

Stephen Stein
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: July 13, 2023

Subject: WPR22FA235 - Interview

Contact: David Valaer, Friend and Instructor of Accident Pilot

Mr. Valaer stated that he is an airline transport pilot (ATP) with over 3,500 hours of total flight time. At the time of the accident, he had known the pilot for over 40 years and was a close friend. The previous year they had flown to Alaska together in the accident airplane, during which time they accumulated 30 hours of time in the airplane. During the trip to Alaska, Mr. Valaer, also a flight instructor, gave the accident pilot his most recent flight review in the accident airplane on August 9, 2021. The accident pilot was preparing for another flight to Alaska when the accident occurred.

According to Mr. Valaer, when flying the traffic pattern into runway 26 he would normally try to minimize the noise impact on the residential area and be cautious not to fly into PDX airspace. A figure of the accident flight path was shown to Mr. Valaer, who noted that the base was very tight.

Mr. Valaer stated that the accident pilot was an excellent pilot who was current and qualified and that the accident airplane was in impeccable condition. Approximately 2 days prior to the accident he told the pilot to practice his go-arounds after every 5-6 landings as he teaches all of his students. He had previously taught him normal and accelerated stalls (noting that the accident airplane could be stalled at 90 kts under accelerated stall conditions).