



National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety – Central Region

Interview Summary: Witness – CEN17FA016

Date: November 4, 2016

Interviewers: Bill O'Donnell

During the Interview, Mr.O'Donnell stated the following:

He was sailing on Caesar's Creek Lake on October 16, 2016 and between 5:20pm and 5:30pm he saw a red and white airplane flying low over the lake.

The airplane was on the north side of Rt 73 and it was flying from the northeast to the southwest. It was below the trees that surrounded the lake. He estimated it was at an altitude of about 50 feet above the ground.

He then saw what he described as an "aggressive" move to gain altitude. He stated the airplane banked/twisted to the north (right) during the pull-up maneuver. His first thought was that the pilot was flying a "stunt." He last saw the airplane as it was heading to the northeast.

Sullivan PAM

From: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2016 8:43 PM
To: Sullivan PAM
Cc: Bowling David; Baker Daniel
Subject: FW: Warren county Ohio fatal plane crash

FYI

Melba

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

From: Bill O'Donnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 2:07 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Warren county Ohio fatal plane crash

I'm not sure this has anything to do with the fatal plane crash on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, but I saw a small red and white plane make a very low pass over the water at Caesars Creek lake around 5:20 pm.

If you think this is pertinent info, please call [REDACTED]

My name is Bill O'Donnell.

Sent from my iPhone



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

STATEMENT

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REPORT # 83-89	STATEMENT DATE/TIME (MM/DD/YY HH:MM) 10/18/16/2013	OTHER REFERENCE #
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I, Rhea Tyree, hereby make this voluntary statement to
Sergeant R.L. Burd at _____ on
On 10/16/2016 I was in my house and heard a loud plane. I looked out and noticed a plane flying really low, just over the cornfield; I thought the plane was going to land in the cornfield. The plane buzzed my house and banked so hard that the wings were verticle.

Q. Did you know who it was in the plane?

A. Not at the time.

Q. What color was the plane?

A. Red and White. I thought it was a plane showing off from the airport on Center road. This plane was so low that crop dusters don't even go that low.

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE X <u>Rhea Tyree</u>		STREET ADDRESS [REDACTED]	
PRINT NAME		CITY Wilmington	STATE OH
WITNESS SIGNATURE X		ZIP CODE 45177	
REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE X [REDACTED]		UNIT [REDACTED]	DATE 10/18/2016

(OSP-203.07)



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

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REPORT # 83-89	STATEMENT DATE/TIME (MM/DD/YY HH:MM) 10/18/16/2008	OTHER REFERENCE #
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I, Kathy Becker, hereby make this voluntary statement to
Sergeant R.L. Burd at _____ on
On 10/16/2018 at approximately 5:15 or 5:20Pm I was mowing grass in the barnyard. The plane was doing figure 8 in the air. The plane buzzed over me so low that I could see Jessie and Eric laughing and waving. They flew across the road and passed behind a barn. When they went behind the barn, they were so low that I lost sight of them behind the barn. They were flying so low that I figured they were going to land in the empty field.

Q. When you said you noticed the two people, could you see who was in the front of the plane?

A. Yes, Jessie was flying and Eric was in the back. They were both smiling and waving.

Q. Are you related to Eric?

A. My husband is his cousin.

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE X <u>Phao</u>	STREET ADDRESS [REDACTED]		
PRINT NAME	CITY Wilmington	STATE OH	ZIP CODE 45177
WITNESS SIGNATURE X			
REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE X [REDACTED]	UNIT [REDACTED]	DATE 10/18/2016	

(OSP-203.07)

Incident Detailed Report

Incident #: P16101600002812

Summary

Location: [REDACTED]
Loc Name: [REDACTED]
City: WARREN COUNTY
Loc Descr:
Building:
Floor:

Subdiv:
Apt/Unit:

Status: Closed
Inc Type: CRASH
Mod Circ: 0-31

Created: 17:45:08 10/16/2016
Agency Type: P
Priority: 2

Agency ID: HP
Sector:

Area: P83
Beat: HP83

Report #:
Disposition:

Dispatch

Unit(s): [REDACTED] (Officers: HP/Boetcher L Tyler) (Primary), [REDACTED] (Officers: HP/Hickey J William), [REDACTED] (Officers: HP/Milstead A Richard), [REDACTED] (Officers: HP/Boetcher L Tyler), [REDACTED] (Officers: HP/Burd L Robert), [REDACTED] (Officers: HP/Gilligan B Colin), [REDACTED] (Officers: HP/Olsen A Jacob)

Comments

14:32:45 10/17/2016 10097737 [REDACTED]
WEATHER AT THE TIME OF CRASH WAS 77 DEGREES, 57.4 HUMIDITY, 60.8 DEW POINT, WIND SW 9 MPH

12:33:39 10/17/2016 10007239 [REDACTED]
FAA ADV SANDY'S WILL BE ON SCENE AROUND 1300 HOURS TO START THE REMOVAL PROCESS

11:19:40 10/17/2016 10007239 [REDACTED]
NTSB ON SCENE

11:09:07 10/17/2016 10007239 [REDACTED]
PRESS ON SCENE

10:53:07 10/17/2016 10007239 [REDACTED]
FAA ON SCENE PER [REDACTED]

9:28:27 10/17/2016 10007239 [REDACTED]
JEFF OLINGER, PS [REDACTED] - WITNESSED THE CRASH FROM THE HIGHWAY.

