



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

March 12, 2021

Subject: NTSB investigation ERA21LA141, N670BS, experimental amateur built Lancair 320, Atlantic Ocean, February 24, 2021. Information provided by Joan Hyde.

Ms. Hyde provided the following information via telephone on March 12, 2021:

The pilot had been visiting Ms. Hyde and stayed at her house for a couple of days while in the Deland, Florida area. She noted that the pilot had fueled the airplane at Deland airport, possibly the day prior to the accident flight.

The pilot had not mentioned any problems with the airplane, he had mentioned that a “navigation system” had been “checked out” about a month prior. She recalled that a navigation light in one of the wingtips was replaced a few months prior. She advised that the airplane was ADS-B equipped, and the unit was up and working as of (at least) several months prior, she thought it may have been installed the previous spring or summer. The pilot maintained the airplane, she offered that he could “fix anything” and was “very smart”.

The pilot had purchased the airplane from someone who started building it 15-20 years earlier, and he finished the build. Ms. Hyde did not know when it was finished.

Ms. Hyde had flown with the pilot in the airplane many times. She recalled that the cockpit temperature could be warm when flying at low altitudes. She described the pilot as being “in control, knowledgeable, and cool under pressure”. She added that he would “not panic” during inflight events that she observed, such as experiencing carburetor ice or encountering weather. She noted that the pilot had focused on addressing those situations when they occurred and waited to describe/explain them after the airplane had landed.

Ms. Hyde reported that while visiting with her, the pilot had normal eating habits, though he was not “big on breakfast”. He had no abnormal sleeping issues, he went to sleep between 2200 and 2300, and woke between 0500 and 0600. The pilot mentioned that he had some leg cramps at night, which may have been occurring for a while. She did not know which leg(s) were affected.

Ms. Hyde recalled that the pilot had heart surgery about 3 years prior, and that after that time his legs would tire quickly. He routinely walked 3 miles each day (and did so during his visit), with some difficulty. He seemed healthy, strong, and in good shape, often spent time gardening and working on his airplane. He had received his first Covid-19 vaccination shot about 1-2 weeks before the flight. He was not taking any medications, and generally did not take medications unless “absolutely necessary”.

Ms. Hyde noted that the pilot's previous job involved designing navigation and communication equipment for commercial airplanes.

Ms. Hyde drove the pilot to the Deland airport on the morning of the accident and dropped him off about 0915-0930. She said the flight was expected to take 55-60 minutes and the pilot planned to arrive at Boca Raton around 1100. He had plans to eat lunch with friends at 1200.

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