



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: John Ruble, Pilot/Owner

When: February 1, 2017

RE: ERA17LA098

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Ruble stated that he hadn't flown the airplane since late December and he wanted to check the airplane out before he went on a cross country. He said that the day before the accident he topped the airplane off with fuel (for 90 gallons total), completed a preflight inspection, started the engine, and taxied a short distance. Mr. Ruble said everything was normal and parked the airplane outside. The following day, he arrived at the airport but did not do a preflight inspection or sump the fuel tanks. He started the engine and departed. Mr. Ruble climbed to 12,500 ft mean sea level (msl) and leveled off. When he reduced engine rpm for cruise flight, the engine "just shut off immediately." There was no warning or any indication of an engine problem prior to it shutting down and the propeller continued to windmill. Mr. Ruble said that he attempted to re-start the engine for 3-4 minutes to no avail. He declared an emergency and proceeded to ZER, the nearest airport, but landed off field about 1 mile north of the airport.

Leah D. Read

Sr. Air Safety Investigator

National Transportation Safety Board