



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

Record of Conversation

Who: Rufus Decker, Witness

When: February 10, 2020

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Decker stated that he was a flight instructor and was giving another instructor a Flight Review at the Front Royal Airport when he witnessed the accident involving N912ES. He said that he and another instructor had just successfully completed a simulated emergency tow rope brake maneuver which resulted in them departing runway 28 but making a 180 degree+ turn to land on runway 10. The glider had just finished its landing rollout on runway 10 when Mr. Decker looked up to the left and saw a “white glider” in a fully involved spin directly down towards the ground. Mr. Decker was unsure if the glider was in the Front Royal Airport traffic pattern or not and he did not recall the direction it was spinning. Mr. Decker said it spun “a lot.”

Mr. Decker said the weather was very “benign” and not turbulent.

Mr. Decker said neither he nor anyone he talked to after the accident heard any radio calls from the pilot that day.

Leah D. Read, Sr. ASI