



Ryan Enders
Aviation Accident Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: March 25, 2024

Subject: ERA24LA124 Passenger Follow-up Interview

Contact: Gavin Copenhaver

Mr. Copenhaver was contacted via telephone for a follow-up interview regarding the accident of N485DA. The following is a summary of that conversation.

Mr. Copenhaver was asked who completed the preflight of N485DA. He replied that the student completed the preflight with the instructor monitoring.

Mr. Copenhaver was asked if he remembered seeing them sump the fuel tanks. He replied, "yes". He was then asked if they fueled the airplane. He replied, "yes, around 40 gallons".

Mr. Copenhaver was asked how long the flight was and he replied that it was just under 2 hours, maybe 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Mr. Copenhaver was asked if they completed a prelanding checklist. He replied that he could not hear them. He did not remember seeing them complete the prelanding checklist, but he may not have noticed that. He was asked when his communications were lost and he replied that he lost his coms when they switched back to 9R for the last time, roughly 7 minutes total. He stated that there was nothing about the checklist discussed prior to the coms being lost that he could recall. Mr. Copenhaver was asked how high the airplane was when he lost his coms. He replied that they were approximately 1000-1200 feet, and they were level.

-End of conversation