

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Death Investigation

Information: Call Out.

Contact: Deputy D. Gross #1425
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 South Lewis
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Date/Time: 06-08-02/0820

Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road
Chandler, AZ

Detective: Detective P. Larrison #1247
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Investigator: Detective F Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by: 
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206 206

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Death Investigation

On 06-08-02 at approximately 0820 hours, I was contacted by Detective Sergeant Kelleher #206 in reference to a plane crash in the southeast portion of Maricopa County. Sergeant Kelleher advised me that Deputy Gross #1425 was on the scene of a plane crash with (2) dead occupants in the area of Val Vista and Hunt Highway. Sergeant Kelleher requested that I respond to the scene of the crash and assist with the investigation into this matter.

I responded to the scene of the crash and contacted Deputy Gross at approximately 0900 hours. The wreckage from the crash was located in a wash just south of the Hunt Highway alignment approximately ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road. The plane had sustained major damage as the wings had folded away from the plane and the body of the plane was broken and buckled in several areas. The airplane's body appeared to be made from a combination of metal, wood, and fabric with paint on the outer surface. The plane appeared to be yellow in color with red accents running along the side of the body to the tail of the plane. I could see the airplane identification number (#N8205H) painted in black lettering on the exterior of the rear wing. It did not appear that any of the wreckage was charred and there were no other indications of explosion. I could see that debris from the airplane was laying on the gray shingle roof from the residential trailer at [REDACTED]. Deputy Gross had informed me that small pieces of debris from the plane had been located in the fields as far as ¼ mile north of the crash scene.

As I approached the wash to the south of Hunt Highway, I could see that the airplane appeared to be occupied by two people. Both of the occupants were laying face down underneath the wreckage from the bi-plane. The female occupant's legs appeared to be extended and she was bent at her waist with her head pointed towards the northeast. The female had light brown hair and she was wearing a pink colored T-shirt with a white collar. I could not determine the girl's age or extent of her injuries from where I was standing near the wash. I could see the leg and upper torso of a second occupant inside of the plane. It appeared to be the leg and body of a male passenger who was wearing denim jeans and a white T-shirt. It appeared the man was laying face down and his head would be pointed to the north. I could not make out any other details regarding the other occupant from where I was standing.

Deputy Gross provided me with witness information regarding this matter and the preliminary identification of the airplane's occupants. Deputy Gross advised me that the plane may be occupied by John Pace Carter (D1) and his (16 year old) daughter Nicole. This information was later confirmed and John's daughter was identified as Nicole Joy Schuler (D2). Deputy Gross told me that he spoke with the residents of the trailer located north of the crash scene [REDACTED], Rosario and Margarita Ybarra. The occupants of the trailer told Deputy Gross that they were home when the biplane crashed, however they did not witness what had occurred.

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office dispatch contacted me at the scene and informed me that a Chevrolet pickup with Arizona license plate # [REDACTED] was located at the Chandler Municipal Air Port, near a hanger where the airplane was observed prior to take off. This vehicle is registered to the owner of the airplane, Joseph P. Carter.

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by:
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Death Investigation

Aviation Safety Inspector Steven D'Urso from the Federal Aviation Administration responded to the scene to conduct an investigation in reference to the cause of the crash. The wreckage from the aircraft was released to D'Urso for further investigation.

Detective Wurzbach #1208 assisted my investigation by taking 35mm photographs and diagramming the scene (see attached supplement). These photographs were later submitted for Maricopa County Sheriff's Office laboratory for development.

"Nothing further."

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by:
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Supplemental Report

Occurrence Date: 06-08-2002

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway & East of Val Vista Road, Chandler, Arizona

Occurrence type: Fatal Plane Crash

Victim/s: Schuler, Nicole J. & Carter, Joseph P.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

INFORMATION: CALL OUT

DATE / TIME: JUNE 8TH, 2002 AT APPROXIMATELY 0824 HOURS.

LOCATION: HUNT HIGHWAY & EAST OF VAL VISTA RD., CHANDLER, AZ.

DETECTIVE: DETECTIVE R. J. WURZBACH II, # 1208
MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DISTRICT ONE SUBSTATION
1840 S. LEWIS, MESA, ARIZONA 85210
(602)-256-1853

On 06-08-2002 at approximately 0824 hours, I was called by Detective Sgt. D. Kelleher # 206, and he wanted me to respond to the area of Hunt Highway and Val Vista Road, Chandler, Arizona, regarding an airplane crash that occurred there. He said there were two subjects in the airplane that were deceased and an investigation needed to be done involving the deceased. He said someone from the Federal Aviation Administration would be coming out to investigate the airplane crash. He further stated that he wanted me to assist Detective P. Larrison # 1247, who was also enroute, to complete the necessary follow-up involved with the deceased in this plane crash.

