



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Date: December 2, 2019
Person Contacted: Steve Hopland (Flight Instructor)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA045

Narrative:

The individual above was contacted via telephone. The below contents are a summary of what he reported:

- He had bought the airplane a few months earlier, and Friday 11/29/2019 (the day before the accident) was the pickup day to start a multi-day cross country flight to his home airport in Tennessee.
- The day before the accident the airplane operated normally, with the exception of one minor backfire. It occurred momentarily at cruise altitude. The engine cleared and did not lose any power and did not reoccur.
- For the accident flight, the preflight was normal, with the exception of needing to add a quart of oil.
- The accident flight departed about 9:15AM local, from Waycross Airport (KAYS) and had an intermediate stop planned for Sandersville, GA (KOKZ) airport. The final destination for the accident day was Asheville, NC. The flight was about 10 minutes from KOKZ.
- The flight was normal for about 45 minutes, and then suddenly while enroute at cruise flight, there was a heavy vibration with the engine that lasted about 5 seconds.
- He immediately took the flight controls from the pilot in the rear seat and moved the throttle, but it had no effect on the engine. He then attempted an engine restart, but the prop did not move. He then moved his attention to finding a field to land in.
- During the engine vibration, he noticed the engine gauge had fell out of its position in the avionics panel, due to the heavy vibration.
- He saw a farm field and turned left to complete the off-airport landing. While on final approach, about 500 ft above ground, he put the landing gear down. The airplane then slowed rapidly, and the descent rate increased significantly. By the time the airplane entered the flare, it was "out of airspeed."
- When the nose landing gear touched down, the airplane almost immediately nosed over.
- The canopy was closed throughout the flight.



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- He was used to flying motor gliders, and this airplane does not glide well at all.
- He discovered that part of the wooden propeller was missing from the prop hub and was not located at the accident site.
- The accident occurred about 10:00AM.
- His total flight time was about 3,805, and about 5 hours were in the accident make and model airplane.