



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Heidi Kemner
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

April 8, 2021

Subject: ERA21LA169
Who: Francis Lynch – Pilot

In a telephone conversation, Inspector Sablan stated the following:

- 40 years of flying
- Bought airplane as derelict
- Previous owner was wacky, no one interested in purchases.
- My mechanic – I've used him for 20 years stripped out the airplane.
- The fuel tanks were filled with water
- We drained the sumps
- Took out sumps
- Replaced gaskets with new gaskets
- Would go visit airplane during annual - checked it to run it up again
- Saturday before, we drove out to the airplane - make sure it's good to go
- Drained it, found another tablespoon of water until I got it clean. 4-5 hits.
- Ran the airplane at takeoff power and it ran great.
- Wife said "you're worried about water?"
- At 2:23 on the day of the accident I texted her and said the plane running great.
- Another tablespoon of water was removed.
- Taxied to north end. Ran it up at full engine power.
- Ran in several mins on takeoff power.
- Successfully did another runup.
- Full power on takeoff, crosswind downwind.
- Turned on to course, then the engine quit.
- Left tank was breech or drained to right tank.
- Left tank empty.
- Right tank had fuel.
- Water was in the sump.
- From December until I departed, I've been sumping and running the engine.
- Online article showed that the original tanks were from a C140.
- They didn't reconfigure location of drain port. So, I couldn't get all the water out.
- That also increased the unusable fuel.

- They showed how you could add 80 oz of water before you could get sump into the water
- I do not want to have my name attached to the event saying I didn't drain the water.
- If the gascolator would have been filled with water, then I couldn't have taken off and continued 5 miles.
- I think there is a service bulletin with rocking the tail, and I did that also. Only way to get water out of the tank, was you need 5 people.
- At 2:37 I was on the ground taking photo of the airplane.
- Maintenance in March was redoing the airplane.
- I purchased the airplane Dec 7. Over several days, the mechanic and I went over and above redoing the airplane.
- Gaskets came from aero performance and were newly installed.