



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Pilot Statement

Peter Wentz
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: October 13, 2020
Person Contacted: Richard Smith (Pilot)
Contact #: [REDACTED]
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA007

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the individual named above:

Mr. Smith stated that on October 5, 2020 he conducted a preflight of N787AC and found no anomalies. He and his wife departed Dekalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK) Atlanta, GA around 1415. The flight departed to the north on a site seeing venture around the Blue Ridge and Ellijay, GA vicinity. Mr. Smith stated he decided to land at Gilmer County Airport (49A) Ellijay, Georgia. While on final approach notices the airspeed was about 80 mph and that he was going very fast, landing further down the runway than planned. He thought about going around and added power while turning the airplane to the right. He stated the airplane ballooned up and then landed again, this time at an angle resulting the airplane flipping over inverted and coming to a stop. Mr. Smith stated during the conversation "it was plain and simple pilot error" and reported there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have prevented normal operation prior to the accident.

Pilot statement from NTSB form 6120:

ON October 5 I departed KPOK with my wife for some sightseeing in the N. GA. mountains around 2:15 PM. I flew up to and around Ellijay, Blue Ridge and vicinity, and then decided to land at Ellijay, and maybe do some takeoffs and landings there. 49A. I crossed the end of the runway at about 80 MPH, which was too fast, and rather than go around then I went about 1800' down the runway and then put it down on the main and it hit very hard, bounced up and to the left and touched down again at an angle. I was headed for the grass, gave it full power in an attempt to go around, stick and rudder pedals to the right, and the plane did turn right but then nosed over and ended up upside down and pointed south.