

CONGRATULATIONS!

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To
Skylar
Young



Skylar will receive an Official HunTeen Gear T-shirt for being the first to submit a story for the February/March issue of HunTeen.

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It was one of our bigger rigs for Catfish. The drag started to run. Whatever was on was pulling a lot of line. I started to reel it in, but I had a long fight on my hands. Just when I thought I had him, he was gone again. I finally got him to the boat and almost fell backwards when I saw it. It was a shark, and to me it seemed HUGE. My uncle netted his head, and I grabbed his tail. It would have been nice to have a gaff. We measured it at 46", and it weighed around 35 lbs. This one we could keep, so we put it in the live well and headed for home minus one fishing rod.



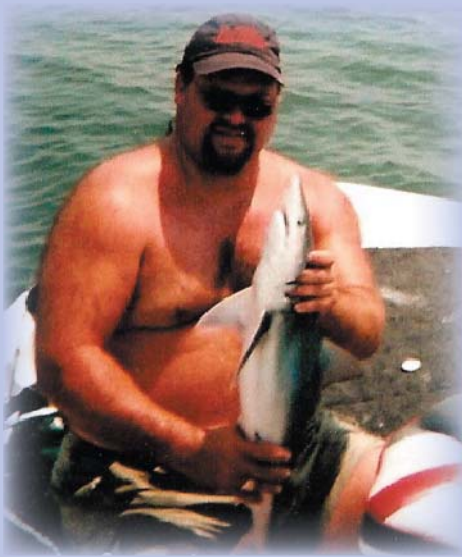
I've been on better rigged fishing trips and on much bigger boats, but I don't know that I've ever been and had more fun than I did on this trip. Sometimes it is simply all about good company. After all fishing isn't really about the quantity of fish, but the quality of time!

SHARK

TALES

By Skylar Young
Mississippi

Some of my favorite times are spent with my Uncle Michael. Whether we are fishing,



camping or just hanging out, it is always a good time. He's a bachelor and lives in Long Beach, MS, so it is usually just the guys. All of you who fall into that category know this means a complete

absence of manners and all sorts of vulgar noises. In other words..complete relaxation. His house is just a short walk from the Gulf. I went to visit last Summer during August, and we had been trying to do a little fishing from the docks, but were having no luck. Uncle Michael has a boat, and we have taken it all the way out to Cat Island, but we never thought we would take her out for shark fishing. Now, my Uncle Michael is originally from the Mississippi Delta and what he has is a 18' Bass boat. I've been on chartered fishing trips before, but staying with Uncle Michael is considered a poor boys vacation and a chartered trip was a luxury that wasn't going to happen. We went and

got some information on a good spot and a tip on what to use for bait. We then bought 2 lbs of dead, whole, Mullet and headed out.

Most of our gear, like the boat, was made for Bass fishing, so we knew catching a shark would be a tough fight. We rigged out with twelve pound test line, a one ounce weight and one foot wire leader. We set the drag, cut the bait and cast the first line. It only took about fifteen minutes and the first fish was on. Let me tell you, I thought a Bass was the only fish that would throw such a fit when hooked, but I never thought a shark was air capable. What a thrill! We didn't catch very big ones. Of course, only being on a Bass boat, that was fine with us. The legal length is 37", so throughout the day we practiced "catch and release." We caught around twenty sharks total, and had been on the water all day. It was starting to get dark, so we set out two last lines as we packed everything and got ready to head back home. My uncle set one pole down on the boat and the next thing we knew it



went into the water like a torpedo. As soon as we lost that pole, the anchor rope broke and we knew we were drifting. As I went to get the last pole and pull it in the tip bent all the way over.