



Record of Interview

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National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: September 17, 2018
Person Interviewed: David Wellman-pilot
NTSB Case Number: ERA18LA250

Narrative:

Mr. David Wellman was interviewed by telephone: 1300 EDT

Mr. Wellman (David) stated he just purchased the airplane and had the annual completed before he departed Morristown, TN (MOR) for his state of residence, Summerfield, FL.

David stated he had an extensive annual performed and all systems checked by two separate IA's.

On Friday 14, 2018 around 07:30 EDT he departed for Florida. He wanted to fly over the Smokey mountains at 9,500 ft. Once he leveled off for cruise flight, he noticed his fuel gauges were reading $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ tank for left and right. He thought that was very unusual for this flight time. He decided to land and the nearest airport once he cleared the mountains. He landed at Clemson, SC (CEU) and took on 24 gallons of fuel. The airplane only holds 25 gallons. David was nervous about the fuel burn but thought it just used allot of fuel instead of a fuel leak. He departed CEU and climbed to 3,500 ft., approximately 20 minutes after takeoff and immediately noticed that the fuel level was down to $\frac{1}{4}$ tank on each side. David decided to land at the first available airport in Sandersville, GA (OKZ). About 15 miles away, he lost engine power, switched tanks and turned on the boost pump and the engine restarted. A moments later, the engine lost all power again and he knew he would not make the airport. He set up to land in a field. Once he touched down, the airplane hit a mound and the nose gear collapsed. He and his wife departed through the canopy.

David stated that he cannot find the logbooks and may have left them in the rental car back in Morristown, TN. He is trying to find them as of this time and date.