Investigator: Detective R. J. Wurzbach II, #1208

R. J. Wurzbach II, #1208

Reviewer: *SG*

June 14, 2002

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Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment 1/4 mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Fatal Plane Crash

Information: Statements from Sheila Mejia (W2).

Contact: Sheila Ann Mejia
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Home:
[REDACTED]
Chandler, AZ 85248
[REDACTED]

Date/Time: 06-08-02/0830

Location: Written statement.

Detective: Detective P. Larrison #1247
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by: [REDACTED]
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DS# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Fatal Plane Crash

On 06-08-02 at approximately 0830, Deputy Gross #1425 located witnesses to the plane crash occurring at the Hunt Highway Alignment approximately ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road. Sheila Mejia (W2) was identified as a witness and she prepared a written statement (see attached) in reference to what she had observed earlier that morning. Sheila's written statement contained the following information:

Sheila explained that she was riding horseback on the property of Tierra Farms located at [REDACTED]. Sheila described hearing a sputtering noise above her and she looked upward and saw a small engine yellow plane flying her direction from the northeast. Sheila saw the plane disintegrating and the wings fold up as the plane veered sharply to avoid falling out of control into a mobile home south of her location. The plane proceeded to "dive" into the ground south of the mobile home.

Deputy Gross Took Sheila's statement and she was released from the scene without incident. This written statement has been impounded at the Southeast Sheriff's Substation pending the conclusion of the investigation into this matter.

"Nothing further."

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by:
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JOSEPH M. ARPAIO, SHERIFF

VOLUNTARY WITNESS STATEMENT

OR

02-16133

DATE

6-8-02

PLACE

Tierra Farms, [REDACTED]

TIME STARTED

appx 7:45 am

I, the undersigned, Sheila Mejia, am, [REDACTED] years of age, having been born on [REDACTED] at Walnut Creek, CA.
I now live at [REDACTED] Chandler, AZ 85248.

I declare that the following voluntary statement is made of my own free will without promise of hope or reward, without fear or threat of physical harm, without coercion, favor or offer of favor, without leniency or offer of leniency, by any person or persons whomsoever.

I was horse back riding on the property of Tierra Farms. I was with Sandy Oakes, we heard spotting and noise above us. We looked upward and from the North East appx 200 yds. in the air a small engine plane, bright yellow in color, was falling out of control. The plane was a descent trajectory in air. The wings were folded up as the plane veered sharply to avoid a mobil home. It then immediately nose-dived into the ground just so of the Mobil home. The Mobil home was due-south of where we were located.

I have read this statement consisting of _____ page(s) and/or this has been read to me and I certify that the facts contained therein are true and correct. I also declare that I was not told or prompted what to say in this statement.

This statement was completed at 8:30 A M., on the 8 day of June, 2002.

WITNESS: _____

SIGNATURE

WITNESS: _____

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment 1/4 mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Plane Crash

Information: Statements from Kim Bauman-Peterson (W3).

Contact: Kim Bauman-Peterson
[REDACTED]

Home:
[REDACTED]

Tempe, AZ 85284

Date/Time: 06-08-02/0835

Location: Written statement.

Detective: Detective P. Larrison #1247
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 27, 2002

Reviewed by: SGT [REDACTED]
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206 206

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Plane Crash

On 06-08-02 at approximately 0835, Deputy Gross #1425 located witnesses to the plane crash occurring at the Hunt Highway Alignment approximately ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road. Kim Bauman-Peterson (W3) was identified as a witness and she prepared a written statement (see attached) in reference to what she had observed earlier that morning. Kim's written statement contained the following information:

Kim explained that she was riding her horse in the south ring of the horse property located at [REDACTED]. Kim heard the sound of an airplane flying close by overhead. Kim looked up to the sky and observed a yellow plane flying southbound. Kim described the sound of the plane's engine as "sputtering" and she saw one side of the bi-plane disintegrate. Kim stated that the plane spiraled down and crash into the ground south of the ring.

Deputy Gross Took Kim's statement and she was released from the scene without incident. This written statement has been impounded at the Southeast Sheriff's Substation pending the conclusion of the investigation into this matter.

"Nothing further."

