



MEMORANDUM of RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: December 30, 2015
Person Sending e-mail Correspondence: Mr. William Swiggart
NTSB Accident Number: ERA16FA074 – Greenville, FL

This investigator received the following e-mail correspondence from Mr. William Swiggart, father of the accident pilot (copy/paste from body of email):

Ralph:

There is something that might assist you in ascertaining the state of mind of my son and his passenger (my cousin) Maitland the evening of Dec. 17, 2015. James's Facebook page links on Dec. 14th to where he and Maitland had started a blog about learning to fly, and James joined it as well: It is [REDACTED] The entries run from Nov. 29th through a final one on Dec. 14th, 2015.

Clearly, both were very driven and highly motivated individuals who pushed themselves to squeeze the experience of her learning to fly a small plane into already crowded lives. James had told me he was extremely busy at work leading up to the flight, sometimes leading as many as three training flights per day at NAS Meridian. He pushed himself to get his CFI expressly for the experience, and had just obtained it beforehand. Maitland's entry showed her as having worked hard at school followed by a burst of self study about flying leading up to the adventure. I don't think either one really had time for the experience, but they made the time anyway.

Hope this helps.

Regards,

Bill Swiggart

