

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Over until next year

I was going to write about terror attacks and the police trying to stop it from happening in our towns, or a piece on Rauner hijacking the Republican party and his lack of a budget in Illinois.

Then I thought, same old, same old. While there is plenty of political news, cop hating, and lying bureaucrats all around us, I just wasn't in the mood to swim in those shark infested waters.

Then it hit me —



sharks! Yeah, that's the ticket!

Shark Week on Discovery just ended. The Happiest Time of the Year! What a week. Tiger and Great Whites and Bulls oh my! Throw in some Ragged Tooth, Giant Hammers, and Bronze Whalers too. Covered the gamut of Big Teeth, powerful jaws and fierce nature.

Beautiful. Exciting and gave me a few hours each night to avoid the misery that seems to abound here and elsewhere. Nothing like the man in the Gray Suit (Great White Shark) devouring someone's legs to put the world in perspective.

Last winter I spent some time in Florida and visited a few sharky places: Mote Marine Labs, Florida and Clearwater Aquarium and watched sharks watching me.

I also found and waded out in the Gulf to capture a wounded Bonnet Head shark. One dead on the beach and one in the surf dying. About two feet, a head shaped like a bonnet — hence the name. They are similar to a Hammerhead but do not have the huge cephalofoil between its eyes, since their head is more spadelike. But it has the same mouthful of very sharp teeth.

I gave a short talk to the crowd that suddenly appeared when they saw this old Italian walk out of the drink holding a shark. It was pretty funny when a woman asked me if there were really sharks in the water.

They do not attack humans unless some idiot comes along and scoops them out of the water. But I was lucky and went unscathed. My grandkids were duly impressed. But I could see the shark was in bad shape — probably a castoff from a fisherman.

So this year's Shark Week was especially entertaining. Years ago, I once held a small Nurse shark. Also pretty harmless. And I got a demonstration in a Sea Aquarium in St Thomas how fast small white tip sharks can swim at prey once they detect blood in the water.

Scary stuff, dude. I left thinking if they want you, you're dead.

I'd love to do some shark cage diving, but alas, I get seasick on a horse, so only TV, movies, and aquariums for me.

So for now back to my other love — snakes. I'll have more stories in my next newsletter for those of you who enjoy that sort of thing.

In the meantime, I'll be back to pounding the police and the political beat for my next Opinion Piece.

Vita é bella