



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Dr. David Bowling
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Conversation with: Mr. Ben Reinschmidt

NTSB Accident Number: CEN22FA145, Pond Creek, OK, Piper PA30, N8357Y

Accident Date: March 17, 2022, at 4:38 pm CDT

Interview Date: March 21, 2022, at 10:00 am CDT

I spoke with Mr. Ben Reinschmidt, the witness who recorded and provided local law enforcement and the NTSB with a video of the accident airplane before it impacted terrain. Mr. Reinschmidt reported that the day of the accident, he was on the road near where the airplane came down when he heard a high-pitched steady revving of an engine. He said it sounded a lot like a motocross cross-rocket motorcycle when they put the throttle to full, very loud and high-pitched. He thought there might be one behind him and he looked in his rearview mirror but saw nothing. Then he heard what sounded like a pop and a woosh, like air being let out of a balloon. He got out of his truck, looked up and saw something falling from the sky. At first, he thought it was a weather balloon. He said he's found several that have come down in that area. He pulled out his cellphone to video it for his kids. He then realized it was an airplane coming straight down. He immediately started videoing the airplane, catching the last 9 seconds of the airplane's fall to the ground.

Mr. Reinschmidt reported it was about 12 seconds from the time he heard the revving sound to when he was out of his truck and began videoing it. After the airplane hit the ground, he went to see where it was. He said that when he got to the field where it was at, airplane parts were still coming down. He contacted local law enforcement and fire officials to report the accident.

Mr. Reinschmidt said that the weather at the time of the accident was cloudy and overcast. The wind was light. About an hour later, it started lightly sprinkling. He said you could see cloud lightning to the northwest. He said it didn't start raining heavily until it was dark.

Taken by,

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