

Cawthra Joshua

From: Steve Callahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Cawthra Joshua
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Glider N65972 canopy latch

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Josh,
Please see the email below. I have included the sender (Mr. Schneider) on this email.

Take care

Steven Callahan, ACE
Airport Safety Officer IV
Buchanan Field and Byron Airport
Contra Costa County

From: Mike Schneider [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 13:16
To: Steve Callahan [REDACTED]
Subject: Glider N65972 canopy latch

Hi Steve--
We spoke yesterday (Sun 5/10) at C83 and today by phone about the canopy latch on the glider which was being towed during the accident, N65972.

I suggest you have the FAA/NTSB look at the canopy latch. Work it numerous times. When we pulled the glider to parking after the accident, the latch was problematic. Wouldn't close some of the time. The accident flight was only the second flight (I think) in make/model of the glider pilot, so he may have inadvertently taken off with the canopy improperly latched without even realizing it. The SGS 1-26 is very pitch sensitive and requires significant forward stick pressure while on tow. For an inexperienced pilot dealing with a canopy emergency, this outcome isn't too surprising, IMHO.

Mike Schneider