



Investigator Name: Doug Brazy

Title: ASI

Division: AS -ERA

Date: 12/18/21

Subject: ERA22LA090 - N1402C, Auburndale, FL, 12/17/21

Witness Information

From the Polk County Sheriff's Office:

Polk County Sheriff's Office Case Number: 2021-52653:

Below are the witness information and a synopsis of interviews conducted by PCSO detectives:

Dennis Jackso [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Auburndale, FL 33823
[REDACTED]

Lee Jackson [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Auburndale, FL 33823
[REDACTED]

Dennis and Lee are husband and wife. On this date, Dennis was on his back pool deck and advised he heard and observed a plane comping across the lake toward his residence from the North. Dennis advised the plane appeared to be flying at a fairly low altitude and the engine was making a sputtering noise. Dennis stated he did not see any smoke, flames or other signs of distress.

Dennis stated the plane was coming straight toward the rear of his residence, descending at a steep angle and crashed into the lake. Dennis advised that the plane crashed with the front downward and the nose and front of the skids into the water. Dennis stated the plane came apart and there was an immediate, explosibe ball of flames and smoke. Dennis called for his wife Lee to dial 911 and then went and got his kayak to paddle out to the crash. Dennis stated he observed two seats, an orange flotation device and two wheels floating in the water, but no sign of people.

Mariaelena Steiner, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Auburndale, FL 33823

2

She was on her back patio deck when she heard an airplane that sounded like the motor was winding up, which didn't sound normal. She looked and observed a white seaplane heading nose down toward the water. She observed the plane hit the water, explode and saw pieces flying about.

Donald Steiner, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Auburndale, FL 33823
[REDACTED]

He was outside and heard the same thing as his wife, but he didn't see the plane going down. When he looked he just saw the explosion on the water and heard someone scream; however, his wife was screaming when she saw what happened.

(Note that both Mr. and Mrs. Steiner are PCSO Chaplains).

Detectives went to the address registered to the plane – [REDACTED], Winter Haven. Two Toyota Four Runners were there, but no one came to the door. They live on Lake Hartridge and what appeared to be an airplane parking pad was in the backyard and no plane was there. Detectives talked to Spencer Rasnake of [REDACTED], who said that Bill and who he believed was "Kathleen" lived at the house and the two Four Runners belonged to them. Spencer said he hadn't seen the couple today and didn't know what time they left in the plane. Spencer asked his wife, but she didn't see the plane leave either. Spencer described the plane as cream or ivory color with a green stripe(s).

Spencer said he believed the couple recently got married. Spencer said it was usually just the couple who flew the plane. Spencer said Bill has a son who lives in the Fort Lauderdale area, but he didn't know his name or contact information.

Detectives attempted to talk to someone at [REDACTED] Dr., but no one was home.

Let me know if there is anything else we can assist you with.

Alex Tan #7908
Detective
Bureau of Criminal
Investigations / Homicide Unit
Polk County Sheriff's Office

From the Federal Aviation Administration:

RECORD OF ☐ VISIT ☐ CONFERENCE OR ☒ TELEPHONE CALL		TIME 5:13pm	DATE 12/17/2021
NAME (S) OF PERSON (S) CONTACTED OR IN CONFERENCE AND LOCATION		ROUTING	
		SYMBOL	INITIALS
Andrew Smith			
SUBJECT Aircraft Accident Lake Arietta			
DIGEST			
The FAA IIC contacted Mr. Smith and asked him what he witness. Mr. Smith indicated that the aircraft was flying low over the lake but he could hear that the engine was struggling to develop full power. It sounded that the engine was choking. Then he saw the aircraft on a right climbing turn still struggling to develop power. Then he saw the aircraft with a steeper right bank turn but he lost sight of the aircraft since it went below the trees. Then he heard a loud pop sound, he stated that possibly that popping sound was the engine quitting or impacting the water			
In addition Mr. Smith is a professional pilot and is sea plane rated. He stated that he has flown the Lake Amphibious Aircraft and such aircraft has a big tendency to pitch up when the engine quits			
CONCLUSION, ACTION TAKEN, OR REQUIRED			
DATE 12/22/2021	TITLE Aviation Safety Inspector	SIGNATURE AHMED CABALLERO-SANABRIA Digitally signed by AHMED CABALLERO-SANABRIA Date: 2021.12.22 08:04:09 -05'00'	

