

Factual Report – Attachment 3

Witness Reports

OPERATIONAL FACTORS

ANC21FA069

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 12:38 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Ketchikan Alaska Seaplane Accident

I was taking photos from our excursion boat as the plane took off on the morning of 8/5/2021.
The files are large so I am sending 4 separate emails. I hope they are of some help.
Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 12:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: DSC_0216.NEF

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 12:40 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: FW: DSC_0217.NEF

I was taking photos from our excursion boat as the plane took off on the morning of 8/5/2021. The files are large so I am sending 4 separate emails. I hope they are of some help.

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 12:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: DSC_0217.NEF

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 12:44 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: FW: DSC_0219.NEF

I was taking photos from our excursion boat as the plane took off on the morning of 8/5/2021. The files are large so I am sending 4 separate emails. I hope they are of some help.

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 12:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: DSC_0219.NEF

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:32 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Re: N1249k. Ketchikan, AK. Plane crash

More pics of fjord

On Wed, Aug 11, 2021, 9:28 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
This may be the plane in question
7:12 am

On Wed, Aug 11, 2021, 3:49 AM eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov> wrote:
Hi Ron,

Thank you for contacting us. Yes, if possible, please send me the photo so I can get it to our team in AK.

Should you have difficulty sending it. Let me know and we will find another method.

Regards,
Erik

Erik R Grosof
Senior Advisor
Special Operations (MD-5)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:06 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: N1249k. Ketchikan, AK. Plane crash

I was on a small cruise boat in the fjord, I believe I saw the plane pass by.
I took photos of the fjords. 11:12 starting time stamp.

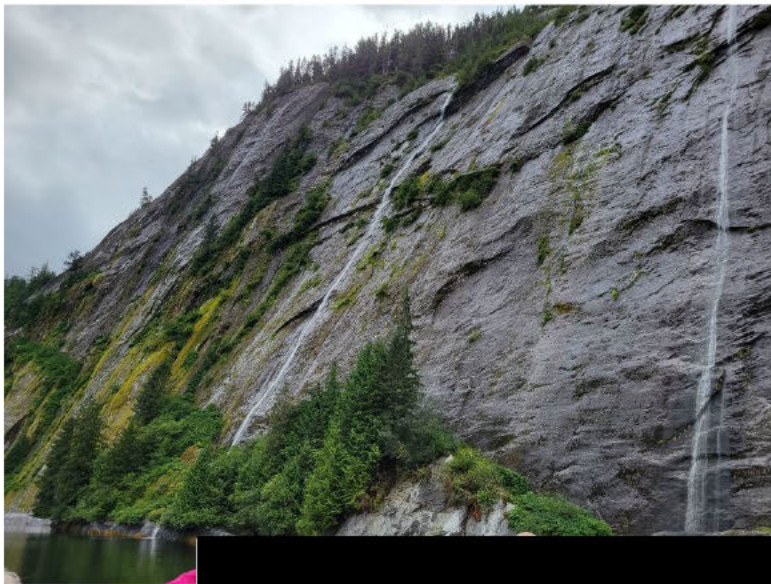
This may help with the weather aspect...

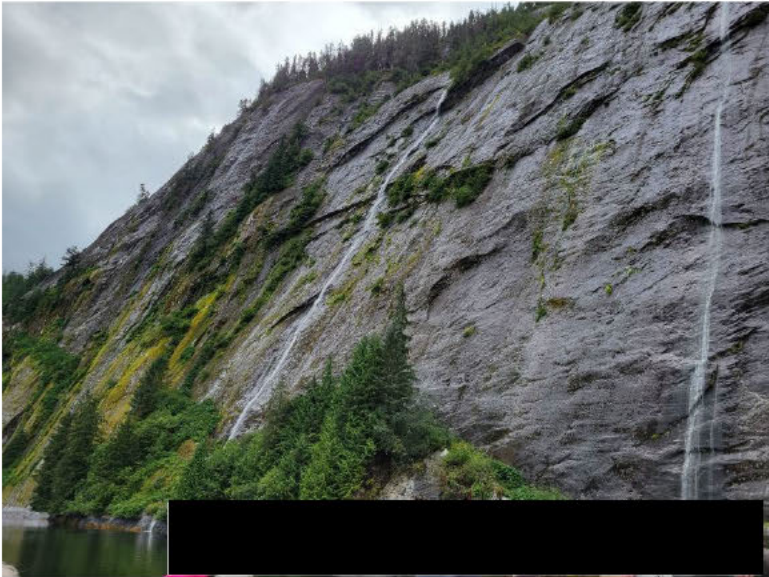
Let me know if I should send, and how.

