



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: November 16, 2020
Person Contacted: Greg Geisler – Passenger/Copilot
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19LA257 Burnsville, NC

Narrative:

Mr. Geisler was the passenger in the accident airplane. In written statements he stated that he and the pilot had been “making that trip for approximately 4.5 years.” Mr. Geisler was interviewed by telephone and the following is a summary of the interview.

1. Are you a pilot and what certificates do you hold? *I am not a pilot. I’m a student pilot. Took the FAA written and passed it. I have a Student Pilot Medical certificate, it’s expired. I haven’t really flown much since the accident.*
2. What was the purpose of these flights for the past 4.5 years? *The flights were between Greenville, SC and Medina, Ohio, my home.*
3. Did Mr. Storm let you fly? *Yes.* Were you flying at the time of the upset? *Yes.*
4. In your interview with the FAA you said the airplane entered the clouds, the flight became “rough” and the airplane “stalled” because of the weather. You were referring to an aerodynamic stall? *We came out of the clouds, and there was no engine.* Mr. Geisler was unsure at which point during the descent that the engine stopped running.
5. In your interview with the Park Ranger, “Mr. Geisler pulled on the nose of the plane which made the engine stall.” That’s what the park ranger wrote. You were again referring to an aerodynamic stall? *That’s not exactly what I remember. But what I remember was talking to Atlanta Center, and they suggested turning 30 degrees to the left, or whatever it was, because it looked good on their NEXRAD, and it looked good on our NEXRAD so that’s what we did. The next thing I knew we were in the clouds instead of the blue skies.* When asked if he was still on the controls, Mr. Geisler said that they were both trying to control the plane at that point. When asked if that was the point Mr. Storm joined him on the controls, he said “Yes.”

6. How much ice had accumulated on the airplane prior to the stall? *There was no ice accumulation.*
7. Do you recall how much altitude was lost before you deployed the parachute? *I don't know. We learned the next day that we had lost about 10,000 feet.*
8. Who deployed the parachute? *I did. Mr. Storm leveled the airplane so we could deploy the parachute.*