

From: [Sharon Ostrowski](#)
To: [Rutt Brian](#)
Subject: Mille Lacs Lake Plane Crash
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 3:25:58 PM

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Dear Mr. Rutt,

The following is a brief account of what I witnessed preceding the plane crash last Friday on Lake Mille Lacs.

On Friday afternoon June 30th sometime after 1:30 PM I was anchored just south of Rainbow Island off the west shore of Mille Lacs Lake. I was getting ready to scuba dive on the rock reef located there.

It was a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze from approximately the north/northeast producing a very slight chop on the water. There were a total of 4 people on my pontoon boat.

Just before gearing up to enter the water a small white amphibious plane followed by float plane flew by east of our location. They were headed in a northerly direction and flying at a very low altitude maybe 30 to 40 feet. After the amphibious plane flew by I heard the engine throttle back significantly. I remember thinking that it was extreme for being so close to the water surface.

It is not unusual to see small planes flying over Lake Mille Lacs, so I thought nothing of it and proceeded with my dive.

45 minutes to 1 hour later as we were boating in a mostly northerly direction returning home we passed large flocks of cormorants flying across the surface of the lake. Then we came across an object floating on the surface. Because we were diving for "lost treasures" we approached the object in hopes of maybe recovering a wake board or similar "treasure".

When we got within 20 ft of the white object we were stopped by the Aitkin County Sheriff's Department.

We were told to leave the area as it was a crash scene. The deputy also enquired if we were recovery divers. We told him that we were recreational divers. He then told us we must leave the area. Which we did.

The object I saw on the water surface was white, about the size of a surf board and had a black piece extending from its surface like a fin.

I hope this info will help with the investigation.

Sincerely,
David J Ostrowski

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