



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Albert P. Nixon**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**

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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Ron Price (Sonoma Skypark Airport Manager)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Ron Price, Airport Manager and witness of the accident airplane's flight, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was working outside by the departure runway on the afternoon of the accident flight.
- He observed the airplane taking off at about 1244 on runway 26.
- He stated the airplane climbed out to about 300-400 hundred ft agl and was wings level.
- He heard some pops and then saw the chute deploy.
- He saw the airplane descended.
- He stated the pilot arrived at the airport on Tuesday, July 11, between 1700-1800, and parked and covered his airplane.
- The airport refueling reports indicated that the airplane had not refueled there during its time at the airport from July 11-13, 2017.
- No other airplanes were in the pattern.
- He was not aware of any other individuals at the airport who witnessed the accident airplane.
- He mentioned that the pilot has flown into the airport previously on a routine basis and the pilot owned a home in town.
- He stated that one of his employees talked to the accident pilot prior to his takeoff.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Colin Traynor (Sonoma Skypark Assistant Airport Manager)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Colin Traynor, Assistant Airport Manager and witness of the accident airplane's flight, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He talked to the accident pilot just prior to going to lunch.
- He observed the accident pilot accomplishing a walk around pre-flight inspection.
- He stated he observed the pilot checked the oil dip stick and the right fuel tank sump.
- The pilot told him that they planned to fly to Reid-Hillview Airport to go to the waterpark.
- The pilot and the 3 passengers were dressed in swimming gear.
- He observed them carrying a couple of soft type material beach bags.
- He stated that when he returned from lunch, he heard the accident airplane take off.
- He heard a "pop" sound, shortly thereafter observed the parachute deploy.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Paul Siebert (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Paul Siebert, witness of the accident airplane's flight, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He lives south off the departure end of runway 26.
- He always could hear the departing airplanes from the airport.
- He was sitting in the dining room that morning of the accident and heard an airplane departing.
- He stated that the airplane's power setting sounded low.
- Then the sound went quiet in about 2-3 seconds.
- Subsequently, he heard some type of explosion followed by a whishing sound.
- The whishing sound was not steady and lasted about 5-6 seconds and sounded like a "roman candle" shooting off.
- The sound went quiet.
- He walked outside and saw two guys running from the east to the wreckage.
- He noticed the wreckage about 1/8 miles SE of his home.
- The airplane's parachute was strewed to the east.
- He was a retired aeronautical engineer.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Antonio Rodriguez (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Antonio Rodriguez, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was about ½ miles from the accident site.
- He observed the accident airplane about 100 ft agl, turn left, and the wings wobbled.



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**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Antonio Rodriguez, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was eating lunch outside on the departure end of the runway, about ½ miles from the accident site.
- He heard a loud pop.
- He commended that does not sound good.
- He saw smoke.
- It was grey smoke in a vertical pattern.
- He traveled to the accident site with 6 other people.
- A girl was seated, in a car seat, in the right front seat.
- An older female was in the left side rear seat.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Dylan Powell (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Dylan Powell, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was a Peterson Mechanic intern.
- The engine was sputtering.
- He heard a pop then a louder pop.
- Traveled to the accident site and smelled fuel and saw fuel leaking form the right wing.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Dan Ackley (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Dan Ackley, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was eating lunch where the flight path comes over after takeoff.
- He heard the plane taking off.
- The airplane's engine was sputtering a little.
- The engine did not sound good as the airplane was climbing.
- Heard a loud bang and the engine cutout.
- Saw a chute deploy about 70 ft above the ground.
- The engine noise quit.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Christina Zanone (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Christina Zanone, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what she stated:

- She was in a garage outside.
- Saw the airplane a little low about 2 telephone poles high.
- It was straight and level.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Christopher Plexico (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Christopher Plexico, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- Heard backfire about 200-300 ft.
- Heard engine restart.
- Heard a second pop and the chute deployed.



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**Date: July 14, 2017**  
**Person Contacted: Robert Castillo (Witness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR17FA150**

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### **Narrative:**

During a conversation with Robert Castillo, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- Heard the engine backfire.
- Heard the engine restart.
- Heard a second pop and the chute deployed.