

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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July 5, 2011

SUBJECT OF JULY 4TH SEARCH SAYS CURRENT CARRIED HIM AWAY FROM CAMPSITE

A Fort Walton Beach teen who was the subject of an intense five hour search Monday says he was carried away from Spectre Island in Santa Rosa Sound by strong currents while swimming around 2 a.m.

16-year old Samuel Klauss and his two brothers were camping on the island off Hurlburt Field last Sunday night. Sam and another brother went for a swim around 2 a.m Monday morning. The brother went back in but Sam did not. The boys' father was called and he arrived to assist in a search. When they were unable to locate Sam, they contacted Hurlburt Field Security Forces, which in turn contacted the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office. A search was conducted with the OCSO Marine Unit, Coast Guard and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Sam Klauss was found around 11:15 a.m. at the Circle K Store on Racetrack Road. Sam says he swam ashore and got a ride from an unknown person to a friend's house and then went to a girlfriend's home in Fort Walton Beach. He says no one came to the door so he fell asleep on her porch. Sam says when his girlfriend woke up he attempted to call his brother with his whereabouts.

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"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

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