

Searchers Probe Waters Near Destin

DESTIN—Skindivers and members of the Eglin Air Force Base 48th Air Rescue Unit this morning searched in 85 feet of water for a 49-year-old Illinois man apparently lost while skin diving about four miles off shore here.

The search for Ray Robison was centered in what is known as the Amberjack Hole, off the reef south-southwest of Destin.

Okaloosa County sheriff's officers said Robison apparently got into difficulty and attempted to make the surface. Officers said he signaled his son, Ray Robison Jr., that he was having trouble and started up.

The son and other members of the party never saw him again.

The Robisons, of Lamont, Ill., Ray Manuel Jr., of 5734 North 9th Ave., Pensacola, and another man from Illinois, not immediately identified, were among about eight skindivers spearfishing at the Amberjack Hole when Robison was lost.

Members of the Escambia County Search and Rescue Unit, Eglin air and surface rescue crews, sheriff's officers and charter boat captains from the Destin area were at the scene this morning.

Robison's companions sought immediately in finding the missing man and kept vigil at the scene.

Eglin dispatched a helicopter

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Searchers Hunt Diver Near Destin

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from the Air Rescue Center and its crews hunted until darkness forced a halt. Helicopter crews in most cases can spot foreign bodies in water although they may be some distance below the surface.

During the night a plane from the 48th Air Rescue Unit dropped flares to light the area and a 63-foot rescue boat also was sent from Eglin. The Air Force also furnished searchlights.

Members of the Escambia Search and Rescue utilized a jeep to search the beach from Pensacola to Destin Pass in hopes that Robison's body might have washed ashore.

They were still patrolling the beach today.