

Narrative History of Flight

On July 1st, 2015, Roger Kempher and I, Jason West, left PSK airport around 4:15pm headed towards Hillsville, VA to HLX. We were going to look at a plane I had bought earlier in the month of June. After take off Roger ran into some rain and adjusted course to stay clear. Roger decided to fly west to show me an airfield that a friend of his was building. He then proceeded to continue onto HLX. Roger asked me for the AWAS and CTAF frequencies for HLX and I looked them up on his I-pad. Roger listened to AWAS prior to entering the pattern at HLX. Winds were variable across the runway at approximately 7-10 mph. Roger entered the pattern from the northwest at a 45-degree angle for runway 01. The altimeter showed approximately 3400 ft. MSL and airspeed approximately 100. Roger decided to fly across midfield to look at the windsock. Roger then decided to change direction and land onto 19. All seemed normal except for being lower than pattern altitude, but Roger having many more hours and experience than I, I was not worried. I had been mostly pre-occupied learning to work Rogers I-Pad because I was interested in buying one for myself. I was looking at it when I noticed a drop in RPM's, as Roger was turning final. This seemed odd because he had just turned final. I looked up from the I-Pad to see terrain and no runway. I looked quickly at gauges, saw no irregularity and instantly grabbed Roger's hand and pushed full throttle. Almost at the same time I felt a tremendous impact force and then a sense of weightlessness, like a rollercoaster ride. I was then looking out an open door into a whirlwind of chaff and hay. I immediately told Roger, "we need to get out of the plane" and we exited into the field.

[REDACTED]

7/18/2015