



RECORD OF PHONE CONVERSATION

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: June 27, 2022
Person Contacted: Neal Nichols (Pilot)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR22LA238

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Nichols in a telephone conversation.

He and Neal Humphrey had flown into Lower Loon Creek Airstrip (C53) for the afternoon on June 26, 2022. Due to density altitude they waited to depart from C53 until later that evening. Mr. Nichols explained that his airplane is equipped with an AV-20 and at the time of departure, the density altitude was indicating about 6,200 ft. The intent was to fly from C53 to Johnson Creek (3U2) and continue their camping trip. He observed Neal Humphrey and his son (Cooper) depart in N1231C to the north, climb, turn and over fly the runway for 3U2 at about 1930 local. He last observed Mr. Humphrey headed to the south. He (Mr. Nichols) and his son, then departed from C53 and flew to McCall Municipal Airport (KMYL) for fuel. Shortly after departing from C53 he observed some smoke, which he believed to be a small ground fire. After landing at KMYL and refueling, he and his son proceeded to 3U2. Upon landing, he expected to meet with Mr. Humphrey and his son, but they had not arrived. Concerned for Neal and Cooper, he reported N1231C missing. He estimated that Mr. Humphrey weighed about 175 lbs, his son appeared to weigh about 180 lbs and a bag on board the airplane that looked to weigh about 20 lbs.