

To Ramon Reyes and Alex Lemishko,

The following is my recollection of events that took place on 09-12-2022, ending in the crash of the motorized glider in which I was a passenger. My friend Harding Rome was the pilot.

- * Our flight departed the Soaring Club of Houston near Waller, Texas (approximately 10:15 am) headed for Hooks Airport. This was only my second flight in this motorized glider. Upon arrival there we had an oil change performed on the motorized glider.
- * On the flight to Hooks Airport we had technical problems with Harding's communication headset just prior to reaching Hooks Airport. Harding took my headset to communicate with the tower at Hooks.
- * After landing at Hooks we had lunch at the cafe at Hooks.
- * Before departing Hooks, we obtained different batteries for both headsets.
- * We departed Hooks Airport approximately 1:30 pm (my best guess). During the return flight to Houston Soaring Club, my headset malfunctioned, and I lost communication with Harding as he continued using his headset with sound canceling engaged. He was aware of this malfunction of my headset.
- * As shown in my diagram dated 09-19-2022, we approached Houston Soaring Club landing strip at somewhat of a perpendicular angle.
- * After flying with Harding at least 20 times over the last 5 years (glider without an engine), I witnessed his always precise and calculated landings keeping to the middle of the airstrip. On this day his approach seemed inconsistent with what I had come to expect. Our altitude seemed low considering the trees at the approach end of the airstrip. Because of our communication issue I decided not to attempt a communication with Harding during these last moments of the flight. As Harding started to make his turn, I felt we were not going to land safely and yelled "Harding we are not going to make this". I am unsure if he heard my remarks or if he came to the same conclusion at the same time, but at that point the engine was running at a reduced speed, and the airplane dropped down and seemed to stall. He revved up the engine to try to regain altitude, ending in a quick collision with the ground.
- * Diagram will be sent in another email.

Don Bayer