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 27, 2002

Reviewed by:
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JOSEPH M. ARPAIO, SHERIFF

VOLUNTARY WITNESS STATEMENT

DN 02-16133

DATE Feb 8, 2002 PLACE Tierra Farms TIME STARTED 7:45 A.M.
I, the undersigned, Kim E. Quinn-Peterson am, [redacted] years of age, having
been born on [redacted] at San Diego, CA
I now live at [redacted] Tempe, AZ 85284

I declare that the following voluntary statement is made of my own free will without promise of hope or reward, without fear or threat of physical harm, without coercion, favor or offer of favor, without leniency or offer of leniency, by any person or persons whomsoever.

I was in the ~~same~~ South car on my first
when I heard a plane overhead which started
very close. I looked directly up and a yellow
plane was overhead heading South. It was
spotted and one side of the plane disintegrated
and the wing flipped up. The plane did
a small loop. At that point I knew it was
going to crash and I moved off the
road. I saw it crash at the south of the
road. It crashed in the field directly by us but
the pilot got a little further.

I have read this statement consisting of 1 page(s) and/or this has been read to me and I certify that
the facts contained therein are true and correct. I also declare that I was not told or prompted what to
say in this statement.

This statement was completed at 8:35 A.M., on the 8th day of June, 2002

WITNESS: _____

SIGNATURE _____

WITNESS: _____

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Fatal Plane Crash

Information: Statements from Clifford Frey (W1).

Contact: Clifford J. Frey
SOC: Unknown
[REDACTED]
Home: [REDACTED]
Chandler, AZ 85249
[REDACTED]

Date/Time: 06-08-02/0905

Location: Written Statement.

Detective: Detective P. Larrison #1247
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by: *SGT* [REDACTED]
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206 *006*

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Fatal Plane Crash

On 06-08-02 at approximately 0905 hours, Deputy Gross #1425 located witnesses to the plane crash occurring at the Hunt Highway Alignment approximately ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road. Clifford Frey (W1) was identified as a witness and he prepared a written statement (see attached) in reference to what he had observed earlier that morning. Clifford's written statement contained the following information:

Clifford explained that he was working on his horse at the south end of Tierra Farms at approximately 0800 hours. Clifford heard an unusual plane noise overhead like an engine being cut along with a popping sound. Clifford thought that the plane may be an ultra light because of the sound of the wind on the wings. Clifford described the unusual wind sound as being similar to a bag flapping in the wind. Clifford looked up into the air and saw an air plane in a spin approximately 300' in the air.

Clifford believed the air plane was too low to pull out of it's spin and he watched as the wing on the left side of the air craft came off the plane. Clifford noted that small pieces of the plane were flying off the plane as the plane began to come down nose first. Clifford watched the plane as it struck the ground nose first. Clifford recalled that he did not observe any smoke or flames coming from the wreckage.

Clifford responded to the scene of the plane crash and he saw that both occupants of the plane had passed away.

Deputy Gross took Clifford statement and he was released from the scene without incident. This written statement has been impounded at the Southeast Sheriff's Substation pending the conclusion of the investigation into this matter.

"Nothing further."

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by:
Sgt. D. Kelleher #266

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JOSEPH M. ARPAIO, SHERIFF

VOLUNTARY WITNESS STATEMENT

OR 02-10153

DATE June 7, 2002 PLACE Tierra Farris - south of
I, the undersigned, Clifford J. Frey am, [redacted] years of age, having
been born on [redacted] at Newton, Kansas
I now live at [redacted] Chandler, AZ 85249

I declare that the following voluntary statement is made of my own free will without promise of hope or reward, without fear or threat of physical harm, without coercion, favor or offer of favor, without leniency or offer of leniency, by any person or persons whomsoever.

I was working my horse on south end of Tierra Farris (Hunt Hwy)
Heard unusual plane noise over head like engine being cut &
popping noise. Heard unusual wind noise on wings & looked
up. Saw plane in spin about 300' up. Knew it was too
low for spin. Thought at first it was ultralight because
of ~~some~~ sound - sounded like plastic bag flapping in
wind. Saw that he was too low to pull out.
Then wing on right side (as I face plane) it
came off. Thought it was left but it may have
been spinning away from me & could have been
right wing. Pieces (small) were flying off.
Plane was coming down nose first. Don't
know where wing went. Plane hit nose first.
Lots of duct noise, flame or smoke.
& Both were dead when I got to plane

I have read this statement consisting of 1 page(s) and/or this has been read to me and I certify that the facts contained therein are true and correct. I also declare that I was not told or prompted what to say in this statement.

This statement was completed at 9:05 AM, on the 8th day of June, 2002

WITNESS: _____

SIGNATURE _____

WITNESS: _____

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment 1/4 mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Fatal Plane Crash

Information: Statements from Sandra Owens (W4).

