

From: [REDACTED]
To: [eyewitnessreport](#)
Subject: King Air Accident at KRFD 20 AUG 2020
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:07:08 PM

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Hello,

My name is Rusty Barnes of Davis Junction, IL. I had to drop off a box at UPS is the reason why I was at KRFD as I drove around the airport I noticed a King Air 200 doing his run up so I found a place to park and watched it because I liked the paint scheme. As the pilot was doing the run up the engines to me just does not sound they had enough power specially when the pilot was cycling the props. I been around Rockford Airport most of my life and I finished the A&P course at the local college at the airport as well. The engines just sounded like they were going from Alpha to Beta and back to Alpha. From my vantage point I didn't know if the plane left the ground but it sounded like the BETA Valve or the Governor but that's just me. The RPMs just didn't seem a constant PT-6 should. This is what I witnessed today. Thank you

Rusty Barnes

[REDACTED]
Davis Junction, IL 61020
[REDACTED] (CELL)
[REDACTED] (HOME)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael J. Hodges
Air Safety Investigator
Central Regional Office
Office of Aviation Safety
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 09/02/2020
Person Contacted: Rusty Barnes (Witness)
NTSB Case Number: CEN20LA352

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Rusty Barnes to the NTSB investigator-in-charge, via a telephone conversation.

- Rusty is an airframe and powerplant mechanic. Rusty was at the airport to drop off a package at UPS. He was driving around the airport and he noticed the airplane, so he parked to watch it.
 - He observed the airplane doing runup procedures. It appears the runup took longer than necessary.
 - From what Rusty heard, it sounded like the pilot was working the propellers back and forth.
 - It sounded like there was not enough engine power being produced.
 - It sounded like the engines were going back and forth, from high beta to low alpha.
 - Rusty did not observe any smoke or flames emit from the airplane during this period.
- **** Nothing Follows ****

From: [REDACTED]
To: [eyewitnessreport](#)
Subject: small plane crash
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 3:24:18 PM

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My wife and I were witnesses to the King Air plane crash on August 20, 2020, at Rockford IL Airport. We were in a parking lot southeast of the tower and were the closest car in the lot to the crash. Another man, Curtis Carlson, and his wife were watching too and he was interviewed on camera about the crash. What we saw was similar to how he described it. If you need to contact me as an eyewitness, my phone number is [REDACTED].

Gerald Vietmeier



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael J. Hodges
Air Safety Investigator
Central Regional Office
Office of Aviation Safety
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 09/02/2020
Person Contacted: Gerald Vietmeier (Witness)
NTSB Case Number: CEN20LA352

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Gerald Vietmeier to the NTSB investigator-in-charge, via a telephone conversation.

- Gerald observed the airplane take off and then impact terrain. Gerald was in a parking lot with his wife and was southeast of the air traffic control tower at the airport.
 - During the takeoff, the landing gear was down, and then it was retracted.
 - The airplane was observed about 40 ft above the runway, the right wing tipped, and then the left wing tipped way to the left.
 - It appears the airplane went straight up, and the airplane stalled at about 800 ft. The left wing went down, and the airplane impacted the ground.
 - Gerald did not hear any abnormal engines noises or noises that the engines were in distress.
 - Gerald did not observe any smoke or flames emitting from the airplane prior to the impact.
- **** Nothing Follows ****

From: [REDACTED]
To: [eyewitnessreport](#)
Subject: Re: KRFD crash witness
Date: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:39:25 AM

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

One of our security cameras captured the 8/20/20 crash at KRFD. I will forward it as soon as my IT department gets it pulled off the hard drive.

Bryan

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, 6:44:22 PM CDT, Bryan Enos [REDACTED] wrote:

I am a production supervisor at Bergstrom in Rockford. Having been an avid skydiver for many years, I enjoy watching planes at the airport. As I was leaving work today at around 3:40 PM just north of Blackhawk Rd on Falcon, I watched as the King Air left the runway. The plane left the ground but was not accelerating sufficiently. The wheels retracted very soon and I noticed the plane nose up slightly but was very "shaky" in the air. From my vantage point, I'm sure the stall horn was blaring. It banked left (I would guesstimate only 20' off the ground) and hit the ground, bursting into flames immediately. I dialed 911 right away and reported the accident.

If you need any further information, I can be reached at this email or at [REDACTED].

Bryan Enos



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael J. Hodges
Air Safety Investigator
Central Regional Office
Office of Aviation Safety
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 10/09/2020

Person Contacted: Donna McAlister (Wife of the accident pilot, Ronald McAlister)

NTSB Case Number: CEN20LA352

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Donna McAlister to the NTSB investigator-in-charge, via a telephone conversation.

- The purpose of the flight was to move the airplane back to its home base at the DuPage Airport (DPA) in West Chicago, Illinois. The airplane is kept at the DuPage Airport. Ronald flew to the Rockford International Airport (RFD) in Rockford, Illinois, in a friend's airplane to pick up his airplane. The airplane had maintenance work performed on it at the Rockford International Airport.
- Ronald worked at First Trust Portfolios (a financial services firm) as a manager but was semi-retired.
- Ronald started the King Air Academy in Phoenix, Arizona. This is a Beechcraft B200 series training facility for pilots.
- The accident occurred on Thursday, 08/20/2020. On Wednesday, 08/19/2020, he was likely golfing and either not working or doing a small amount of work. On Tuesday, 08/18/2020, he was likely golfing and either not working or doing a small amount of work. On Monday, 08/18/2020, he was likely golfing and either not working or doing a small amount of work.
- Ronald would sometimes have one glass of wine at night.
- Ronald would have a decaffeinated coffee occasionally.
- Ronald would have a cigar occasionally.
- The only medication or drugs Ronald used was heart medication as he previously suffered a heart attack in his 50s.
- Ronald had no major stress events going on in his life at the time.
- Ronald had no issues with sleep or fatigue.
- Ronald has no medical conditions.
- Ronald never reported any concerns with flying or with the airplane.
- Ronald exercised three times a week and he played golf several times a week. Ron lived an active lifestyle and was happy with his life.

**** Nothing Follows ****