9:14:10 10/17/2016 10007239 [REDACTED]
ANNA KNIESLEY CALLED THIS MORNING, ADV SHE AND HER HUSBAND AND GRANDCHILDREN WERE AT CAESARS CREEK LAKE YESTERDAY. AROUND 1720 HOURS A WHITE PLANE DIPPED INTO THE LAKE THEN CONTINUED UPWARD AND AWAY FROM THE LAKE. APPEARED TO BE INTENTIONAL. THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE THIS PLANE, DIDN'T KNOW IF WE COULD USE THIS INFORMATION IN OUR INVESTIGATION. HER PS# [REDACTED]

22:14:39 10/16/2016 10158380 [REDACTED]
FL G52002069515-0

22:01:13 10/16/2016 10097737 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] S TAKING A STATEMENT FROM THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE VICTIMS

21:20:36 10/16/2016 10097737 [REDACTED]



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REPORT # 83-89	STATEMENT DATE/TIME (MM/DD/YY HH:MM) 10/17/16/1730	OTHER REFERENCE #
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I, Evan Thibeault, hereby make this voluntary statement to
Sergeant R.L. Burd at _____ on

On 10/16/2016 at approximately 1737hrs I was in the parking lot for Morgan's canoe, near the river. A plane came over head and I noticed it was very low and I remember the engine sounding very strong. Approximately 10-15 seconds after the plane passed over me, I heard 2 'Pop' noises and then a 'Bang'. After the bang it was silent and I didn't hear the engine anymore.

Q. Did the plane seem to be under control when you noticed it flying low?

A. Yes, the movements of the plane seemed to be intentional.

Q. Did you dial 911?

A. I was texting a friend at the time and at 1737hrs I sent her a text saying I thought I just heard a plane crash.

Q. How low was the plane when you noticed it?

A. I would say that the plane was approximately 50' or less above the tree top.

Q. What direction was the plane traveling?

A. From north to south along the river.

Q. Did the motor sound constant and solid up to the 'Pop' and 'Bang'?

A. Yes, the 'Pop' and 'Bang' came quickly after the plane passed over me.

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE X <u>Phono</u>		STREET ADDRESS [REDACTED]	
PRINT NAME	CITY Athens	STATE GA	ZIP CODE 30601
WITNESS SIGNATURE X			
REPORTING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE X [REDACTED]		UNIT [REDACTED]	DATE 10/17/2016

(OSP-203.07)



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REPORT # 83-89	STATEMENT DATE/TIME (MM/DD/YY HH:MM) 10/17/16/1745	OTHER REFERENCE #
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I, David Anson, hereby make this voluntary statement to
Sergeant R.L. Burd at _____ on
On 10/16/2016 at approximately 1730hrs I was on a horse path along the lake off of Furnace Oglesbee Road. I was standing in
a lookout taking a break from riding my horse. I heard a plane and noticed a plane flying maybe 30' off the water. He was
flying so low that he was flying below me on the lookout. The plane was under full power and banking towards land. The plane
then hit full power and went southwest.

Q. Could you hear any power issues?

A. No, I have flown planes and I could tell that he had no issues.

Q. Did his actions seem controlled and intentional?

A. Yes, he was coming in with full power and banking with the contour of the land.

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE X <u>P. Houns</u>	STREET ADDRESS [REDACTED]		
PRINT NAME	CITY Lebanon	STATE OH	ZIP CODE 45036
WITNESS SIGNATURE X			
REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE X [REDACTED]	UNIT [REDACTED]	DATE 10/16/2016	

(OSP-203.07)



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REPORT # 83-89	STATEMENT DATE/TIME (MM/DD/YY HH:MM) 10/17/16/1740	OTHER REFERENCE #
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I, Scott Stieritz, hereby make this voluntary statement to
Sergeant R.L. Burd at _____ on
On 10/16/2016 I was on the bike path near Morgan's Canoe Rental. I was close to the closed section of the path where they are doing construction. I noticed a plane fly over me and I remember thinking that the plane was very low. I lost sight of the plane for about 15 seconds. When the plane came back into view I saw it dive into the trees.

