

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**  
Vehicle Recorder Division  
Washington, D.C. 20594

April 18, 2012

## **17 – Electronic Device Factual Report**

by **Bill Tuccio**

### **1. EVENT**

Location: Fitzgerald, Georgia  
Date: March 16, 2012  
Aircraft: Firefly 8 Hot-Air Balloon  
Registration: N14643  
Operator: Private  
NTSB Number: ERA12LA231

### **2. GROUP - No Group**

### **3. SUMMARY**

On March 16, 2012, about 1900 eastern daylight time, a Firefly 8 hot-air balloon, N14643, was lost after it climbed into a storm that formed over Fitzgerald, Georgia. A search was conducted, and on March 20, 2012, the balloon's envelope and basket were found in wooded terrain near Fitzgerald, Georgia. The pilot, who remained in the basket, was fatally injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed throughout the day, as the pilot/operator conducted sport parachute flights under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

### **4. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION**

On 03/28/2012, the NTSB Vehicle Recorder Laboratory received the following devices:

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone 4
Serial Number:	C8TFF5PYDDP7

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Flytec 3040
Serial Number:	10374/59418 BE

## **4.1. Apple iPhone 4 Device Description**

The Apple iPhone is a touch-screen smart-phone capable of voice calling, text messaging, email, photo/video recording, audio (music) playback, and numerous other specialized functions depending on configuration. Specialized functions are supported by additional user-installed program applications (Apps). Application data is stored in non-volatile memory<sup>1</sup> and may include call logs, text messaging logs, image, video, and position location information. In addition, the specialized application data may be stored in a proprietary file structure using numerous file. The amount and type of data stored varies based on the software version and configuration of the specific device.

### **4.1.1. Apple iPhone Data Recovery**

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an exterior examination revealed the iPhone had not sustained any damage and information was extracted using forensic software as well as the phone's built in interface.

### **4.1.2. Apple iPhone Data Description**

The phone carrier was Verizon. The phone iOS version was 5.1. Additionally, the phone had two email accounts configured.

The web browser contained only one history page accessed on March 16, 2012 at 12:11 EDT to the URL:

<http://www.ryancarlton.com/?loc=fitzgerald%2C+GA&units=MPH&tempformat=0>

There were no outbound phone calls in the call history of the phone. There were no outgoing text messages on or after March 16, 2012. There were incoming messages on and after March 17, 2012.

Email prior to March 20, 2012 could not be accessed due to the mail configuration settings on the phone and large number of emails received by the phone after March 20, 2012.

## **4.2. FlyTec 3040 Device Description**

The Flytec 3040 is a flight instrument functioning as a combined altimeter, variometer, clock, stop watch, and balloon envelope temperature receiver. The device is powered by primary and backup 9 Volt batteries. The device has weather protected buttons for time and display functions. The unit does not record any information.

### **4.2.1. FlyTec 3040 Data Recovery**

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an exterior examination revealed the unit had not sustained any damage. The unit was power on and appeared to function normally. The altitude and variometer indications were as expected.

As the unit had no recording capabilities, no information from the accident was recovered.

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<sup>1</sup> Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.