



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

March 19, 2016

Subject: ERA16LA134 Benson NC
Name: Jerry Williford – Pilot/Owner

Mr. Williford was the pilot/owner of the accident airplane, a Wag Aero Skyraider I experimental amateur-built. He was interviewed by telephone, and the following is a summary of the interview.

Mr. Williford said he had just purchased the airplane, and was going to fly it around the traffic pattern one or two times. When he was asked if he'd ever flown a Skyraider, he said no, but he had flown several airplanes that were "similar" to it.

Mr. Williford said he began the takeoff roll to the west and the wind was pushing the airplane towards the right side of the runway. He attempted to correct with left rudder, but the airplane continued to the right. He said that he also added left aileron, but the airplane continued to the right and the right wing struck a tree limb. According to the pilot, "The next thing I knew I was on the ground."

Mr. Williford asked how the airplane was performing on the flight, and he said, "It felt like everything was doing alright." He said the airplane had accrued 45 total aircraft hours, and that its most recent conditional inspection was completed in December 2015.

Mr. Williford said he held a private pilot certificate with a rating for airplane single engine land. He did not possess an instrument rating. He added that he did not have a current medical certificate, and was exercising the privileges of a sport pilot.

Mr. Williford stated he had 200 total hours of flight experience, and that his experience was divided between both certified and experimental airplanes.