



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Heidi Kemner
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

February 28, 2018

Subject: ERA18FA092
Who: Flint J. Brady – Airport Manager – 3FL0

In a telephone conversation with Brady, he stated the following:

- Doesn't know the circumstances of the flight.
- Departed the airport around 3 PM
- Returned around 7:30 PM
- A few residents heard the airplane make a pass over the runway and maybe an attempt to land, circle to the west, and pass again. Then they heard the airplane impact.
- No one visually saw anything.
- Pilot is a part time resident at the airpark. He has homes in a couple of different states. Retired recently.
- There was no fuel at the airpark.
- The Common Traffic Advisory Frequency is not recorded at the airport.



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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February 28, 2018

Subject: ERA18FA092
Who: Sunday Cain – Local Witness

In a telephone conversation with Ms. Cain, she stated the following:

- She was out working with the Boy Scouts, she lives in Riverpark.
- He was coming from the west side of St. Johns River, the Ocala side, he came across, and was right over the River Grill.
- He banked it to the left, he had a wobble, in the turn, and it dropped the left side.
- It was foggy since it had glow coming off the wing lights
- You could see the two wing lights and a red light. Those were the only lights on it that she could see.
- When he did that bank, wobbled, and straighten up, and wobbled again but was really low.
- He's awfully low, it was really strange for him to be that low.
- He went the direction of the ferry.
- No spitting or sputtering, and the engine sounded fine.
- I used to live closer to the airport and used to hear airplanes all the time. What we heard, he sounded fine. He just had a little wobble.
- I'm about 1 mile or 2 miles down the road from the ferry.
- He banked and turned back around.
- I've seen all the flight patterns, since I used to live closer.
- He banked to the left and we lost him in the trees and then the boyscouts heard it hit the water. She had stepped away for a little bit and did not hear the sound of impact.
- "I don't understand why he was going back over the river unless he got lost in the fog or the power lines."
- The power lines are close to the airport, an airplane hit that powerlines 6-7 years ago.

- He probably did a 45-degree bank, it wasn't a 90-degree bank.
- He was eerily low, he was probably 2x the height of the power lines. He was real low.
- We were on the ground and we couldn't see the fog, I didn't think anything of it until we saw the fog/ glow around the lights, so there was some fog farther up.
- The airplanes usually come in on the left side, and he came in on the right side of the power lines.
- The airplanes usually come up the river and around like they are coming straight at the ferry and they dip between the trees and land.
- She lives at [REDACTED], Crescent City, FL. If you look at a photo of the ferry, there will be a row of 4 cabins in a row, trailers in front of it, and then the 4 cabins going away from the water, I used to live in that second cabin. I just moved from there 6 months ago.



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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Eastern Region Aviation

February 28, 218

Subject: ERA18FA092
Who: Officer Kelvin Vega – Florida State Trooper
John Palmer - Witness

In a recorded interview with Trooper Vega, Mr. Palmer stated following:

- He was outside his vehicle around 3:30 pm near the runway.
- He witnessed the accident airplane takeoff.
- The pilot always flew that airplane with another pilot since it was such a big airplane.
- The airplane belonged to the pilot.
- He saw the airplane parked in the grass next to the pilot hangar.
- He spoke to the pilot about 1 PM on February 27. The pilot was in good spirits, he made a few jokes, and he offered Mr. Palmer some work.
- Around 3:30 he took off into the wind. That was the last time he saw or spoke to the pilot.
- The weather was windy because he made a comment about how windy it was.
- The pilot made a good takeoff and the airplane “powered out really well.”
- He had great equipment.
- He was notified about the accident around 7:20 pm.
- The pilot didn’t tell him where they were going.
- It’s not uncommon for the pilot to fly to Georgia or someplace to take a friend to eat.
- The airplane appeared and sounded to be in good condition.
- All of the pilot’s equipment is top notch.
- Other than the wind, it was good weather.
- The airplane took $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ of the runway to takeoff.
- He hadn’t seen the accident airplane takeoff that airplane before.
- The engine sounded normal on takeoff.