NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD Time: 1420 Date: 09/30/2003

Record of [☐] visit [☐] conference [☒] telephone call

Name: Mike Grady
Organization:
Street:
City:

Subject: ACCIDENT IDENTIFICATION: LAX-03-L-A300

MAKE: MCCLANAHAN, MODEL: STITS PLAYMATE SA-11, N9YC

DATE: 09/27/03, LOCATION: FONTANA, CA

Digest:

Mr. Grady was heading towards Las Vegas when he saw the airplane out of his right window. He said the airplane was spiraling down and crashed. He went to see if he could assist the people; however, there was an explosion and ensuing fire. He indicated that the fire was progressing rapidly towards the cockpit. The flames were high with intense heat.

Date:	Title:	Signature:
09/30/2003	Air Safety Investigator Southwest Regional Office	Tealeye C. Cornejo

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD Time: 1042 Date: 09/30/2003

Record of [☐] visit [☐] conference [☒] telephone call

Name: Mike Denholtz
Organization:
Street:
City:

Subject: ACCIDENT IDENTIFICATION: LAX-03-L-A300

MAKE: MCCLANAHAN, MODEL: STITS PLAYMATE SA-11, N9YC

DATE: 09/27/03, LOCATION: FONTANA, CA

Digest:

Mr. Denholtz was at the Girl Scout camp at the Glen Helen Park when he observed the airplane-flying overhead. He said that the airplane was almost overhead when the engine quit. Both he and his wife got up to look at it and watched it until it went over a hill. Mr. Denholtz stated that the airplane was flying straight and level and was not losing altitude after he heard the engine quit. He estimated the height of the airplane to be about 4,000 feet above ground level. Prior to going over the hill he heard the engine sputter, but never start up again.

Date:	Title:	Signature:
09/30/2003	Air Safety Investigator Southwest Regional Office	Tealeye C. Cornejo

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September 30, 2003

Dear Tealeye

My wife, Brenda, and I heard and saw a small, light colored, Cessna looking aircraft flying right above and over us. It was approximately 4:30 pm, Saturday, September 27, 2003. It was heading south over Glen Helen Park. We were camped for the weekend inside the Glen Helen Park Circle Rd. (exactly where we saw it) for the San Bernardino Sheriff Rodeo/Scouting event. It was flying east of the 15 freeway and the Glen Helen Parkway. The sky was blue, no clouds and a beautiful day.
Right above us, we heard the engine quit abruptly, as did our hearts. We stood up to watch and follow it along its path. A few seconds passed and it started up again. Another few seconds past and it stopped again. We did not hear it start up again. It continued gliding south over the mountain. It was 1st noticeable because it was buzzing along pretty loud. When the plane left our site it was gliding straight and level and had 1000's of feet of elevation. My first estimate was 5000 feet but it could have been as little as 2000' from the elevation we were at. Having been a pilot of a small aircraft I told Brenda at the time that the plane looked like it had plenty of altitude to find a safe spot to land.

When we returned home Sunday, Brenda showed me the article in the Press-Enterprise about the wreck. Being sure it was the same aircraft, I called the San Bernardino County Sheriff who referred me to the FAA. We are very broken-hearted from this fatal accident and our prayers and thoughts are with the bereaved families.

Respectfully and regretfully submitted,

Michael Denholtz