours truly, fishing from kayaks, had large stripers pull our small craft through the waters like giant tuna pulling large dories in a Casco Bay surf surging.

Rene's big bass actually pulled his kayak a good quarter of a mile. Can you imagine what speed a railroad size white could pull you at?

The sharks this past summer were tagged by our state marine biologists. In their wisdom the toothy ones apparently winter in Florida as great whites tagged here showed up there this January, according to Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Senior Biologist Greg Skomal.

So why the question whether or not these big brothers to behemoths are interested in me? It could be my fatso factor.

Back to last winter, I was the only one in the waters off Florida's Henderson Island when a woman entering the surf asked me to move out further. I was curious as to why she wanted me to move seaward, my having used a man's deodorant that a.m.

She informed me that she lived high up in a nearby condo and had spotted large sharks cruising just off shore and wanted someone between them and her. Makes sense. For her.

This peeved me for a moment, and I thought of taking a deep breath and swimming underwater unbeknownst to her and grabbing her thigh in a shark like grip. But then I wondered what I would look like without a scalp. But I did move between her and the shore.

Skomal is presently studying info gained on the Massachusetts electronic monitoring tag on the vacationing white possibly filling in a missing link of their travels.

S @ W AND CANCER HOUSE OF HOPE: Smith and Wesson will sponsor a live comedy show and hors d'oeuvres fund-raiser to benefit the Cancer House of Hope.

Chairman Bob Draper said the April 10 event will be at the St. Anthony's Parish Cedars Recreation Hall on Island Pond Road, Springfield.

Jim Colliton, who has appeared on Comcast Comedy Spot Light, Comedy Central Laugh Riots and Ed. McMahon's Next Big Star, will be featured along with John Turco, one of the busiest comedians in the nation, and P.J. Walsh, a leading New England Comedian.

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'The Jacoby Ellsbury of Korea' - Doug Clark ready for new season with Seoul Heroes



The Springfield native and UMass graduate played with the San Francisco Giants and Oakland A's.

Phoebe Prince suicide puts spotlight on what teachers, coaches, parents and athletes can do to stop bullying



Teenagers, notably athletes, need to end unchecked harassment in their high schools.

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MASS. SPORTS »

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- [Sabres notebook: Bruins struggle to remain successful](#) 2/1/2010, 7:40 a.m. EST

BASEBALL »

- [Giants, Wilson agree to 1-year deal](#) 1/30/2010, 9:04 p.m. EST
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- [Fans welcome Hardy, Thome at TwinsFest](#) 1/30/2010, 5:22 p.m. EST

FOOTBALL »

- [Young making good on his promise to McNair family](#) 2/1/2010, 11:02 a.m. EST
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- [IHL realignment list, 5A football, basketball](#) 2/1/2010, 10:01 a.m. EST

BASKETBALL »

- [NBA Calendar](#) 2/1/2010, 10:23 a.m. EST
- [IHL realignment list, 1A basketball](#) 2/1/2010, 10:13 a.m. EST

COLLEGE »

- [WVU's Clara Grandt earns McCoy Award](#) 1/30/2010, 2:01 p.m. EST
- [NCAA wrestling championship tickets on sale Monday](#) 1/30/2010, 9:00 a.m. EST

HOCKEY »

- [Includes games of Sunday, January 31, 2010](#) 2/1/2010, 1:23 a.m. EST
- [Through games of Sunday, January 31, 2010](#) 2/1/2010, 1:23 a.m. EST

GOLF »

- [Golfer banned for anabolic substance](#)

Teddie Barrett of Teddie B Comedy will be host with hors d'oeuvres served from 6 p.m. to 7.15 when the comedy time explodes on scene.

It is a great time for shooters and non-shooters to join a fantastic cause and have a laughing good time. Draper said tickets may be purchased from committee members or from Dick Lanier at 413-335-5434 or the House of Hope art 413-562-0110.

There will also be a cash bar, raffles, fund-raising games and iPod Music.

JOE BUCKHOLZ: If you had to come up with a perfect example of a hard nosed-soft hearted person in the mode of the late hockey and benevolent individual Eddy Shore, it would be Joe Buckholz, who died this week.

