



# NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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**Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)**  
**National Transportation Safety Board**

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**Date: 9/3/2020**

**Person Contacted: Chuck Hoeppner (Maryland Airport (2W5) FBO Employee)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA305**

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## **Narrative:**

The following is a summary of information that was reported by the individual noted above to the best of his knowledge and understanding:

- The pilot's airplane (N7323K) stayed at the 2W5 airport for a day or two prior to August 31, 2020. He talked with the accident pilot in multiple instances while he was at the airport on the afternoon preceding the accident flight.
- The pilot did not discuss any mechanical problems with the airplane in their discussions.
- The pilot had been "waiting for the weather to clear" on the afternoon of the accident.
- Mr. Hoeppner left the airport at 6:00PM the evening of the accident, as the FBO closes then, and the pilot was at the airport and had not departed yet.
- Mr. Hoeppner and other pilots at the airport discussed with the pilot particular airspace protocols around the airport. He added that the other pilots at the airport advised the accident pilot that he should not depart along the route due to the weather.
- Mr. Hoeppner reported that the pilot was looking at "storms" on his iPad and was concerned about the cloud ceilings and terrain to the west along his route of flight.
- Mr. Hoeppner stated that based upon his discussions with the pilot, his "biggest concern were [cloud] ceilings."
- Mr. Hoeppner believed that the pilot's destination was Martinsburg, WV (MRB) airport and then the next day, he believed it was the pilot's intention to continue onto Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Mr. Hoeppner reported that the pilot shared with him and others at the airport, that he was on a cross-country journey across the United States, and he intended on landing in all lower 48 states. Mr. Hoeppner stated that the pilot reported he was on a "tour of the 48" lower United States. His journey began in California weeks ago. He needed to land in West Virginia next as part of his tour, prior to heading to North Carolina.



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- The pilot was alone at the airport and did not receive fuel at 2W5 airport.