



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Craig Hornberger

When: September 11, 2015

Mr. Hornberger was Michael Apfelbaum's primary flight instructor. He stated that the Mr. Apfelbaum had accrued over 800+ hours of total flight time and had a lot of IFR experience in a Piper PA-180 airplane. Mr. Hornberger said he had flown IFR with the Mr. Apfelbaum in the past and felt he was "very good and conscientious." After Mr. Apfelbaum had purchased the airplane in August 2015, Mr. Hornberger gave Mr. Apfelbaum a complex check-out (6 hrs flight time, 1.5 hrs ground), which also included a demonstration on how to use the Garmin 530 for instrument approaches. These approaches were all done in VFR conditions and Mr. Apfelbaum was not "under the hood." After the check-out, which was completed on September 2, 2015, Mr. Hornberger was not sure if Mr. Apfelbaum flew the airplane before going to Florida; however, he did tell him not to fly in actual IFR conditions until he gained more flight experience.

Mr. Hornberger said that the Mr. Apfelbaum had invited him and his wife to fly with them to Florida, but he was unable to take the time off for vacation. So Mr. Apfelbaum asked another friend to go. Mr. Hornberger said the Mr. Apfelbaum and his family were traveling back on the 7th because Mrs. Apfelbaum's father-in-law was having heart surgery the following day.

Leah D. Read
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board