Thx,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:31 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Re: N1249k. Ketchikan, AK. Plane crash

Fjords itself
11:00 am time frame
Pics have meta data that I can see real time.

Hopefully they come accross

On Wed, Aug 11, 2021, 9:28 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
This may be the plane in question
7:12 am

On Wed, Aug 11, 2021, 3:49 AM eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov> wrote:
Hi Ron,

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Erik

Erik R Grosf
Senior Advisor
Special Operations (MD-5)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:06 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: N1249k. Ketchikan, AK. Plane crash

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I took photos of the fjords. 11:12 starting time stamp.

This may help with the weather aspect...

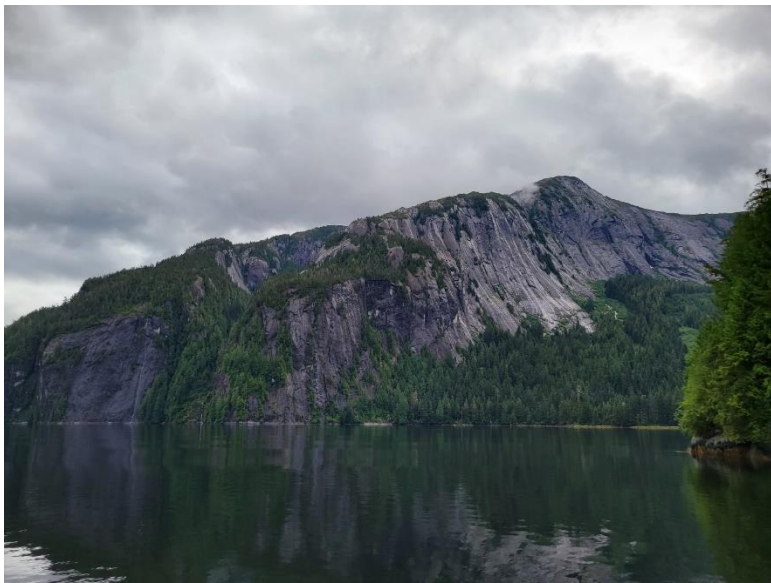
Let me know if I should send, and how.

Thx,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Matonek Stephanie [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NTSB Assistance - Update & Personal Items Recovery Information for Investigation ANC21FA069

Our emails must have crossed paths.
Rolf had a Google phone with a password of [REDACTED].
He had another device, I believe was a small Google tablet, that is pictured in the attached, to the left. If there was a password to that, I do not know, but suspect there was not. It was just for his music and maps.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:24 AM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Photos from Ketchikan, Aug. 5

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello:

The float plane (tail number N1249K) that crashed near Misty Fjords National Monument Aug. 5 departed Ketchikan earlier that morning. I happened to photograph the aircraft during its last takeoff from Ketchikan harbor.

I was a guest on the Nieuw Amsterdam, taking photos from deck 5 at about 8:14 a.m.

I have several images in a sequence that may be helpful in any investigation of this tragic incident. I'm attaching one image. If you need more, please let me know. Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:36 AM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Photos from Ketchikan, part 3





[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:37 AM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Photos from Ketchikan, part 4 (last)



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:36 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Re: N1249k. Ketchikan, AK. Plane crash

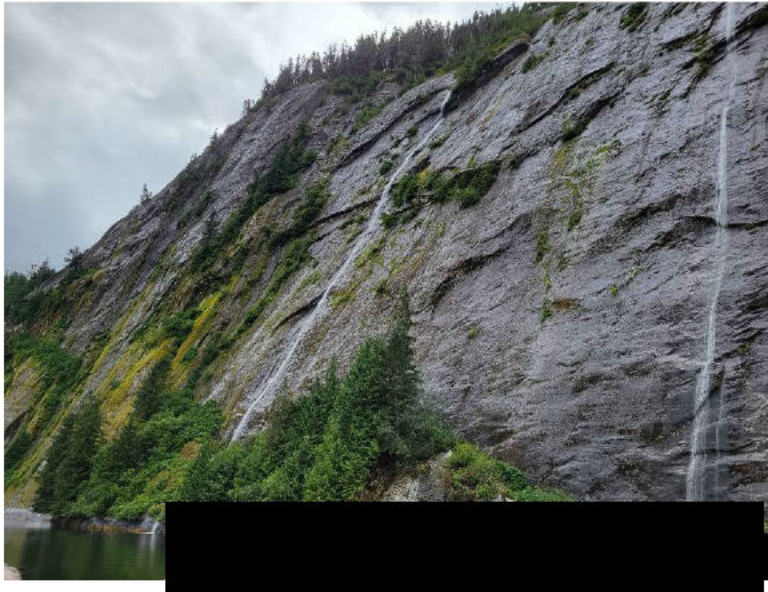
Weather from tour boat
Lots of visibility at sea level

