

Hatch Craig

Subject: Chelton display info

From: Garner Kyle

Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 1:20 PM

To: Hatch Craig

Subject: RE: CEN19FA024, Uvalde, TX

All of this information (for the last data point prior to the accident at least) was in the settings.dat file that was stored on the Chelton.

The pilots altimeter was set to 30.05 inHg. Per your prelim report the altimeter setting at the nearest airport (almost 13 miles away) was 29.97 inHg. Chelton units display barometric altitude (corrected for pressure) to pilots, but they also display altitude AGL (in this case a difference between the GPS height and terrain database info) on the PFD as well. The altimeter is auto-set by the Chelton unit at startup, but the pilot can also dial in a custom altimeter setting. Unfortunately the only altimeter setting recorded is the one right before the accident so I'm not sure if he dialed in 30.05 or if the system auto-set it before he took off from the ranch.

The last recorded barometric altitude was 1538 feet. The last recorded GPS altitude was 1422 feet. The last recorded altitude AGL was 32 feet. If the pilot was only looking at the barometric altitude he probably thought he'd clear the ~1400 ft hill. If he hadn't disabled the TAWS warnings, the Chelton unit would've started alerting him to the pending collision.

I'm not sure if I answered your question...if not let me know.

Thanks,

Kyle Garner
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Craig Hatch

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M-F 7:00 to 15:30 Central