Contact: Sandra Lynn Owens
SOC: Unknown
[REDACTED]

Home:

[REDACTED]
Chandler, AZ 85249
[REDACTED]

Date/Time: 06-08-02/0915

Location: Written statement.

Detective: Detective P. Larrison #1247
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by: SGT [REDACTED]
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206 [REDACTED]

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Fatal Plane Crash

On 06-08-02 at approximately 0915 hours, Deputy Gross #1425 located witnesses to the plane crash occurring at the Hunt Highway Alignment approximately ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road. Sandra Owens (W4) was identified as a witness and she prepared a written statement (see attached) in reference to what she had observed earlier that morning. Sandra's written statement contained the following information:

Sandra explained that she was giving horse riding lessons to Sheila Mejia (W2) in the round pen on her property located at [REDACTED]. Sandra believes that she was looking to the south when she observed a yellow colored bi-plane flying over their small arena in a northbound direction. Sandra recalled that it sounded like the plane was having engine problems and as it continued flying northbound the wings folded up. Sandra described that debris fell from the plane and it fell into a nose dive and crashed into the ground just past a little house. Sandra stated that her husband and a client went to check on the passengers of the plane as she called "911".

Deputy Gross Took Sandra's statement and she was released from the scene without incident. This written statement has been impounded at the Southeast Sheriff's Substation pending the conclusion of the investigation into this matter.

"Nothing further."

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247

Typed by: PRL

Date: June 09, 2002

Reviewed by:

Sgt. D. Kelleher #206

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JOSEPH M. ARPAIO, SHERIFF

VOLUNTARY WITNESS STATEMENT

OR 02-16135

DATE 6-8-02 PLACE Chandler AZ TIME STARTED 7:45 M.

I, the undersigned SHARLA OLIVER am, [REDACTED]
been born on [REDACTED] at DAYTON OHIO

I now live at ARIZONA - [REDACTED] Chandler AZ 85249

I declare that the following voluntary statement is made of my own free will without promise of hope or reward, without fear or threat of physical harm, without coercion, favor or offer of favor, without leniency or offer of leniency, by any person or persons whomsoever.

I was in the Round Pen Giving a lesson to Sheila looking South where the yellow Bi Plane came over the small arena & made a loop going North it sounded like it had engine trouble as it continued North its wings folded up and debris flew everywhere JUST past the little house it went into a T nose dive into the Grand my husband Ron & his Aunt went to check out the crash And I called 911.

I have read this statement consisting of 1 page(s) and/or this has been read to me and I certify that the facts contained therein are true and correct. I also declare that I was not told or prompted what to say in this statement.

This statement was completed at 9:15 AM., on the 8 day of June, 2002

WITNESS: _____

SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

WITNESS: _____

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR#02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Plane Crash

Information: Interview with Robert Todd (IL1).

Contact: Robert Scott Todd
[REDACTED]
Home:
[REDACTED]
Chandler, AZ 85228
[REDACTED]

Date/Time: 06-08-02/0930

Location: Telephonic.

Detective: Detective P. Larrison #1247
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247
Typed by: PRL
Date: June 18, 2002

Reviewed by: SGT [REDACTED]
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206 206

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR#02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Plane Crash

On 06-08-02 at approximately 0930 hours, I contacted Robert Scott Todd (IL1) by telephone to speak with him about the plane crash at Val Vista and Hunt Highway. Deputy Gross #1425 had told me that Robert had responded to the scene earlier in the day and identified himself as a friend and the flight instructor for Joseph Carter (D1). Robert Todd provided me with the following information during my interview:

Robert confirmed that he was friends with Joseph Carter and he had given Joseph flight lessons. Joseph had reportedly received his pilots license on 06-05-02. The flight Joseph had scheduled for the morning 06-08-02 was going to be his first solo flight without an instructor. Robert recalled that Joseph was excited about the flight and had planned on flying his daughter, Nicole Schuler (D2), to Ryan Field for breakfast. Robert characterized Joseph as a good pilot and he believed Joseph would stay calm in emergency situations. Robert believed that Joseph was in good physical health and he did not believe Joseph would want to take his own life. Robert did not believe Joseph was on medication or drugs and he noted that Joseph was a recovering alcoholic and would not drink alcohol.

I proceeded to ask Robert about his last contact with Joseph Carter on 06-07-02. Robert confirmed that he was with Joseph Carter and Kevin Bowman (IL2) at the Chandler Municipal Air Port on 06-07-02. Robert told me that Joseph needed to install a ELT device on his biplane and he supervised the installation and offered guidance. Robert explained that the installation of the ELT device was a non-mechanical or structural and would not effect the flight worthiness of the aircraft. Robert recalled that Joseph fueled his biplane and gave it a prop test on the evening of 06-07-02 and no problems were noted with the engine. Robert noted that he had flown Joseph's biplane approximately 1-2 weeks ago and he did not note any problems with the aircraft. Robert added that Joseph's biplane appeared to be in good condition and that he is familiar with experimental biplane's because he is building one himself.

I asked Robert if he had any information regarding Joseph's family or next of kin. Robert informed me that he had access to that information and he would provide me with the information when it became available. Robert later provided me with the contact information for Joseph's brother, Bob Carter.

"Nothing further."

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247

Typed by: PRL

Date: June 18, 2002

Reviewed by:

Sgt. D. Kelleher #206

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Plane Crash

Information: Interview with Kevin Bowman (IL2).

Contact: Kevin Allen Bowman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Home:

[REDACTED]
Chandler, AZ 85226
[REDACTED]

Date/Time: 06-08-02/1000

Location: Telephonic.

Detective: Detective P. Larrison #1247
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
1840 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210
(602) 256-1853

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247

Typed by: PRL

Date: June 27, 2002

Reviewed by: SGT [REDACTED]
Sgt. D. Kelleher #206 256

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Supplemental report

DR# 02-16133

Occurrence Date: 06-08-02

Occurrence Location: Hunt Highway Alignment ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road, Chandler

Occurrence Type: Plane Crash

On 06-08-02 at approximately 1000 hours, I contacted Kevin Bowman (IL2) by telephone in reference to the plane crash occurring at the Hunt Highway Alignment approximately ¼ mile east of Val Vista Road. Robert Todd identified Kevin as a friend of John Carter (D1) who was present during the installation of an electronic component to his bi-plane on 06-07-02. Robert Todd also informed me that Kevin spoke with John Carter before his flight on 06-08-02 and he may have been the last person to see John and his daughter, Nicole Schuler (D2), alive. Kevin provided me with the following information during the course of my interview:

Kevin confirmed that he was a friend of John's and he explained that John would use his hanger at Chandler Municipal Air Port to house his experimental bi-plane. Kevin described John's air plane as a yellow and red Fisher Celebrity bi-plane with an open cockpit. John reportedly purchased this bi-plane in November of 2001 in an auction from Camp Harmony in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The bi-plane was disassembled and transported to Arizona, where John reassembled the bi-plane by hand. John used the original parts throughout his reconstruction of the bi-plane, however he did change the nuts and bolts that secure the struts for the frame of the aircraft. Kevin stated that the bi-plane needed an annual inspection, however it appeared to be flight worthy.

I asked Kevin for his opinion of John's bi-plane and he told me that he did not like it. Kevin explained that the fabric covering on the bi-plane was not as good as he would like to see it. Kevin felt that the fabric was not as tight as it could be near the front horizontal stabilizer. Kevin told me that he would not feel comfortable flying the bi-plane, however he did not believe the cover presented a danger.

Kevin confirmed that he was with John Carter and Robert Todd at his hanger at Chandler Municipal Air Port on 06-07-02. Kevin witnessed John install an ELT device in his airplane, which required the removal of the back seat in the bi-plane. Kevin did not witness John make any mechanical adjustments to the bi-plane and he confirmed that John gave the plane a prop test after fueling.

I asked Kevin whether he saw John Carter at the Air Port on the morning of 06-08-02. Kevin stated that he saw John and his daughter, Nicole Schuler (D2), at the hanger at approximately 0700 hours. Kevin recalled that Nicole was wearing shorts and her clothing was light colored. Kevin believed that John may have been wearing denim jeans and a green colored T-shirt. Kevin told me that John and Nicole appeared to be happy and excited about the flight and they planned on going to Ryan Field for breakfast. Kevin told John to be careful of the winds and to enjoy his flight.

Kevin proceeded to give me his opinion of John's ability as a pilot. Kevin confirmed that John was inexperienced, however he felt that John did an excellent job of flying his bi-plane in his first solo flights. Kevin stated that John is very calm under pressure and has the ability to handle the aircraft in an emergency situation. Kevin described John as very detail oriented and he was certain that John would have gone over a preflight checklist prior to flying the bi-plane. John did not have any known medical problems and Kevin did not believe he was taking any kind of medication. Kevin told me that John did not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the morning of 06-08-02.

"Nothing further."

Investigator Detective P Larrison #1247

Typed by: PRL

Date: June 27, 2002

Reviewed by:

Sgt. D. Kelleher #206