

Joel Beckett
Aviation Accident Investigator
OAS-Western Pacific Region

Date: 6/2/2026

Subject: WPR26LA201, Memorandum of record, Interview of student pilot

Contact: [REDACTED], Pilot of N6440L

On June 2nd 2026, I spoke with Mr. [REDACTED] about the circumstances of his accident in N6440L that happened on May 25th 2026.

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he was conducting his sixth solo flight and was practicing landings in the traffic pattern. He reported that during his third landing of the day, he initiated the landing flare and the aircraft subsequently ballooned. The aircraft then departed the runway surface, entered a drainage ditch, nosed over, and came to rest inverted.

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he believed he had flared slightly too high and may have been carrying excessive airspeed during the landing, which he felt contributed to the ballooning event.

Mr. [REDACTED] further stated that U68 is his home airport and that the aircraft is normally hangared there. He reported having accumulated approximately 100 hours of total flight time and stated that he had been progressing toward certification at a deliberate pace. He explained that he and his certified flight instructor (CFI) had recently decided that he should pursue a Sport Pilot Certificate and that solo flight operations were being conducted as preparation for that certificate.

Mr. [REDACTED] also stated that the aircraft can be somewhat "quirky" when operated near or below stall speed and that it tends to enter a stall abruptly.