



Record of Conversation

Fabian Salazar
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Investigator in Charge

NTSB Accident Number: WPR21FA298
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N8520G
Accident Location: Banning, California
Accident Date: July 30, 2021

From a telephone interview with the family of the pilot, Cameron Le Claire, and a review of FlightAware.com, the pilot departed Big Bear City Airport (L35), landed at Redlands Municipal Airport (REI), got fuel, and then departed. FlightAware.com showed the airplane appearing on screen at 0744 and arriving at REI at 0757. The airplane then departed at 0822. The last ADS-B data point was at 0924.

According to the family, the pilot purchased 6.5 gallons of fuel at REI and paid for it with a credit card. His mother received the bank statement.

Based upon information provided by the family, the IIC contacted the FBO manager at L35, who confirmed that the pilot purchased 12 quarts of engine oil.

The family reported that the pilot was going to meet with the owner, Granite Shelton, and have the oil changed. The family didn't believe that they would have had the oil changed in Banning because the pilot had to go to work that day, then pick up his girlfriend, as they were going to Las Vegas for her birthday. The family stated that the pilot may have planned to get the oil changed at the Apple Valley Airport (APV), near where he worked.

The family looked in the pilot's room and did not find the maintenance logbooks.



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Holly Shelton
Mother of the passenger/owner of the airplane

In an interview with the mother of the owner of the airplane, she informed the IIC that her son had recently purchased the airplane. She provided the IIC with a Craigslist listing. She stated that her son and the pilot were good friends.

She stated that her son was excited about learning how to fly but was not a pilot. She mentioned that he had said something about changing the oil in the airplane and that may be why they had flown to Banning. She stated that she may have the registration application and the maintenance logbooks at her house.

In a text message to the IIC work phone. She wrote that the owner's father stated that his son told him that the airplane had one cylinder that had low compression. This information was supposedly given to the owner by the seller.



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Collin Skinner
Mechanic

In a telephone interview with Mr. Skinner, he stated that he performed the last annual “a little less than a year ago.” He did not recall any of the cylinders having lower compression than the others. He stated that he would look at his records to determine if he had copies of the logbooks.



Memorandum for Record

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Joshua Howell
Previous owner of the Airplane

In an interview with the seller, he stated that he had placed the airplane for sale on Craigslist. The would-be buyer, along with a commercial pilot (accident pilot), came and looked at the airplane. The seller took the commercial pilot for a flight. The would-be buyer purchased the airplane. The commercial pilot then departed in the airplane along with the new owner.

In a follow up telephone interview, conducted on August 4, 2021, the seller was asked about the report of one cylinder having low compression. He stated that before the sale was complete, the commercial pilot looked over the logbooks and made the comment that one of the cylinders had lower compression than the others and stated that "it might need a new jug." He provided the name and contact information of the mechanic that performed the last annual inspection around October 2020.