

April 19, 2021

Clayton Caessens
Aviation Safety Inspector/Avionics
1500 Urban Center Dr
Vestavia Hills, AL 35242

Mr Caessens,

On Sunday morning 11 Apr 2021 at approximately 0915 CDT my Piper Saratoga struck a deer after landing at KTOI airport Troy, Alabama.

I had departed KMDQ airport in Huntsville, Alabama on an IFR flight plan with my wife as the only passenger in the copilot seat. Flight planning was accomplished through ForeFlight. On arrival into Troy the weather was OVC at 5,000 ft, winds 360/5. Once below the clouds I canceled IFR with Cairns Approach and proceeded VFR into Troy joining left downwind for visual approach to runway 7. Approach and landing were uneventful and after lowering the nose I raised the flaps and was allowing the aircraft to roll to the departure end of the runway. Seconds after raising the flaps and at approximately 60-70 kts, what sounded like an explosion on the right side of the plane jolted the plane and caused the window glass on the door to the right of my wife to shatter. Looking behind us into the back of the cabin I saw more glass from another window and deer fur floating through the cabin and settling on the seats and floor. I applied brakes and turned the plane around on the runway and was able to verify it was a deer that had struck the plane and also took a picture of the deer lying on the runway. The deer was not on the runway at the time of landing and neither my wife nor I ever saw it before the impact.

Regards

Matt A. Barker
[REDACTED]
Huntsville, AL 35802