



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 10/15/2019

Person Contacted: Jimmy Dean (Flight Instructor, Friend of Pilot)

NTSB Accident Number: ERA20FA009

Narrative:

The individual named above was interviewed in person at the accident airport in Cameron, North Carolina. The following is a summary of what he reported:

- Mr. Dean reported that he believed Mr. Fitzgerald (the accident pilot) departed from his private airstrip (NC84) to Woodward Field Airport (CDN), Camden, South Carolina, Saturday morning (10/12/2019) to an EAA fly-in.
- Mr. Dean was friends with the pilot and was his flight instructor.
- He reported that it was common for the accident pilot to enter the traffic pattern for runway 9 at NC84, as runway 9 was the primary runway for landing, and runway 27 was utilized for takeoff.
- He reported the flight from 84NC to CDN was about 45 minutes to one hour.
- He reported that during the originally planned return trip to 84NC on 10/12/2019, the accident pilot told him he lost the canopy on the climb. The accident pilot told him he planned to get a motorcycle helmet with a full-face mask and fly the airplane home without the canopy on 10/14/2019. The accident pilot told him the airplane “flew alright” without the canopy.
- He believed someone flew on his wing in a loose formation on 10/14/2019 for the accident flight back to NC84.
- He was not aware of any other maintenance issues with the airplane and he did not believe the accident pilot had ever flown the accident airplane without a canopy prior to its malfunction on the last flight prior to the accident flight.
- He reported that the accident pilot was retired, and he was not aware of any reason why the accident pilot had to be back home.
- He believed the accident pilot flew a direct route of flight and was going to utilize his GPS.
- Mr. Dean reported that the accident pilot prior to the accident flight later confirmed that he did locate a motorcycle helmet and planned to fly home without the canopy, wearing the helmet. The accident pilot told him that the airplane “wasn’t too bad” to handle when he flew without the canopy for the short period of time it separated in his previous flight.
- Mr. Dean reported that he told the accident pilot, “Don’t do it” and “I wouldn’t do it” in reference to whether he believed the accident pilot should fly without the canopy.



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- Mr. Dean reported that he got the call from someone who he believed was associated with the local EAA chapter in South Carolina about 1:00PM or 2:00PM the day of the accident. They believed the airplane was missing. Mr. Dean recalled that he called 911 about 2:00PM on 10/14/2019.