

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: WPR24FA072 Witness Questions
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 4:02:32 PM

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One other thing I remembered him telling me over the phone was about us making sure we had enough people for him to fly the balloon because if we didn't he was gonna go to Florida for a head down camp/state record attempt. He said if we weren't gonna end up jumping then he was gonna go to that. So I don't know maybe he just seemed grumpy to me because he was and wanted to be at the skydiving camp instead of piloting the balloon for us. Just something I thought I should mention.

On Thu, Jan 18, 2024 at 5:54 PM Darcy West [REDACTED] > wrote:
Hello,

- This was 2 years ago but from what I remember it was just about how we will most likely be landing off and that they were going to drive us all to the takeoff site and that we had to hurry because the winds tend to change and we needed to get it done cause the winds were looking to be a little windy later. We needed to be ready to go with all of our gear on by the time they had the balloon ready. He told us about how we have to have our groups figured out cause he will tell us when the groups will jump. Then we paid which I am pretty sure we all paid in cash and we signed a paper with our names and phone numbers on it because we all "most likely will be landing off." They could call us and see if we needed a ride. He also told us to watch out for obstacles when landing.
- No, he never told us what altitude we were at when we jumped. He just simply told us to go.
- Yes, I was wearing an altimeter. After reviewing the video it looks like we got up to about 10,300ft. We had a total of six different groups. The first group had two people and they jumped at about 10,275ft. There was a bit of an issue in the next group. Cornelius always had both groups on each side of the balloon climb up at the same time. Then he would tell one to go. Well the second group that was on my side was supposed to go next but the other group actually jumped when he said go so he had to tell the group by me to "stop, stop, stop." So they all didn't leave at the same time. So the second group, which had two people, jumped at 10,621ft. The third had three people and jumped at 10,715. The fourth, two people, 10,577. The fifth, which was me and another person, jumped at 10,341 and then there was only a wingsuiter and Cornelius left on the balloon after I jumped.
- I don't recall him seeming like he was sick or injured in any way. Maybe sounded a little stuffy but that could have been his accent playing a part in that. He helped on the ground with getting the balloon ready and seemed fine. I do remember him seeming almost grumpy I guess I would say. Like that was my first initial impression of him. He kinda seemed like he didn't wanna be there and was in a hurry.
- I do not know anyone that closely knew him. Sorry.
- When we made our jump 2 years ago he never mentioned anything about a waiver. I had talked with him on the phone about the jump because I was planning the trip for our group. He just told me that he needed me to send him all the names of the people that were jumping and what license they had. Which I sent to him over text. Then the only thing we wrote when we got there was everyone putting their name and phone number on a paper that also had their (the employees) phone number so we could call them to be picked up when we landed. So we never filled out a waiver and don't and I don't know of anyone that has one.

Hope this could be of some help.

On Thu, Jan 18, 2024 at 1:01 PM Andrew Swick [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning Darcy,

I have a couple of questions:

- Can you tell me in your words what the pilot told you during the preflight preparation?
- Did the pilot tell you what altitude you were at when you jumped.
- Were you wearing an altimeter? What was the max altitude and the altitude you jumped?
- Do you recall the physical condition of the pilot prior to and during the flight? Was he fighting a cold? Was he confused at any point? Was he injured(limp)?
- Do you have a contact of someone that would have been close to him that could give me a 72-hour history?
- The Dropline website did not have a waiver to download. Do you know of anyone that may have a copy of one?

Thanks for your time and again, sorry for your loss. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Andrew L. Swick

Aviation Accident Investigator

National Transportation Safety Board

Western Pacific Region

Phoenix, Arizona

Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED]

From: Darcy West [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Andrew Swick [REDACTED]
Subject: Videos of Arizona balloon skydive 2022

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Hello, Kinsey asked me to send you the videos from our skydive out of the balloon in Arizona with Cornelius.

I have a time lapse from when they were getting it ready and our jump video.

I also sent her a video that popped up for me on youtube of people that rode it 12/21/23. That video did have skydivers and non jumpers on it. Maybe you guys could find the people in that video and contact them.

Here's the link to that video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG8Gn99d6zg&fbclid=IwAR0TmfzdCPkk_SoHsG7yzSwis_OFKll8lZ2p2gH_NgGBjbkacVo0cNFb6DY

 [Balloon Jump.MP4](#) 

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