Q. Was the plane under control before you lost sight?

A. I don't know if it was under control but it was flying straight.

Q. Did the motor sound like it was running smooth?

A. I couldn't really hear because I was wearing earphones.

Q. What direction was the plane going?

A. Southwest toward Cincinnati.

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE X <u>Phone</u>	STREET ADDRESS [REDACTED]		
PRINT NAME	CITY Cincinnati	STATE OH	ZIP CODE 45226
WITNESS SIGNATURE X			
REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE X [REDACTED]	UNIT [REDACTED]	DATE 10/17/2016	

(OSP-203.07)

Kathy Beckler [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

She saw the aircraft at 5:20 – 5:30 PM. The aircraft flew around her home several times at low altitude doing “figure 8’s, steep turns, steep pull-ups and low flying”. When they left she saw fire coming out of the back of the airplane. There was no smoke and no flames coming out of the front. The engine sounded like it was “puttering” when they left. It left flying toward the flea market. (Caesar Creek Flea Market, [REDACTED])

Lonnie Lyle [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

He lives ½ mile from I-71 very near the large bridge that the bicycle path runs under. At about 5:40 PM, according to his iPhone, he was driving his golf cart south on Lyle Lane (named after his family – they built the road and all live on it). Straight ahead of him, about a half mile, he saw an aircraft flying toward him going north. It was not very low and looked normal. Suddenly the aircraft made a hard left turn back south and started down. He said the aircraft was probably flying over I-71. He thought it was kind of funny because the airplane turned so suddenly and steeply. He said that it had not turned completely 180 degrees before it dropped below the horizon. He saw no smoke or fire.

Tony Moore [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

He helped take responders to the accident site the evening of the accident site on his ATV. He lives locally, very near the accident site. He knew the passenger on the accident aircraft. His daughters, aged 15 and 11, saw the aircraft near their house flying north then turning east around 5:40 – 5:45. The aircraft was flying over their pasture at tree top height. They said they couldn’t see the pilots due to the tinted canopy. He had no further information and would rather I not talk to his daughters.

Clint Hackney [REDACTED]

He is the brother of the passenger, Eric Hackney. He did not witness any of the flight. He said his girlfriend, who he lives with, did (Rhea Tyree [REDACTED]). He came to the accident site area and stayed for the day on 10-17-2016, but was away from the actual accident scene. He said the pilots had flown into a small grass strip that Eric owned at [REDACTED] Wilmington, OH. They flew up from Punta Gorda Airport, Florida, on Thursday, 10/13/2016, to visit family and Eric’s girlfriend. Eric Hackney was from Ohio, but living in Punta Gorda, FL. He and the pilot, who was from Florida, were friends who met while training at the Punta Gorda, FL, airport. That was all of the useful information Mr. Hackney provided.

Fuel Purchase

Contacted Stewart Aircraft Services, Waynesville, OH. No record
Warren County/Lebanon – No record

James Loy

Mr. Loy is the father of the pilot of the accident aircraft, Jesse Loy. He is an 1100 pilot and owns a C-172 based at Punta Gorda Airport, FL (KPGD). His son and the passenger on the accident aircraft were friends who met in flight school in Punta Gorda and had flown from Punta Gorda to Eric Hackney's private grass airstrip near Wilmington, OH, on Thursday, October 13th, to visit Eric's family and girlfriend. Eric was from Wilmington, OH originally and had a girlfriend there. He said his son hangered the accident aircraft at Punta Gorda Airport. He said the aircraft had 2 - 16 gallon fuel tanks for a total of 32 gallons, and that they always filled them after each flight at each fuel stop. The engine has a Lycoming O-320, 160 hp engine.

I asked him about the history of the engine because FAA records show an engine failure with a forced landing in 02/2007 in Nevada, with a previous owner. He said he didn't know anything about that, but told me his son had bought it out there and had flown it back to Punta Gorda with the father trailing him with a support truck. He said when they had a conditional done after arriving in Punta Gorda that the mechanic told them that "the engine looked like it had been buried in a swamp for 10 years" and recommended an overhaul. He said his son had an overhaul done last year but that it wasn't certified. He said all he knew was that the guy's name was "Junior" in Lakeland, FL, and that he overhauled engines for airboats. The information on the engine overhaul was in the aircraft logbooks. He said the engine had about 500 hrs on it now, and all hours were flown by his son. He said they do their own maintenance and have the conditional inspection signed off by a couple of different mechanics. He said his son took care of that and he didn't know names of who he used, but that all of that information was in the aircraft logbooks. He said they had a starter problem 2 years ago and replaced the starter with an automotive type and were using a high energy battery. For some reason he volunteered that there were 42 screws in each wingtip.

He said he last talked to his son at 4:20 on the day of the accident. His son told him they had had a great Friday night, had gone to the Renaissance Festival Saturday and had a bonfire Saturday night. His son told him they were going to fly back home on Monday morning, the day after the accident. Just prior to my calling him, his son's girlfriend called him and said that they had taken off from the private strip at Wilmington at around 5:00 PM to get fuel for the departure the next morning. They hadn't told her what airport they were going to.

Mr. Loy said his son always kept his pilot logbooks in the aircraft. He didn't know when his son had his last BFR. They aircraft logbooks were in his son's hanger. He said he would scan them and send them to me. He also said the aircraft had no controls at all in the back seat. It was set up for a control stick, but they never put it in.

He said he talked to his son at during the flight to Wilmington when they stopped for fuel at Jacksboro, TN. He didn't know how much his son put in the aircraft but that they typically always topped it off each time they fueled it.

He said he would look for the aircraft logs and the insurance documents and get them to me.

End of conversation.