



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Investigator: Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
NTSB - Eastern Region

Date: February 26, 2022
Subject: Rodney Hood – FAA Inspector
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA144 Savannah, GA

Narrative:

Mr. Hood was the FAA Inspector assigned to this accident investigation. He responded to the accident site, the flight school, and to the recovery facility to supervise the engine examination. He provided evidence and his findings through multiple telephone conversations and by email.

According to Mr. Hood, the airplane was recovered from the Savannah River under his supervision. Flight control continuity was established from the flight controls to all flight control surfaces. Twenty gallons of water and fuel was drained from the airplane's fuel tanks, of which "maybe 3 or 4 gallons" was fuel. According to the recovery specialist, "About 75% of that was from the left tank. There was about 5 gallons in the right tank, and maybe a gallon of that was fuel." When asked if the fuel tanks were breached, he replied, "No, when the diver went down there were no 'rainbows' going to the surface or any evidence of fuel leaking. There were no 'rainbows' on the surface either."

The fuel selector was found in the right tank position.

Mr. Hood supervised the engine examination at an aircraft recovery facility in Jacksonville, Florida. The spark plugs were removed, the engine was rotated by hand at the propeller, and water was pumped from the cylinders. During rotation, continuity was confirmed from the powertrain to the valvetrain and the accessory section. Compression was confirmed using the thumb method. The magnetos were removed and dried with compressed air. When actuated with a drill, they produced spark at all terminal leads. The carburetor was removed and disassembled and contained no water or fuel. The fuel inlet screen was intact and unobstructed. The engine driven fuel pump was removed, contained no water or fuel, and pumped fluid when actuated by hand. The electric fuel pump was removed, contained no fuel, and operated when powered by a battery.