



Federal Aviation Administration

Record of Conversation

Date: July 9, 2019

Name: Dean Herbert Sawyer

Address: Airman: [REDACTED] Registration: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Subject: N9919V Accident

I contacted Mr. Sawyer after my on-site inspection of his Cessna 172 N9919V on Yaquina Beach in Newport, Oregon. I conducted a telephone interview with Mr. Dean Herbert Sawyer on 7/9/2019. This record documents the conversation with Mr. Sawyer.

I introduced myself and Mr. Sawyer identified himself. I asked him to describe the events that led up to the landing of N9919V on the beach.

Mr. Sawyer stated he departed Newport with half tank of fuel in each tank about 3:30 pm with Brenda Reasoner and her 7 year old grandson for a whale watching flight. They flew to the north out toward Yaquina Lighthouse and spotted a pod of whales that they circled to view. When done they headed back toward the Newport airport and about the Nye Beach access point the engine began to surge between 2100 and 2600 RPM. Mr. Sawyer stated that he richened the mixture, added max throttle and switched fuel tanks. He could not recall which tank he switched from to which one. He stated the surge got progressively worse and he was losing altitude so he considered landing in between the jetties at Newport but said he knew they would all die if he did that. He considered the hard pack beach but there were too many people on it so he made a left 60 degree turn and landed in the dunes. He stated he pulled back as hard as he could on the yoke to make sure he didn't nose into the ground. He said that within minutes there were "a bunch of stupid Samaritans at the aircraft".


I asked Mr. Sawyer where the maintenance records for the aircraft were and he said: "I might as well tell you now because you're going to find out anyway, I haven't had an annual on the plane for about 3 years, I don't have a BFR [biennial flight review] and I don't have a medical."

I asked Mr. Sawyer how long it had been since his last BFR and he stated 5 to 6 years. He further stated; "It's one of those things that has been on my list but there are no good BFR people here in Newport so it's too hard to get one done. There is one guy here but I wouldn't get in an airplane with him because he's not good."

I asked Mr. Sawyer when his last medical was and he said about 8 years ago. He also said he doesn't have any major medical issues but he does have high blood pressure that is under control with medication. He also said that it one of those things that he just keeps "putting off because I'm busy."

I asked again where the maintenance records for the aircraft were and he said the aircraft log is in the left front pouch in the aircraft. He said that the aircraft paperwork and logs were "blowing all across the beach after the accident." He said that if the log(s) were not in the aircraft they are probably in his hangar.

The conversation concluded.

 Digitally signed by
DARREN KEITH
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Date: 2019.07.10
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Darren K. Vaughn
Aviation Safety Inspector