



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Date: July 19 and 23, 2018
Persons Contacted: Marty Spinde
NTSB Accident Number: ANC18FA055 N9878R Regal Air

Narrative: Mr. Spinde witnessed the accident airplane's attempted and actual takeoff on the day of the accident, in Willow, Alaska, July 18, 2018. He was interviewed by telephone and in person at his residence. This is a summary of his statements.

Mr. Spinde lives on a house on the west side of Willow Lake. See figure 1. On the day of the accident, he was outside and heard the Beaver taxiing for takeoff. Mr. Spinde is a float plane pilot and watched the airplane attempt to take off. After the pilot aborted the takeoff run, Mr. Spinde started to video the airplane as it maneuvered on the lake. He knew something was not right. The wind varied and was light to gusting a bit. It was a warm day.

He watched and videotaped the airplane step taxi around the lake, and it looked heavy. He thought the pilot may have attempted a second takeoff run, but it was possibly a step taxi lap to rough up the water for the takeoff.

Then he observed the airplane perform a step taxi takeoff from the north side of the lake. It climbed out to the south very slowly, and he was not sure it was going to clear the trees on the shore, but it did. Mr. Spinde then stopped watching the airplane.

Mr. Spinde provided the NTSB with copies of his videos. Below are clips from the takeoff video and the departure video file. See figures 2 and 3.



Figure 1. Google Earth image with witness locations and observed flight tracks.



Figure 2. Clip from phone video of the takeoff. (Courtesy of Mr. Spinde)



Figure 3. Clip of departure video indicating the airplane climbing above the tree line. (Courtesy of Mr. Spinde)