RECORD OF ☐ VISIT ☐ CONFERENCE OR ☒ TELEPHONE CALL	TIME	DATE 12/20/2021
NAME (S) OF PERSON (S) CONTACTED OR IN CONFERENCE AND LOCATION	ROUTING	
	SYMBOL	INITIALS
Mr. John Brown		
SUBJECT Accident in Lake Arietta.		
DIGEST Mr. Brown wanted to speak with me on scene to follow up on the accident. I was unable to attend to him . I have called Mr. Brown, He informed me that he knew the pilot. Mr. Brown a CFI had provided the deceased pilot with his Flight Reviews in the past Mr. Brown stated that he was a competent pilot I asked him if he knew anything about the maintenance of the Lake Aircraft in which he replied that Mr. William Schamlz will correct immediately any maintenance issues with the aircraft. Mr. Brown stated that he went to Mr. Schmalz place of residence but no one answer The FAA IIC asked him if he had experience on the Lake Aircraft , he stated Yes. Mr. Brown confirm the pitch up tendency of the aircraft when it experience an engine failure(See Andrew Record of Conversation). The Investigating inspector asked him if he knew any medical conditions, he stated that he was no aware of any He then again reinstated that he was a competent pilot. The Investigating inspector thanked him for his time and advised that if he come across any other information that could be beneficial to contact the inspector.		
CONCLUSION, ACTION TAKEN, OR REQUIRED		
DATE 12/22/2021	TITLE Aviation Safety Inspector	SIGNATURE AHMED CABALLERO- SANABRIA Digitally signed by AHMED CABALLERO-SANABRIA Date: 2021.12.22 08:25:06 -05'00'

RECORD OF ☒ VISIT ☐ CONFERENCE OR ☐ TELEPHONE CALL	TIME 1620	DATE 12/17/2021										
NAME (S) OF PERSON (S) CONTACTED OR IN CONFERENCE AND LOCATION		ROUTING <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">SYMBOL</th> <th style="width: 50%;">INITIALS</th> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>	SYMBOL	INITIALS								
SYMBOL	INITIALS											
Polk County Sheriff's												
SUBJECT Aircraft Accident in Lake Arietta												
DIGEST												
Upon arriving at the scene at [REDACTED] Lane in Auburndale, Florida met with the sheriffs. I was briefed and informed that the accident happened approximately at 12:25 PM. They confirmed the tail number to be N1402C. There was a large debris field and the aircraft was submerged at approximate 10 feet depth and could not be seen. The recovered 2 bodies from the water both fatally injured. Pilot owner John Williams Schmalz III and Lynann Lane Kirk. [REDACTED]. They also informed the FAA IIC of 2 witnesses Mr Wyatt [REDACTED] and Mr Andrew Smith (Pilot) [REDACTED]. In addition the Sheriff's has other witness statements that will be provided to the NTSB and FAA. The Sheriff's informed that coordination with the NTSB was made to remove the wreckage on Monday December 20th, 2021 Investigator Doug Brazy NTSB IIC later confirmed with the FAA and advised of the coordination. In addition Toxicology box was given to the Medical Examiner driver.												
CONCLUSION, ACTION TAKEN, OR REQUIRED												
DATE 12/22/2021	TITLE Aviation Safety Inspector	SIGNATURE AHMED CABALLERO- SANABRIA Digitally signed by AHMED CABALLERO-SANABRIA Date: 2021.12.22 07:58:00 -05'00'										