

Fort Pierce Rotary Club Honors Shark Bite Victim



L - R Doug Terhune/Rotarian, parents of Ella, Ella Reed, friend Klohe, Gunther/Spunky's, Brandon Taylor/Treasure Coast Boardriders Club

Ella Reed, a 13-year-old young lady from Fort Pierce, was with her friend out at Jetty Park in early May sitting in shallow water when a 4' bull shark attacked her. The shark bit her in multiple places and she had to punch the shark in the nose before it turned and swam away. Ella wound up with 19 stitches and couldn't wait to get them taken out so that she could get back in the water.

Members of the Fort Pierce Rotary Club, who meet every Thursday for lunch at the Pelican Yacht Club, just a few blocks from Jetty Park, took action and raised money to purchase Ella a new surfboard. Doug Terhune, a Rotarian living in Jensen Beach, contacted Gunther Schwartz, the manager at nearby Spunky's Surf Shop, and the two corroborated in securing Ella a surfboard and membership to the Treasure Coast Boardriders Club.



Ella's parents and her friend Klohe, who was with her at the time of the attack, were present at a luncheon where the Fort Pierce Rotary Club and Spunky's presented Ella with the new surfboard.

According to Terhune "she is one tough young lady, as I don't know many people that would be bitten by a shark and want to get back in the water as soon as possible". The club members were elated to provide Ella with her first surfboard and Devin Reed, Ella's mother, said the family was honored by the attention directed at Ella, as she has appeared on local, regional and national news.