

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Keystone lake crash 8/27/22 Bailey Nevill
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 1:24:39 PM

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This is the statement I got from the passenger of the Stearman.
James

From: Bailey nevill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 3:09:44 PM
To: Wirt, James L (FAA) [REDACTED]
Subject: Keystone lake crash 8/27/22 Bailey Nevill

Keystone lake crash 8/27/22 Bailey Nevill

My friend Wayne Bennett is a pilot who lives in Texas & wanted me to experience riding in a small biplane, We wanted to arrive to the hanger a little early to watch any pre flight inspection etc, wayne had communicated with the pilot Bruce & arranged our flight for 9am. Once we arrived Bruce showed us the plane we stood around for about 5 minutes and admired it etc, he then brought it out of the hanger and began moving the propeller over and over for about 3-5 mins, then we took a couple pictures in front of the plane and he helped me step on the plane and into my seat, once I was in my seat I could not figure out how to buckle the medal seatbelt so he reached over and buckled it for me, there was no explanation on how todo it or how to unbuckle it, once I was buckled in he got into his seat behind me & started the plane up, I could hear him & talk to him on my headset, he mentioned how I could see him in the mirror on the top left & explained what some of the devices on the dash in front of me ment. We then drove to the grass runway strip and waiting there for the levels to be ready for takeoff,we took off around 9-9:05 we then took off and looped back to the hanger, he flew low & shot smoke out of the back of the plane and we flew back up and headed towards skytook lake, he flew me low over trees and we flew into one runway strip like we were going to land them he flew back up, we flew over skytook at a decent height then he said we were going to fly over keystone lake, it took us about 7-10 mins to get to the lake, we were over the water the whole time we were flying pretty high until we entered the smaller part of the lake/cove area. The plane was running completely fine the entire ride, we then began flying really low & he said “ this is where I like todo some water dancing” we flew low over the water around the curves of the lake the lake straightened out & so did we, we were flying low & about 75-80mph I believe the plane was level. It was running completely fine, no weird noises or movements, I was looking straight then looked to my right and saw we were level if not right above or below the power lines and as soon as I thought “ what the f” we got yanked or grabbed and violently thrown down into the water, I did not have much time to brace for impact and we slammed the water. It took me a couple seconds to comprehend that we had crashed, about 5 seconds after we impacted the water bruce was out of his seat & behind me

pulling my shoulders and yelling " Take off the seatbelt!!" i tried pushing myself out of the seatbelt but it was on tight i could not squeeze through, he continued yelling for about 7 seconds then the plane sucked me underwater with it, i quickly realised i was going to drown if i could not get the buckle undone, i continued trying to unlatch the belt around my waist and about 20 seconds of being underwater i was able to get it undone, I swam to the surface and as soon as I got up there was debris everywhere and the headset and goggles were all wrapped around my neck and face I took them off along with my necklace that was tangled in and I was struggling to swim and stay above water because my shoes and pants were weighing me down so I took my shoes off while Bruce was yelling to swim to the shore as soon as I started trying to swim I realized I couldn't swim with my heavy sweatpants on and as soon as I started to take them off I heard yelling and looked over and saw the fishing boat they pulled up and threw out two flotation devices and the woman jumped into the water grabbed me and put me in the boat and then got Bruce and put him in the boat, we were absolutely petrified, they then drove us to the cove and yelled at people to call 911, bruce kept saying he couldn't believe that happened & asking if i was ok. he said he has to tell insurance it was engine failure or they wont cover it, he kept mentioning it was a 200k plane, he was visibly upset, we really did not have much conversation but once we were both in the ambulance the-medics and police had asked him what happened and he said an engine failed, we then had a long ambulance ride then were separated at the hospital.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Keystone lake crash 8/27/22 Bailey Nevill
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:19:55 PM

Good Evening Ms. Neville,

I received your statement (see below) from Oklahoma City FAA Inspector James Wirt concerning your recollection of the accident involving Mr. Forbes and his airplane. I'm the National Transportation Safety Board (www.nts.gov) investigator-in-charge for this accident and have been in communication with Inspector Wirt concerning the circumstances. My apologies that I have not communicated with you prior to this message, but I did not have a contact number for you. The NTSB is the Federal agency in-charge of the accident investigation and the FAA supports our investigation.

I'm sending you this message to confirm this is your statement of the accident circumstances, in addition, are there any additional details that you feel would be helpful for our safety investigation? I would appreciate your confirmation of your statement and let me know if you have any questions regarding our investigation.

Best Regards,

Aaron Sauer
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
[REDACTED]

From: Wirt, James L (FAA) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Sauer Aaron [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Keystone lake crash 8/27/22 Bailey Nevill

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James

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Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 3:09:44 PM
To: Wirt, James L (FAA) [REDACTED]
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Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Keystone crash statement
Date: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:12:30 AM

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello! Good to hear from you, That is my statement & it is all correct. I would like to also emphasize that we were not exiting the water or area when he hit the lines, it was not engine failure, he either thought he was low enough to miss the lines or just did not see them. I would also like to emphasize that he mentioned in front of me & and others that he had to say it was engine failure or his insurance would not cover his “ 200k plane”. That’s all I’m my statement. Thanks again so much. Hopefully we can get this resolved. Also my last name is spelled Nevill, no E on the end.

You can also speak to my attorney

[REDACTED]

Thank you!
Bailey Nevill