

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Timothy W. Monville
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety-Eastern Region

Date: October 24, 2024
Subject: ERA24LA366, Pilot's Initial Statement
Contact: Michael Hapka, Pilot-In-Command

On September 3, 2024, at 1016 EDT, Michael Hapka sent an e-mail to the Federal Aviation Administration inspector with the following information. It was sent from [REDACTED]

"Matt, Rebecca and I were on a trip from KGWB to KRMN Friday, August 30, 2024 to visit the grandchildren. Weather looked fine except for low cloud cover at KRMN but was supposed to improve that afternoon. We departed KGWB at 1:11 EST. Upon arriving on the east side of the Appalachian Mountains, I saw that the cloud cover was still mostly very low overcast so I performed a 180 degree turn to go back from where we came from and land at an airport to wait out the cloud cover at KRMN. I chose 4G7 to land at. I checked Foreflight and the runway length was 2900+ feet and I was comfortable with that. Winds were variable. I overflew the airport going west and set up for a left downwind for Runway 5. Upon reaching the runway my airspeed was too high so I executed a go around. It was a hot afternoon, about 90 degrees and I didn't have the lift that I needed to clear the trees on the north end of the runway. We impacted the trees and cartwheeled to the ground. Time was 3:14 EST.

Michael Hapka"