



## RECORD OF EMAIL

**Samantha Link**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**

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**Date: May 25, 2020**  
**Person Contacted: Mr. Owen Emry (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA152**

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### Narrative:

In an email, Mr. Emry reported the following:

“Greetings,

I thought I should let you know that I witnessed the Orcutt, CA light plane crash on May 20th from a distance while driving on US-101....

... I saw the plane in front and to the left of me (at about my 10 o'clock), and it seemed like it rolled into a steep bank and then continued rolling all the way over, inverted. I saw some kind of ballistic parachute unfurl as it neared the ground.

I don't think I have any additional information of value but if you have any questions you're welcome to contact me at this email address...

Thanks and best regards,  
Owen Emry”

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Samantha Link**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**

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**Date: May 21, 2020**  
**Person Contacted: Mr. Steve Ratcliff (FAA Aviation Safety Inspector)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA152**

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### **Narrative:**

During a telephone conversation, Mr. Ratcliff reported the following witness statements:

Ms. Connie Ford reported to local law enforcement that she saw something fall from the airplane into Mud Lake, which is a drainage basin about ¼ mile north of the accident site. Mr. Ratcliff contacted Ms. Ford and she said she did not see it herself, but she overheard people talking about it. On May 21, 2020, Mr. Ratcliff went to Mud Lake to examine the area, however, the lake was surrounded by a chain link fence and he could not get inside of the fenced area. He noted that there was water in the lake with heavy vegetation growing out of it. He was unable to see any debris from his viewpoint.

Mr. Kyle Shute reported to Mr. Ratcliff that the airplane flew over his house. It appeared lower than normal airplane traffic and he noticed that the airplane was wobbling. He heard the engine noise increase and the airplane straightened out. Shortly thereafter, the engine noise decreased again, and the airplane wobbled. The engine noise increased a second time and the airplane straightened out and when the noise decreased it wobbled as the airplane went out of his view.

Mr. Michael Moore reported that he was in his backyard, which is just north of the approach pattern. He observed the airplane's wings straight up and down perpendicular to the ground. He did not note an engine noise. He then saw the airplane straighten out, wobble, and descended out of his view.

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link



## RECORD OF EMAIL

**Samantha Link**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**

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**Date: May 20, 2020**  
**Person Contacted: Mr. Phil Vogel (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA152**

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### **Narrative:**

In an email Mr. Vogel reported the following:

“I was outside my house and just turned when I heard this loud hissing sound. Sounded like a large bottle rocket or lots of pressure being released very quickly. I turned and saw smoke from the craft then it violently veered left like a cork screw. I turned so fast to see it I didn’t realize it was so close to my house. I thought that it must have been closer to Broadway. Anyway I believe that the pilot must have reacted quickly to aim at the empty school playground. I think that he was a hero. Then I listened for the sound of the crash because I could tell he was going straight down. And I heard this low rumble and then lots of smoke.”

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link



## RECORD OF EMAIL

**Samantha Link**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**

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**Date: May 28, 2020**  
**Person Contacted: Mr. Steve Ratcliff (FAA Aviation Safety Inspector)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA152**

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### **Narrative:**

During an email conversation Mr. Radcliff shared the following witness statements:

Roberta Ramirez (witness statement).

Ms Ramirez lives near the approach path the Santa Maria Airport (KSMX). Ramirez stated that she was in her garage at the time, when she observed N883PJ fly by, she noted that she could hear the engine and it sounded normal, and appeared to be flying normally, shortly after the aircraft had passed by her position she heard a noise that sounded like a large firecracker or a gun shot. She stepped out of her garage and looked towards the direction that she heard the noise emanate from, but was no longer able to observe the aircraft.

Mr. Glenn Sweany, (witness statement).

Mr. Sweaney was traveling south bound on hwy. 101 and noticed what he described as a smoke trail/con-trail in the sky, he followed the trail and observed it to be emanating from an aircraft. Mr. Sweany then noted that the smoke/con-trail was only visible while the aircraft was horizontal, smoke was not seen coming from the aircraft once it started its decent, he then lost sight of the aircraft and did not see the impact.

Mr. Mark Earnest Amarillas, (witness statement).

Mr. Amarillas was working when he observed an aircraft approaching from the south straight and level, at a very low altitude, he said he heard a loud "Pop" and the aircraft decended out of sight, he did not observe the impact.

Mr. Daniel Curral, (witness statement).

Mr. Curral stated that he was approximately 50-75 yards away from the crash site working in a friends backyard at the time when he was startled by a loud "Pop" that at first he thought was a gun shot, when he looked towards the direction of the sound he observed an aircraft in a steep

dive with a parachute trailing behind it, he noted that the parachute was not filling with air, he said that it also sounded like the engine was running at a high speed.

Ms. Elaine Brandenburg, (witness statement).

Ms. Brandenburg stated that her home is located near the approach path to the airport, she had been in her backyard reading when she heard an airplane fly over with the engine “sputtering”, and then approximately 10 minutes later she heard a loud noise that she thought was a automobile accident but realized later that it was a plane crash.

Benny Vasquez, (witness statement).

Mr. Vasquez stated that he saw the aircraft fly over at a low altitude and that the engine sounded like it was running at a low speed not making any unusual noises. He then heard a loud “boom” and turned to look up and see a parachute streaming behind the airplane and the plane was in a dive, he did not see the impact.

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link