

Kristyn Blocher
Air Safety Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: 5/9/2024

Subject: WPR24FA124

Contact: Trent Broadbent, family member

The following is a synopsis of a phone conversation with Mr. Trent Broadbent:

I reached out to Mr. Broadbent at his request and when I asked if it was a good time to speak, he responded that he was happy to and would like to help in any way that he could. I answered questions he had regarding personal effects and let him know that we had not recovered anything while at the accident site, but that I would be looking for and putting aside any personal effects I find, when I conduct the airframe and engine follow up exam. He expressed thoughts regarding the receipt of an identification tag by mail, and explained that he had picked up some personal effects from the coroner's office and that the tag had been mailed to him by that office, when they realized it had been omitted from the items he had picked up in person, previously. He expressed specific concern about the backpack that the tag had been attached to, and I asked him for photos and a thorough description of the backpack so that I could more easily locate it, if it was with the recovered wreckage. I explained to him that any personal effects found during the follow up exam would be set aside and arrangements would be made to return them to him/the family. He stated that he wanted to hike to the accident site location.

I inquired about any phone or text communications he had, or that his family members had that he knew about, on the day of the accident. He responded that their family is very close and that it is typical for most of them to speak daily. He assumed that Blake had spoken with others in the family that day. He mentioned two individuals, not family members, but members of the aviation community that Blake was close to, that he did speak with that day. He provided me with their names and contact information, so I could follow up with them.

Mr. Broadbent spoke about how close he and Blake were, that they owned two small airplanes together and had grown up doing everything together. He spoke about Blake's confidence as a pilot and that he had been working very diligently toward his goals. He spoke with Blake the day before the accident. Blake spent the phone call telling him about the training he had been doing and expressed excitement about being signed off at the end of the training. He had plans to return the following day (day of the accident) and mentioned "bad weather" in the forecast, but said, "I'm so good at this", referring to his ability to fly the airplane despite forecasted bad weather. Mr. Broadbent mentioned Blake's preflight account and that he likely kept a digital logbook within that account. I thanked Mr. Broadbent for taking the time to speak with me, and for the information that he had shared.