



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Daniel P. Boggs
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: March 14, 2017 at 1240 EDT
Person(s) Interviewed: Karl Hans Rittinger-pilot
NTSB Case Number: ERA17LA128

Narrative:

Mr. Rittinger was interviewed by telephone.

Mr. Rittinger stated he rented the airplane from pilots paradise on 3-10-17 to fly from Sabastian Municipal Airport (X26), Sabastian, Florida, to Peter O Knight Airport (TPF), Tampa, Florida, to see his girlfriend for the weekend, he left the plane tied down on the ramp for two days until March 12, 2017 he was going to fly home to X26.

Around 12:30pm on March 12, 2017 he arrived at the airport and started the preflight on the airplane. He stated the tanks were filled up at X26 and he still have over 30 gallons of fuel remaining for the one hour flight home. It was a clear VFR day. He sumped the tanks and the tanks were clear of debris and water. He started up the engine and taxied to runway 22. He performed his run up and magneto check. All checked normal. He then started his takeoff roll from runway 22. At 60 knots or so he rotated and climbed to approximately 100 feet when he noticed a loss of power and the RPM coming down. He checked fuel pressure and oil pressure and all checked good. He started looking for a place to land and did not feel he could abort the takeoff safely so he tried to make a turn back to the airport and land on a cross runway. During the turn, he realized he would not make it back to the airport and decided to ditch the airplane in the ocean. Once he ditched in the ocean he exited the airplane and a boat in the area picked him up and took him to shore.

Mr. Rittinger told me he has been a pilot for about 5 years and has approx.. 230 hours of TT. He stated his last medical was on 5-14-2012.