



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Stephen Stein
Aviation Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: August 13, 2013, 1311 EDT
NTSB Accident Number: ERA13LA361
Person Interviewed: Chester Martinek, Student Pilot

Mr. Martinek was interviewed on August 13, 2013 at 1311 EDT in reference to the August 11, 2013 accident involving N557BB in Elliot Island, Maryland. Below is a record of conversation.

- According to Chester Martinek he was piloting N557BB during the accident flight.
- After church they filled the tanks and departed from their private strip.
- Mr. Martinek remarked that his wife, a neighbor, and two cousins were outside observing the flight.
- They made one pass around the island at 300 feet, dove, throttle back slightly, leveled at 100 feet to wave to the family members observing the flight and then banked right to be parallel with the creek road.
- Still parallel with the creek road the pilot throttled up and pulled back on the stick but “didn’t feel right.”
- The pilot remarked that he still had plenty of airspeed, so he went to full throttle, but the airplane seemed to hang there in “slow motion.”
- The airplane started sinking, the pilot banked to the right a little then banked to the right more and pulled back on the stick to keep the nose up, but the airplane would not climb.
- Over the water he ordered his father to hold on while he throttled back completely. The pilot cut the throttle and the airplane tail impacted the water first followed by the nose.
- The pilot reported no mechanical malfunctions that could have precluded normal flight. He noted the flight controls were fine and no engine problems.
- Mr. Martinek also indicated that he banked the airplane to avoid impacting a pier.