

Shaun,

Here is the information on the Student Pilot / Passenger

DONALD EARL SWANSON, -

Student Pilot / Passenger on board N2032U, Aircraft that hit the sign at MRI on 02/13/2016

DOB [REDACTED] 1948,

[REDACTED]

ANCHORAGE, AK 99517

[REDACTED]

Just to see if there is consistency - When we initially contacted Mr. Swanson he wanted to know what the Pilot / Aircraft Owner Ron Stafford had told us. We told him that it didn't work that way and we just wanted him to tell us what happened in his own words. This is what he told us:

*"Mr. Swanson said he was a passenger of the Maule that had the incident at Merrill Field with RON STAFFORD (CFI/PIC). DONALD said that he was not flying the Maule at the time of the incident as he barely fits in the airplane. He said that he is 6'5" tall and weighs about 275. He was sitting in the right seat and RON was flying the plane.*

*He said they got to Merrill Field and heated up the plane, then taxied out and waited for some planes to land. They were cleared for takeoff and during the takeoff, hit something on the side or bottom of the plane. He thought at the time that something had drifted out onto the runway. He said he could not see very well as his side of the windshield had frosted up some from his breathing.*

*He said he looked down and didn't see any damage on the right side, and so they elected to keep on flying out to a fly-in at a lake, where there were a group of others "with pizza and stuff." On landing the airplane veered to the right and that's when they discovered that the right tire was flat and bent out some. He said they had the other people there help them, and pulled the tire off and pulled out the tube. They fixed it with Gorilla Tape, put it back together and inflated it, and put it back on the plane. He described it as an "Alaska Patch Job". He said they saw the tail and elevator damage, but it had not seemed to affect their flight out, so they taxied out, took off, and flew back to Lake Hood strip. "*

Thanks for your help!

Robert Nance

FAA

Anchorage Flight Standards District Office

Office – [REDACTED]

Cell – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]