

Michael Folkerts
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: December 1, 2023

Subject: CEN23LA376, Pilot Information

Contact: Amy Nielson, Pilot's Fiancée

Ms. Nielson provided the following information and perspectives.

- Efforts to locate and recover the aircraft next summer through the Sheriff's department are expected.
- The pilot started flying with a motorized chute on a backpack.
- The accident aircraft was purchased in 2019.
- The pilot had flown the accident aircraft at least 40 flight hours, with 2-3 hours flown since June.
- The pilot's preflight activities were methodical, with regular checks of fuel lines for cracks, parachute lines for tangles, etc.
- The aircraft was likely topped off with gas prior to the accident flight, based on a gas tank with fuel being left out.
- The pilot did not take unnecessary risks and would try to locate potential emergency landing fields.
- He was in good spirits during the evening prior and during the day of the flight.
- The pilot was in good health, very active and fit. He had slightly elevated blood pressure, but not significant.
- He never consumed recreational drugs. He drank an occasion beer, but not prior to a flight.
- The pilot was a good swimmer who had also scuba-dived and snorkeled.