



Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 8/25/2023

Subject: ERA23FA342, Witness Statement Provided by Bruce R. Goldberg

Mr. Goldberg (REDACTED), provided the following statement to FAA inspector Cornelius Baker, CAE FSDO:

On Sunday August 20, 2023, at approximately 10:30 am I observed N9360S depart runway 3 at Chandelle Airpark (SC72)

I am a resident of Chandelle and live on the east side of the runway near the end of runway 21.

As the aircraft was climbing pass my house, I did notice a slight reduction in engine RPM sound, and then an increase in RPM. The engine did not sputter or backfire.

I continued to observe the aircraft as it continued to climb and turn northwest bound. It appeared to me that the aircraft reached about 500' AGL.

I did observe the aircraft as it was turning westbound that the left wing dropped and then recovered to level flight. I believe this happened twice and at an approximately 30-degree angle.

The aircraft did level off and started to descend in a turn to a westerly heading, shortly after the aircraft descended below the tree line and shortly after that I did hear an impact.

At this time, I drove over to the area where I last saw the aircraft in the air. While driving down Hwy 101 I observed 5-6 cars that had stopped on the side of Hwy 101. I stopped and walked to the aircraft which was about 100' from the road.

Upon reaching the aircraft about 6-8 people, who had stopped when the plane crashed, were around the plane. Both pilot and passenger were still in the plane, strapped in their seats. I observed both pilot and passenger were injured. Both doors to the aircraft were open. No fuel leak was observed. Both control yokes were broken. The fuel selector switch was in the left position.

The pilot and passenger were conscious but appeared to be in shock.

Shortly after I arrived at the aircraft EMS and FD arrived and started extrication and treatment of both pilot and passenger.

I was told by a neighbor that an annual inspection was being done at a hangar on the field. I did see work going on in the hangar over about a two-week period. I walked over and talked to Jerry Brandes during this time about a used battery I had. I wanted to see if he had any interest in the battery, but he did not. He told me that he was doing an annual on the plane in the hangar.

I do have security video that shows the aircraft departing and descending below the tree line.



Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 8/21/2023

Subject: ERA23FA342, Witness Statement Provided by Arthur Luciano

Mr. Luciano provided the following statement through the NTSB ROC:

I witnessed and was first on the scene when the Beechcraft C23 went down off highway 101 in Spartanburg County, SC on 08/20/2023 at 10:32am. I was travelling Northbound on Highway 101 just South of the scene. I was taking pictures with my cell phone from the car as the plane was crossing the highway moments after takeoff from FAA Identifier: SC72 Chandelle Airport. (Photos Attached. These pictures were taken with a Google Pixel 7 Pro. They should be time and locations stamped.) Upon arrival I immediately attempted to turn off all aircraft systems. Next I surveyed the two individuals in the cockpit. I realized their seat belts were pressing very hard on their chests. I used my pocket knife to cut the seat belts and release the pressure from the seatbelts. First, I cut the pilot's seat belt then moved to the passenger. Moments after, a second gentleman arrived as I was cutting the seat belt from the passenger. I kept talking to them to let them know help was on the way. The second gentleman assisted me as we prepared the scene for the arrival of emergency services. Basically, got both airplane doors open as wide as possible and the grass cleared from debris on the path to the aircraft. I moved what I believe was a piece of the landing gear. Within a few minutes we were asked to move our cars from the proximity to allow for all emergency service vehicles to access the scene. At that moment I got in the car and drove away. Please contact me at any time if I can be of further assistance.

--

Arthur Luciano

