



## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**Douglass Brazy**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**Eastern Region Aviation**

**August 8, 2017**

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**Subject:** N2854L, Amateur-built LESTER LYDZINSKI NW-FREEDOM, 8/6/17, Green Township, NJ, NTSB Investigation ERA17FA265  
Record of Conversation – Mark Lydzinski – Pilot's Son

Mr. Lydzinski was contacted by telephone on August 8, 2017. He provided the following information:

The pilot had been interesting in flying for many years. The weight-shift trike-style airplane was built by hand, primarily by the pilot, over the previous 3-4 years. The pilot had done a lot of research over the course of the project. He bought the wing and some fairings from North Wing, the construction was otherwise largely custom. The airplane had been inspected by someone on Long Island, NY, however Mark did not know any details about that inspection, who performed it, or when it took place.

The pilot had previously performed some ground testing of the airplane at Trinca airport (13N) with the wing installed. The pilot had previously received some flight instruction, and had soloed at least once, in other similar airplanes. He had not flown N2854L until the day of the accident.

On the day of the accident, the pilot left his house for the airport about 7:30-8:00 am. Mark met him there about 10:00, and they talked for a while. The pilot had some difficulty with a cable that ran along the center of the wing. He used a ratchet strap to pull on that cable to get it in place. The cable keeps tension on the wing. Mark said that 2 people could pull the cable into place, but "it was tough". The "locking point" for the cable was near the rear of the wing.

The pilot "did a pass or 2 on the ground" and then took off. After takeoff, the airplane initially veered slightly left, then corrected to the right "too much" and then turned back toward the left. It was climbing the entire time. When the airplane was about 40-50 feet above the ground, the wing "folded" in the manner that it would fold for its storage or transport position, however it "kept its shape". The wing tips "rotated backward" and as they did, the nose of the wing "went up" and then the airplane fell to the ground. The engine was running for the entire flight, which was about 20 seconds long.

Mark added that the airplane weight a total of 500 – 600 pounds, with the engine weighing about 250 pounds.

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