



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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

Date: August 19, 2013, 0900 EDT
NTSB Accident Number: ERA13LA361
Person Interviewed: Medford Wiley, Jr., Eyewitness

Mr. Wiley was interviewed on August 19, 2013 at 0900 EDT in reference to the August 11, 2013 accident involving N557BB in Elliot Island, Maryland. Below is a record of conversation.

- According to Mr. Wiley, the airplane came over the beach, went down toward the creek road and then turned again.
- Mr. Wiley reported that the nose was up slightly when the airplane turned from the creek road.
- The tail grazed the water lightly then the airplane impacted the water.
- The witness also mentioned that the engine sounded fine.



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Date: August 16, 2013, 1521 EDT
NTSB Accident Number: ERA13LA361
Person Interviewed: Stanley Zorski, Eyewitness

Mr. Zorski was interviewed on August 16, 2013 at 1521 EDT in reference to the August 11, 2013 accident involving N557BB in Elliot Island, Maryland. Below is a record of conversation.

- According to Mr. Zorski, he had never seen this type of airplane in his life; it looked like an oversized toy.
- He heard the airplane motor and saw make one pass around the island and the airplane came back around again.
- The airplane traveled out to the wharf, made a “u turn” to go back over the water, but when the airplane completed its turn the airplane started to lose altitude.
- With the airplane nose high, the tail impacted the water, the airplane climbed and descended and impacted the water nose first.
- Mr. Zorski remarked that he has worked with engines his entire life and noted no anomalies with this engine.
- The engine was still running after the airplane impacted the water.



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Date: August 16, 2013, 1508 EDT
NTSB Accident Number: ERA13LA361
Person Interviewed: William Santala, Eyewitness

Mr. Santala 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 Mr. Santala, the airplane was headed from west to east at an altitude of approximately 100 to 125 feet.
- While making a turn to the south the airplane seemed to have lost “stabilization” when the tail went down and the right wing pitched deep to the right.
- The airplane also appeared to be “pitching high” like it was trying to climb when the tail slightly impacted the water. The airplane then climbed a little, turned to the right, the wingtip impacted the water and the airplane did a “half cartwheel” and came to rest.
- The pilot reported to Mr. Santala that he “just couldn’t get it straightened out.” He also remembered the pilot stating that “the aileron broke.”