



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: September 30, 2021
Person: Hannah Braade
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA377 Lansing, WV
Subject: Beech BE23 N3342L

Narrative:

Ms. Braade was Mr. Fletcher's partner and had flown with Mr. Fletcher several times. She and Mr. Fletcher had planned a trip for New River Gorge Bridge Day in October and the purpose of this trip was to survey the airport, lodging, etc. He also wanted to survey the runway and the elevation to see how the airplane performed. Mr. Fletcher also wanted to log cross-country flight time towards his commercial rating.

Mr. Fletcher "really wanted to go whitewater rafting." He had the normal preflight conversations about weight and balance, and he was very careful, very detail-oriented, just like his work. He was an engineer for Cisco. "I told people he was a telephone engineer, but he was more than that, because he designed VOIP systems."

When asked if she had spoken with Mr. Fletcher over the weekend, Ms. Braade said, "He communicated with me Saturday by text with lots of photos and that night about 830 pm" by telephone. She said they had a "normal" conversation about his trip, the weather, and the sights. During the conversation Mr. Fletcher said he was concerned that he was taking off from a shorter runway at a higher elevation. He said he planned to depart about 10-1030 the following morning.

Ms. Braade described Mr. Fletcher as a bright, detail-oriented person. She said he was a planner and plotted detailed drawings and calculations on random pieces of paper. She said that because of this trait, she purchased a journal for him to capture his ideas and plans in one place.

Ms. Braade offered that she was in possession of the airplane's maintenance records and agreed to a plan that would allow for their examination by investigators.