

Inspector Statement Michael J. Pieczynski
N56092

Wednesday August 9, 2017 this inspector arrived on scene at Fort Atkinson Municipal Airport (61C) at 0955. The Jefferson county Sheriff's department dive team began recovery operations of the aircraft. The recovery operations were stationed on the west bank of the river. The aircraft was completely submerged on the east side of the river approximately 200 yards from a hangar where witnesses were standing at the airport. The aircraft was finally recovered and placed onto a tow truck and unloaded into a hangar at the airport. The aircraft was substantially damaged from impact into the water. There were a few plastic and fiberglass pieces missing which may have floated down river overnight.

The accident occurred at approximately 2045 local time and the weather conditions were winds light from SW to calm.

Interview with Mr. Gordan "Chip" Day of Fort Atkinson.

Mr. Day was attending an airport association meeting at a hangar located at the northeast corner of the airport. The meeting was completed and several people were standing on the apron in front of the hangar talking and enjoying the evening. Approximately 1915 local N56092 an SLSA piloted by Mr. Dave Plambeck landed in the grass area just west of the hangar and taxied to the ramp. Mr. Plambeck was the sole occupant when he arrived. At approximately 1930 Mr. Day witnessed Mr. Plambeck and a passenger board the aircraft taxied and departed off runway 21 (Paved). The aircraft departed to the south and eventually came by the east of the hangar over the river on a downwind to base. Once around to the grass area on the approach end of 21 the aircraft was observed adding power and continuing back into the pattern. The aircraft was observed pattern flying at least two additional rounds. On the final approach coming from the north to the grass west of the hangar and several witnesses observing the aircraft appeared to make a landing attempt. Mr. Day stated the approach did not look very stable almost "mushy" then he heard the engine power up then made a steep climb and left turn to the east right over the top of a barn nearby on the airfield. The aircraft sounded like it had normal power but appeared to not be in control continuing a steeper than normal left wing down climb then once over the river on the downwind of 21 the aircraft made a steep left wing down dive into the water. Mr. Day stated something did not look right when what

appeared to be a landing attempt was made. He stated it seemed the whole sequence took about 10 seconds.

Once the aircraft impacted the water Mr. Day and the passengers Father along with others ran to the river. Some jumped in and swam to the aircraft and Mr. Day found a kayak on shore. Mr. Day stated the aircraft was completely submerged inverted with the occupants belted in the seats. The occupants were removed and not responsive.

Mr. Day stated that Mr. Plambeck, the pilot came in from Rockdale airport (0WS7) that evening and that was where Mr. Plambeck hangered his ELSA. Mr. Plambeck also owns the hangar the wreckage is currently stored in. Next of kin for pilot will be contacted by Jefferson county Sherriff.

Other statements will be taken as contact information is gathered.

Initial inspection of wreckage, Damage as expected. No signs of premature failure. >10 gallons of fuel in the tanks. Propeller shows signs of power during impact. AW certificate/Ops limitations on board as well as pilot log book (All at FSDO)

Michael J. Pieczynski
Principal Maintenance Inspector



08/10/2017