

Aircraft Accident on 31 May 2020 at 2L0

Stratton Mills [REDACTED]

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To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>

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To Whom it May Concern:

Yesterday, May 31, 2020, as I was traveling northeast bound on US-165 in Pineville, LA, I witnessed a low-wing aircraft perform a steep bank at low altitude and subsequently stall and disappear behind the tree line. I looked back multiple times in the direction of the incident and did not visibly observe any smoke or other indication of a crash. As I was passing Buhlow Lake on US-165 at around 1330L, I looked to my left and witnessed a low-wing, single-engine aircraft in a climb pitch attitude just after departure from 2L0. About 5 seconds later, I witnessed the aircraft roll into an increasingly steep bank at about 200 to 300 feet AGL and subsequently enter an accelerated stall. The nose of the aircraft then fell into a pitch down attitude and the aircraft fell out of sight below the tree line. Being a pilot myself, I found it very odd that a pilot would perform a steep bank at that low of an altitude, especially at such a low airspeed, unless he was attempting to return to the departing runway. After seeing news articles this morning, I now know that the aircraft I witnessed was a Piper PA-28-180 Cherokee with three souls on board and two fatalities.

Thank you,

Stratton Mills
[REDACTED]