



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Dennis J. Diaz
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: April 7, 2015
Person(s) Contacted: Joe Smith, Pilot
NTSB Case Number: ERA15LA166

During a telephone interview, Mr. Smith stated the following:

- During the accident flight, he picked up his IFR clearance from Fort Myers. Most of the accident flight was in VMC.
- During the flight the engine “hiccupped” and he remembered seeing an airport.
- He had not previously had any problems with the airplane and had owned it for almost a year.
- He previously flown a Cessna 421
- He stopped in Ocala, Florida for fuel, then Fulton County, Georgia again for fuel, the flew to Nashville.
- He next fueled the airplane in Lakeland, Florida, about a week before the accident.
- He typically kept about 10 gallons of fuel in each auxiliary tip tank, and usually topped off the main tanks to about 30 or 40 gallons.
- His airplane was equipped with lap and shoulder belts, and he was wearing both at the time of the accident.