

Search Suspended: The U.S. Coast Guard has called off its search for missing kayaker John Switzer, after he disappeared in the waters off Gulf Shores on Saturday. Response crews covered more than 2,115 square miles in their search over the last several days, covering land and water with boats and helicopters. On Monday, Switzer's kayak was discovered floating 3 miles off-shore by the Coast Guard. Numerous agencies, including the Dauphin Island Police Department and the Fort Morgan Fire Department, assisted in the search efforts. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Mr. Switzer. The men and women of the Coast Guard are deeply committed to the preservation of life at sea. It is always a bitter disappointment to us when we cannot bring someone home safely. Their loss is our loss." said Commander Chris Cederholm of Coast Guard Sector Mobile. Switzer's family is holding vigil back home in Starkville, Mississippi. A family friend says the possibility of having to deal with a painful conclusion to the search is starting to sink in. --- MONDAY UPDATE: Under improved weather conditions Tuesday, the U.S. Coast Guard has located "a partially submerged yellow kayak." News 5 is told the kayak is believed to be the same one used by the missing Mississippi man John Switzer. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the kayak was located between Dauphin Island and Petit Bois Island. More details on this developing story on News 5 at Noon. --- SUNDAY STORY: The U.S. Coast Guard is currently searching for a kayaker who went missing off the coast of Gulf Shores, though fog is hampering the efforts, sources tell News 5. Two ship vessels and a helicopter are actively looking for the man who was reportedly kayaking Saturday evening before officially being reported missing. We've learned the kayaker, 24-year-old John Switzer of Starkville, Mississippi, last spoke to his family while in a yellow kayak in Gulf Shores, though he was reportedly not wearing a life jacket. News 5 is told Switzer went missing around 7:00pm on Saturday and was officially reported as missing at 10:00pm that night. Local authorities are said to be assisting in the search by the shoreline, while the two boats and chopper search the water. The Mississippi man was enjoying a quick, weekend getaway by himself at his family's beach house when he disappeared. A family friend who lives in Gulf Shores found Switzer's car parked at the family's beach house. Switzer's keys were on the floorboard along with clothes and receipts, indicating the kayaker bought coffee and donuts Saturday morning before taking to the water. Drag marks, presumably from Switzer pulling his kayak from the beach to the water, are visible in the sand. Switzer sent a panoramic photo of his view from the kayak to family members before he went missing. News 5 has obtained a copy of the image, showing Switzer off the coast of Gulf Shores. A friend of the family found Switzer's car and keys at the beach house, but no signs of Switzer. If you have information as to the whereabouts of Switzer, please contact Coast Guard Sector Mobile Command Center at 251-441-6212. Updates tonight on News 5.

<http://www.wkrg.com/story/27827916/search-...-in-gulf-shores>

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[View full size](#) John Switzer was reported missing after kayaking in the waters off Gulf Shores. (Gulf Shores Police Department)

[GULF SHORES, Alabama](#) -- The U.S. Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies are continuing their [search for John Switzer](#), a missing Mississippi man who has not been heard from since he told family members he was kayak fishing off West Beach Boulevard in Gulf Shores.

Coast Guard spokesman Jonathan Lally confirmed to AL.com that searchers had found a yellow kayak believed to be the one Switzer was using around 3:30 p.m. Monday, and that the aerial search of the water continues. The kayak was found partially submerged between Petit Bois Island and Dauphin Island.

A [dense fog blanketed Gulf Shores](#) for much of the day Monday, complicating the search efforts.

According to the Gulf Shores Police Department, Switzer was last heard from on Saturday at approximately 12:30 p.m., when he told family members he was currently fishing from his kayak. Switzer, 24, is described as having brown hair and brown eyes, standing 6 feet 1 inches tall and weighing approximately 183 pounds. He was staying in the 2900 block of West Beach Boulevard.

If you have information as to the whereabouts of Switzer, please contact Coast Guard Sector Mobile Command Center at 251-441-6212

http://www.al.com/news/beaches/index.ssf/2015/01/kayak_recovered_search_continu.html#inca rt_river
