



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Kurt Anderson
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Western Pacific Region

Date: 6/18/12

Person Contacted: Richard Jones (Pilot, and witness to the local weather conditions)

NTSB Accident Number: WPR12FA237

Richard Jones – He was en route from Chandler, AZ to Hillsboro, OR, VFR, in a Mooney 201, basically trying to follow the Victor airways. The weather was okay, with scattered rain showers, until he was between Mustang VOR and Lakeview. Then the ceilings started to lower. In the Lakeview area the weather became significantly worse. The ceiling lowered to 6,500 msl and lower, and there was a mix of rain showers and snow showers. The snow was moderate at times, and he started to accumulate some ice on the airplane's wings as he proceeded north of Lakeview. He was in and out of snow and rain showers, and then into areas where he could see up to 20 miles. But the open areas became less and less, and when he was in the showers he could only see the ground directly below him. He could not see anything horizontally. Visibility in the snow showers was "very bad." As he flew up the west side of the valley north of Lakeview, under a 1,000 foot solid ceiling, he could see that the ridges on all sides were in the clouds. As he got about 30 miles north of Lakeview, near a small airport (Paisley State), he could see that the weather was closing in and getting worse from every direction. He therefore turned back to Lakeview to hopefully get a rental car. After he landed at Lakeview he checked the weather, and arranged for a car rental. He was getting ready to drive away from the airport about an hour after he landed, when he saw the AA-5A enter the pattern. He said that his thought at that time was that the pilot had to be even crazier than he was. Within a mile of leaving the airport to the west in the rental car, he entered another snow shower, within which the visibility was less than one mile. He did not see the AA-5A actually land, as he was driving away from the airport at that time. During the hour he was on the ground at Lakeview the weather did not change significantly. It was not getting much worse, but it did not get any better. It just kind of stayed the same.