Saw tour plane pass by. 500' ??
Colors seem to match. Unless their fleet has same colors

Ovc above. Review pics and decide.
Pics have time Metadata. Hopefully they come with pics

Ron

On Wed, Aug 11, 2021, 9:32 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
More pics of fjord







-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:06 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: N1249k. Ketchikan, AK. Plane crash

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I was on a small cruise boat in the fjord, I believe I saw the plane pass by.
I took photos of the fjords. 11:12 starting time stamp.

This may help with the weather aspect...

Let me know if I should send, and how.

Thx,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 9:04:12 PM
To: Assistance@NTSB <Assistance@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Watch "N1249K Final Flight Ketchikan 2021" on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/tDz4ay6y-Lg>

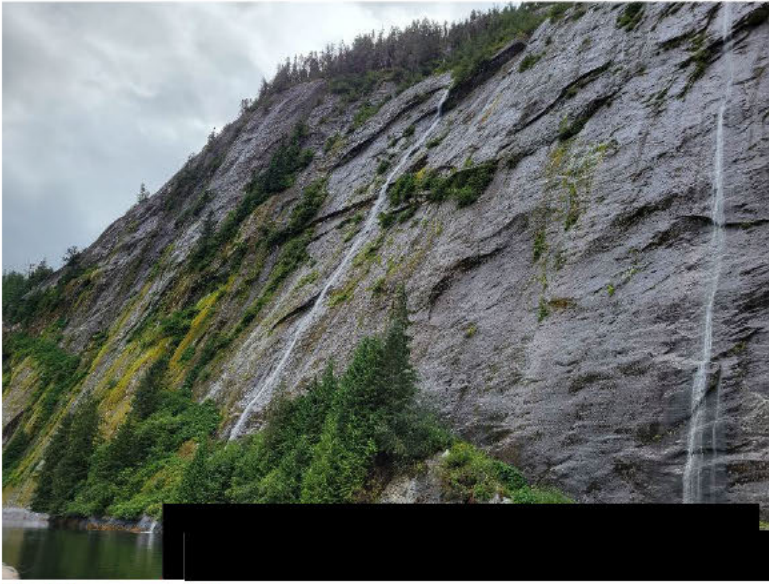
Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Lawrence David [REDACTED]
Subject: Photos August 5,2021

From [REDACTED]







Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Lawrence David [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Misty fjord flight August 5,2021
Sensitivity: Confidential

I have sent you all the photos that I took. The other family on our flight, from the Holland America, took many more photos of this trip than I did. You definitely should check with them and get their photos.

My best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Lawrence David [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Misty fjord flight August 5,2021

David,

I concur with [REDACTED] account of our 90-minute Aug 5 flight. I wish to add that Rolf gave an excellent pre-flight safety briefing and, that during the flight his turns were comfortable and only slightly banked. He maintained an appropriate distance from the ground at all times and there was never any moment of perceived danger from his piloting. I have been in small planes a good bit and Rolf inspired my confidence in him from the first moment to the last.

I did notice that in the last 5+/- minutes of our return flight, the cloud ceiling was dropping rapidly and Rolf was "ducking" around just a little, apparently to avoid the clouds. By the time we landed and were on ground transportation to return to our hotel, the weather was no longer inviting for a sight-seeing flight.

Thanks for your work on this. We were stunned.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Friday, October 1, 2021, 09:05:28 AM EDT, [REDACTED] wrote:

David, sorry to keep missing phone calls wit you. I see that email might work better. Please feel free to contact me if further information would help.

My husband, [REDACTED], and I were in Alaska independently. As the skies were fairly clear and no rain on August 5, we book an 8:00 am flight. Rolf was our pilot. He made all of us comfortable as he explained our trip and procedures. Rolf was easy to like and quite knowledgeable of the terrain and area we were flying through. The views were clear and amazing and the touch down in one of the lakes a memory of a lifetime. At no time did we feel frightened or in danger. As we approached Ketchikan, the skies became full of clouds and fog. Rolf handled the approach and landing with relative ease of someone who had done this many times before. After landing, we actually met the next 5 people going out - all from the Holland American cruise ship. I will forever remember Rolf and those 5 people.

I am sending you photos in a separate email. Please let me know you received both emails from me.

I would appreciate a copy of the final report if that is possible. Thanks.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone