



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: February 3, 2015 at 1515 EST
Person(s) Interviewed: Henry C. Thomas - Pilot
NTSB Case Number: ERA15FA023

Narrative:

Mr. Thomas was interviewed by telephone, and also present on the call was his son Jeff Thomas. Mr. Thomas stated that he had been friends with the aircraft owner, Mr. Ratty, for about 20 years and that Mr. Ratty had been his flight instructor since around 2000. Most of Mr. Thomas's previous flight experience was in Cessna 172 and Beech Bonanza airplanes. Mr. Thomas first became aware Mr. Ratty intended to buy a multi-engine airplane when during a telephone call Mr. Ratty stated that he had sold his Waco and wanted to teach Mr. Thomas to fly a twin-engine airplane. After purchasing the accident airplane the pair flew several times (he estimated four previous flights), and Mr. Thomas had previously flown from the left seat during one of those flights. His first flight in the airplane was around the beginning of October 2014. The accident airplane was equipped with a Garmin 430 and Mr. Thomas showed Mr. Ratty how it operated. In general, the accident airplane flew "wonderfully."

About a week prior to the accident flight, the pair flew to Pearson County airport, where the pilots then swapped seats (Mr. Thomas moved to the left seat). They then flew in the airport traffic pattern. Mr. Thomas felt the airplane flew similarly to his Bonanza. After they landed they again swapped seats before returning to their home airport (Lake Ridge Airpark). During a subsequent flight in Mr. Thomas's Bonanza, the pair made plans for the accident flight (that it would occur on Tuesday, October 21, at 1000). Mr. Thomas had not received any ground instruction from Mr. Ratty on flying multi-engine airplanes, though Mr. Thomas did plan to get his multi-engine rating someday. In general, Mr. Ratty was always providing instruction, as he had always been Mr. Thomas's flight instructor, and he was always teaching him. During previous flights in the accident airplane they both went through the preflight inspection process, and Mr. Ratty showed him how to inspect the airplane and how to operate the various pieces of equipment onboard.

Mr. Thomas could not recall any of the events that transpired on the day of the accident.