



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Aaron McCarter
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date and Time: July 13, 2021
Person Contacted: Ronald Garrison: Pilot/Builder
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA247

RE: Discussed the accident and his knowledge of the operation.

Narrative:

Mr. Garrison built this aircraft among several others. He has about 3,000 hours in various airplanes similar in nature.

After closing the canopy, he took off from the airport for a local flight. Everything performed well up until the right canopy latch came loose. It “popped” open and vibrated a lot. He was in the traffic pattern and just turned on base from downwind when it happened.

He guesses the asymmetrical airflow and vibration cause the whole thing to let go. The left latch failed quickly after and the whole canopy flew open.

It was very violent. He was thrown up into his harness and the airplane quickly slowed down like a big air brake was deployed. The canopy is the type that opens forward with the hinge on the front. The two latches where it connects are on the back near the pilot and passenger shoulders: it's a simple design.

He added full power, but the airplane would not stay up and it descended rapidly into the trees bordering the airport. He was banged up but ok. He didn't get discovered until the fire department found him hours later during the evening.

He thinks the right latch broke or failed. The airplane has been in the trees for a while but when he recovers it, he will make sure to keep the latch so it can be examined.

[END]