



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: June 29, 2019

Person Contacted: Mr. Gryphon McArthur (Airplane Owner/Flying Club President)

Airplane Registration Number: N3504A

Narrative: The following is a summary of information provided by Mr. McArthur in one or more telephone conversations with the FAA/NTSB on this date:

- Mr. McArthur was the owner of N3504A and President/owner of the Santa Cruz Flying Club (SCFC)
- The airplane was a C-172, and based at WVI
- The airplane was on leaseback to SCFC
- SCFC operations (reservations, keys, etc) were essentially handled completely by the member-pilots and flight instructors in a "self-dispatch" arrangement
 - Reservations were handled via computer/internet
 - Airplane keys etc were accessed by club members via a keycode/lockbox system to facilities on the airport
- On June 27 a pilot showed up at WVI to access the airplane he had previously reserved (N3504A) but it was not in its tiedown spot, and the keys were not present either
- The airplane could not be located at the airport, and had not been reserved by anyone for the given time period, or for the evening before
- Follow-up investigation by Mr. McArthur was unable to account for the airplane, as well as one of the SCFC member pilots (Mr. Hugo Mar)
- Mr. Mar had previously been an active member of SCFC, and had also been previously certified to fly SCFC airplanes solo
- However, he ceased his flying activity about a year ago, and had only recently returned to regain his currency
- He flew twice in the previous weeks with an instructor (Mr. James Warmkessel) in a C-172, but had not been signed off to fly any SCFC airplanes solo again yet
 - He believed that at least one of those flights was in the subject airplane N3504A, and that he would confirm that when he could
- As a result of the missing airplane and pilot, Mr McArthur notified WVI management of a potentially stolen airplane
- He also notified his insurance company of the possible theft; they in turn advised him to notify the Watsonville Police, which he did.

- Resultant review of WVI surveillance video depicted an airplane similar in appearance to N3504A taxiing across a ramp about 2030 (approximately nightfall) on June 26.
- The registration number of that airplane was not discernible in the imagery
- Mr. McArthur reported that the June 26 evening flight of N3504A was not scheduled, dispatched, or authorized
- The FAA was notified of the missing airplane at some point in the afternoon of Saturday June 29