



RECORD OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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Date: December 9, 2016, 0920 MST

Person Contacted: Zack Anderson, Pilot

Subject: WPR17LA031

He purchased the airplane in February 2016 and has 132 hours in it. Was flying with his wife who is also a pilot. He has 800-900 in a Baron prior to purchasing this airplane and about 2000 hours of total time.

They took off from Kalispell, MT. Flight plan was filed for FL220 on a southwest routing but ATC routed him more easterly and assigned him to FL230. Normally he does not fly that high, usually flies FL190 – FL210. During the climb he was watching pressurization to make sure he did not go over redline on gage. Cabin altitude was set for 7,500. During the climb he heard a ‘pop’ and asked wife “what was that?” She looked in back and noticed that her purse had fallen to the floor. After leveling off at FL230 he noticed that outside temp was -40F (-40C).

He heard a momentary hiss, then an explosion, followed by the sound of wind. Hat and headset blew off. Estimates 5-10 seconds to realize what happened, then he grabbed his oxygen mask and screamed at wife to grab a mask. Masks had microphones in them and he radioed ATC but could not hear any response. He went into an immediate descent and headed for Missoula. He flew from the left seat the whole time. He did not look at a POH or emergency procedures. There were no controllability issues with the airplane though he did keep his speed up on approach and final. Landed with the first notch of flaps. His experience in the Baron flying with door popped open there is interference with the tail control, not present with the PA-31T. He felt that the airplane flew and landed the same.

During the previous day while he was getting airplane ready, he washed the windshields with Prist. Noticed around the edges, especially the upper edge, there was some cracking or what he thought looked like delamination.

The mechanic he uses is Steve Weller. The mechanic is the same that took care of the airplane for the previous owner. Mechanic has no recollection of the windshield being replaced. He would like to get the windshield removed as soon as possible. He does not want the right windshield and offered it to us for investigation.

After the event noticed that blade on left prop has a ding or gouge. He was utilizing a Lightspeed wireless headset. Sending unit was hanging on left windshield post, it departed during the event.

END