

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Flight Operation Question (WPR16FA172)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 11:07:57 AM

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Mike:

This is in response to your inquiry as best I can determine at this time. Some things may change when more is learned especially since I have not had any discussions with the Elliker family or representatives.

As a starting point, Elliker was a student pilot of John's at Flying Start Aero. This is how they met and at the time of the accident Elliker was not an active student but intended to become an active student. I suspect that John used this flight as a training flight of sorts working Elliker back into flying regularly.

Elliker apparently asked John if he would fly him ( and some employees of his business) to the French Valley airport in California. John apparently agreed to do so intending to charge only the book rate for the use of the Bonanza ( which was on leaseback) and direct expenses such as fuel and oil.

John apparently intended to charge ( or at least it was discussed) for his ground time as he would as an instructor on an extended cross country.

But there never was any billing since the records were lost in the crash and any final billing would only be done at the conclusion of the flight.

John was well aware he could not and would not be providing charter services under Part 135.

Elliker has never received a bill for anything and the final agreement on charges was never determined.

Mark

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**From:** Huhn Michael [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 07, 2017 10:48 AM  
**To:** Mark Gunderson  
**Subject:** Flight Operation Question (WPR16FA172)

Hi Mark

I hope all is well with you

This is Mr. John Brown's fatal Bonanza accident last year that Im starting to try to finish up on

One of the undetermined aspects of this event is the nature of, and payment arrangements for, the flight. Its clear that Mr. Elliker was not a pilot, and that his role on at least three flight legs was that of a passenger.

Can you please clarify, as specifically as possible, the nature of the flight, and the payment arrangements/responsibilities for it?

I have also put this question to the representatives of the passenger, Mr. Elliker

Thank you

Michael Huhn  
Air Safety Investigator  
NTSB Western Pacific Region  
M: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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