



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Andrew L. Swick
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: June 30, 2017
Where: Gustavus, Alaska
Person Contacted: Whit Weaver (Witness)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA108

I interviewed Mr. Weaver in Gustavus, Alaska, where the postaccident wreckage examination was conducted. Mr. Weaver stated he flew with the pilot in the accident airplane (N7376Y) the day before the accident. Mr. Weaver stated they were preparing to depart Juneau International Airport (PAJN), Juneau, Alaska, for a planned flight to Gustavus Airport (PAGS), Gustavus, Alaska. As they were taxiing to depart, the left engine "stalled" on the taxiway and the pilot could not restart the engine using the starter due to low electrical power from the battery. They taxied back to the pilot's hangar where they removed a battery from his hangered floatplane and installed it in the accident airplane. Despite their actions, they were unsuccessful at restarting both engines. Mr. Weaver stated the replaced battery did not supply enough electrical power to start the engines. The pilot then parked his vehicle near the airplane, plugged in the airplane's jumper cables, and successfully jumpstarted both engines from the vehicle's battery source. They departed PAJN on an uneventful flight to PAGS. Mr. Weaver concluded that according to what the pilot told him, there would have been a battery booster in the airplane, and he had loaned it to the ground personnel at PAJN, because they had a hard time starting the airport fuel truck.



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