

Cory Maxon
Air Safety Investigator
Aviation Safety – Central Region

Date: January 27, 2025
Subject: CEN25LA057
Contact: David Wasicek, Pilot

Mr. Wasicek, the pilot of N5321Q, discussed his cross-country flight planning for the accident flight through phone conversation and email. He stated that he used Foreflight to estimate the duration of the cross-country flight. When asked if he accounted for cruising altitude and planned cruise power setting, he stated that Foreflight calculated a flight time of 3 hours and that he always uses 6 gallons per hour for the fuel burn as his rule of thumb for all flights.

Mr. Wasicek stated that before departing on the accident flight, he measured his wing tanks with a dip stick and estimated he had 2 hours of fuel. He then added 18 gallons of fuel for the flight. Mr. Wasicek estimated he had 5.5 hours of fuel for the accident flight. He stated that he does not use the cruise power settings from the pilot's operating handbook and that he uses 2500 RPMs for his power setting and leans the mixture until the engine struggles and pushes the mixture control in "2 clicks".

Mr. Wasicek stated that he did not perform any time, fuel, or distance calculations during the accident flight. When asked if he accounted for weather conditions, full-power climbs, missed approaches, and cruising altitudes for his fuel consumption calculations, Mr. Wasicek did not respond.