



## The National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety  
Central Region  
Memorandum for the Record  
Previous Flight Passenger  
Interview Summaries  
CEN18FA368  
St Ignace Michigan  
August 31 2018

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William J. Radler



Statement taken via telephone 9/5/2018

No one on the flight knew Ron prior to the flight. For her she had won a prize from a fundraiser event to fly out and go to dinner. Ron said the he was concerned about the weather for that day and he kept checking the weather. Eventually they decided that the weather was fine to go. They did fly lower, he explained due to the cloud cover and it could be bumpy. They flew that way for a while when they got to Sheboygan they were able to fly slightly higher and there were some slight bumps. Then they reached an area where the skies were clear and it was much smoother. During the flight, the pilot talked about his love of flying, how important instruments are, he explained to the passenger up front it was important and to trust your instruments and not your visual. When we were crossing Door County Ron commented he did not like to fly over water, that if he was going to crash, he would want to crash on land. The flight was very nice, very scenic, pleasant with a good landing on Mackinac Island. When we arrived, he waited for their carriage to arrive and mentioned that he was going to get gas in Saint Ignace, he said he did not really need it but rather be safe than sorry. She did not see anything that would indicate anything medically wrong, he was friendly and talkative. He did mention at some point he had two airplanes and he was trying to decide which one to sell and said he believed the GPS on the aircraft they were in was not working correctly and he might need to replace it, but that all the other instruments were fine.”

Ashley M. Ortiz



Statement taken via telephone 9/5/2018

This was her first flight in a small aircraft, she was a little nervous. When she and her husband got to the airport in Burlington Ron had just finished getting fuel in his airplane. He talked about how he was checking for water in the gas after his refueling and he mentioned that his wife was not going to join them, she had to work. They boarded the plane and Ron was very descriptive about what would happen when they took off and what it would feel like and he said he wanted it to be quite when they took off as well as when he was landing the plane. He received a phone call at that point and a short time later his wife showed up to say goodbye to him. He did check to make sure all the headsets were working and pointed out where the life jackets were in case they needed them. After all this she felt very comfortable with going on the flight. During the flight he talked a lot about his life, his wife and daughter. At one point he talked about how he was going to climb higher because

it would be clearer above the clouds. It was an uneventful flight. Everyone was talking and having conversations. As they got closer to the island he told them he was going to fly over near the bridge and then come in to land so it would be a smoother landing. She said the landing was very smooth and he waited for the taxi, he said he was coming to Saint Ignace to fill the tank up with gas and they went off to get dinner.

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Alexander Lemishko



Senior Air Safety Investigator  
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