

Mark Ward
ASI
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Date: October 18, 2022
Subject: ANC23LA002 Witness Interview
Contact: Andy Shield

Summary of a phone conversation with Andy Shield.

Andy was in a hunting blind near the mouth of the Eyak River. The blind was facing in the direction of the path the accident airplane was heading. Normally you can see the mountain the airplane hit from where they were at, but the weather conditions were too poor to see the mountain. They heard the airplane fly over and saw the airplane fly in and out of the clouds before it disappeared into the clouds. They were concerned when they saw the airplane because the weather was not good for flying.

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Date: February 6th 2023
Subject: ANC23LA002
Contact: Mike McCreary Owner 70 North

Summary of a phone conversation with Mike McCreary.

Bryan Schwartz left Anchorage in his airplane and was headed to his home in St. Louis. On the first day Bryan made it to Yakutat, AK and stayed the night. The next day Bryan departed Yakutat and was traveling along the coast. He made it just south of Ketchikan, AK but turned around due to poor weather conditions. Bryan returned to Yakutat and called and talked to Mike McCreary. Bryan told Mike that the weather was very challenging, and he was done with flying in the poor weather conditions. Bryan's plan was to return to Birchwood, AK, leave the airplane there and get a commercial airline ticket home. Mike tried to convince Bryan to leave the airplane in Yakutat and fly home commercially from there or wait for the weather to improve. Bryan departed for Birchwood anyway. Bryan told Mike that there were no mechanical issues with the airplane.