I had the good fortune to play with and against him in hockey for several decades. He demanded more of himself and those who played with and against him than any person I've ever met. He was as hard-nosed as a forged steel ax head. Among other things, he led the nation in scoring when he played at American International College.

The hockey-breed band of brothers understood his philosophy of giving better than your best as did fans over the years.

So much for hard nose. As outstanding as Joe was on ice, his heart was all warming embers back on planet earth. His dedication to the Shriners and their Hospital for Crippled Children, and their goal in life, the cost-free treatment of special medical cases from all over the world, was on top of the top self.

I can picture him to this day blazing down the ice, eyes blinking "goal to be scored," as well as the gentleness of his eyes for the kids while playing away with the Shriners "Omp-pah" band, while outfitted in his lederhosen.

Joe could dance on the bench after a hockey victory or on the table for clapping children, catching us all up in his joy of accomplishing.

PISTOL SAFETY COURSE: Holyoke Revolver Club will offer an NRA Basic Pistol Safety Courts Feb. 20 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at its indoor range at 431 West Cherry St., Holyoke. Pre-registration must be made by Feb. 13. Call 413-539-9345 and leave your telephone number or go to www.holykorevolverclub.com

Hands on shooting experience, skills introduction and improvement, safety and attitude necessary for owning a gun will be offered. NRA and Massachusetts Certificates of Completion will be issue.

HAMPTON PONDS DERBY: The Waste Management Fishing Derby will be Feb. 7 at Hampton Ponds, Westfield, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. with sign-up at the state pavilion. Proceeds will go to the Clean Lakes Fund.

Thank you Al Witek for reminding me of the correct spelling of Hampton Ponds.

HEAR RIVERS ADVOCATE: Russ Cohen, MassWildlife Riverways Program, Division of Ecological Restoration, will be speaker at the Feb. 9, 7.30 p.m. meeting of the Trout Unlimited Pioneer Valley Chapter at the West Springfield/Agawam Lodge of Elks.

FREE FLY TYING CLASSES: Trout Unlimited Pioneer Chapter president Paul Beaulieu said free beginners fly tying courses will be held Feb. 10, 17 and 24 starting at 7 p.m. with Rene Huard in charge. All equipment and material will be provided. Call Huard at 413-563-0067 to register.

Free intermediate tying classes are slated for March 3, 10, 17 and 24 starting at 7 p.m. and will be taught by Jim Turcotte. Call him at 413-527-5863. Materials will be supplied, but tyers should bring their own tools.

Classes will be held at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks at 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield.

QUABBIN SEASON FEES: Quabbin Reservoir season parking and launching fees passes will be \$50 and are available at the Quabbin Administration Building. The pass is \$25 for seniors 62 and over. Passes will also be available at the boat launch areas during the season.

ICE DERBY WINNERS: A 10.77-pound northern pike taken by Sean Johnson was the largest fish landed at the recent South Hadley Sporting Club derby. George Allen reported other category winners were George Dorman II, 1.87-pound bass; Pete Edge, 1.41-pound perch; Foster Webster, 3.89-pound pickerel; Ken Wojcik, 1.52-pound calico bass; Dave Steinbeck, 1.25-pound bullhead.

TO CATCH A CROOK: Ron Hanley of Westfield has a very legitimate complaint about the taking of stocked trout way beyond the limit out of the Westfield River. Ron suggested that we return to a rule of latter days when you had to wear your license on display so law breakers could be turned in.

In part, I agree with him. But the license would have to be much larger than our present one. And perhaps required wearing could only be for fishing. During the hunting season licenses are often torn off clothing in rough cover and without the wearer realizing it.

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Sabis	7:30 p.m.
New Leadership	Rebecca Johnson Middle School, Spr
Box Score	

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 - [Lou Conti remembered as one of South Hadley's great athletes](#)
-  Ron Chimelis:
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-  Russ Held:
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-  Bill Wells:
 - [Snowstorm Classic at Springfield's Forest Park on Jan. 16 draws record 157 runners](#)

SPORTS

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a Red Sox blog by Dan Lamothe
• [Baseball Prospectus: Red Sox will win 2010 American League East by a whisker](#) 
-  **The Varsity Voice**
a high school sports blog by Kyle Belanger
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