



Robert Gretz
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 11/15/23

Subject: ERA23LA388

Contact: Cheryl King, MCO FSDO

Ms. King was interviewed via telephone. She stated that she spoke to the accident pilot, who confirmed that the airplane sat for about 1 year with 5 gallons of automotive gasoline in it. He did not drain that gas, but added 10 gallons of fresh automotive gasoline before the accident flight.

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Date: 12/6/23

Subject: ERA23LA388

Contact: Eric Larabell, Maintenance Technician, Plus One Air, Ft. Pierce, FL

The following is an email extract from Mr. Larabell:

"Good morning, everybody,

Yesterday, December 5th. I installed the temporary mag switch that I assembled into the aircraft. Steve and my brother had a battery charger going on the aircraft battery and they had shortened the propeller blades to be equal, 1 blade was broken. I asked Steve if I could spin the engine over using the starter switch. Mags would be off. the starter came to life. and then I was able to check the scavenged oil level at that point in time, The oil level was fine, and the oil looked good. We were looking around and talking to Steve. and he suggested, well, maybe if we videotape everything, we can go ahead and start it. At that point in time, we found a 16 oz bottle of gasoline. Clear fuel line hose. and attached it to the inlet side of the fuel pump (old style mechanical pump) which is located on the forward crankshaft area of the engine. After spinning for a few seconds, the pump filled the carburetors, and the engine came to life. The Rotec engine. Came to life. It was running approximately 1500 RPMS. I brought back the RPMS, and it responded perfectly and sounded smooth. I took it back up to 1500 RPMS. and did a mag check, both mags. operated fine. The instruments seemed to operate fine also, and we shut it down after approximately 2 minutes.

Steve will have to send you the video as he took it from his phone camera, and if you would like, we can run it some more. Its water cooled, so there is no problem running it for a little more time. That little bit of running we performed used about all that. 16 ounces of gasoline. I suspect there was no fuel in either carburetor or any of the fuel lines or fuel pump and found no contamination. - Eric Larabell"



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Date: 12/12/23

Subject: ERA23LA388

Contact: Steve Smalley, Florida Air Recovery, Ft. Pierce, FL

Mr. Smalley was interviewed via telephone. He stated that the fuselage tank remained intact and he did not observe any fuel in the tank or fuel system.