



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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

Date: July 6, 2018 at 1030 EDT
Person(s) Interviewed: Matt Simmons-pilot rated passenger
NTSB Case Number: ERA18LA184

Narrative:

Mr. Matt Simmons was interviewed in person.

Matt stated that he was a pilot and building the same type airplane as the accident airplane. He and Mr. Wilson were friends and they flew together regularly.

Matt stated on this day they took off from Spruce Creek to fly up to Flagler and have lunch. After lunch they filled up with aviation fuel and departed back to Spruce Creek. He stated they had a normal flight back to the airport and during landing he verified that the flaps were down, and they had three green lights on the landing gear indicator. He also observed the airspeed to be around 90 knots on short final. Matt stated a few feet above the ground, he heard the angle of attack sensor alarm and he knew the airplane stalled and landed hard. He heard a loud "POP" and he told the pilot that they broke off the left main landing gear. The pilot then applied full power to try and take off again but the airplane would not lift off the ground so the pilot reduced the throttle to idle. The airplane was sliding off the runway to the left and they hit the PAPI lights. The airplane continued to slide on the grass and when the right wing dug into the ground, the airplane flipped over and caught fire. They both yelled "get out" and tried to open the canopy. The canopy was jammed, and fire was coming in to the cockpit. The pilot tried to pull the handle for the fire extinguisher, but it would not work. Matt climbed over the back seat to try and manually release the fire extinguisher; however the handle broke off in his hand. Matt then tried to kick out the canopy but could not break the glass. Some people that seen and heard the crash came over and helped open the canopy and pulled both of them out.