



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:  
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## Missing person investigation also involves a missing aircraft

**Silverdale, Wash.** -- A Central Kitsap man who was reported missing earlier this week is likely the pilot of a small, privately owned aircraft that also is missing.

An incident / complaint report was filed with the sheriff's office Tuesday evening, Nov. 23, concerning the disappearance of Richard E. Nims, age 73, of Silverdale. The reporting person, a relative of Nims, stated that no one had heard from him in about a week. At the time of the complaint there was no additional information available to indicate that Nims' life was endangered or that he was a threat to public safety.

A sheriff's deputy contacted the complainant yesterday for follow-up.

Nims was reported to be a retired military and commercial aviation pilot, who had access to a 2004 Citabria Scout, a single engine aircraft that usually is parked at Apex Airpark (S42), located to the west of Silverdale. The aircraft tail number is: N273MA.

The aircraft registration returns to a corporation in Montana.

It also was reported that Nims owns several vehicles, including a dark-blue Kenworth tractor. Since the original complaint filed on Nov. 23, it was subsequently learned that the tractor was found at Apex Airpark, and the Citabria Scout was gone.

The airpark manager reported that Nims took off from Apex on Wednesday, Nov. 17. Nims reportedly didn't file a flight plan.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was contacted concerning the missing aircraft and Nims' disappearance. The FAA duty officer issued a notice to pilots and airports to check for the missing aircraft.

Contact attempts with Nims' cell phone have been unsuccessful. Known friends and acquaintances have no additional information as to his possible whereabouts.

Due to an aircraft being reported missing in conjunction with this missing person investigation, additional assistance is being provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation – Aviation Division. A search mission for the aircraft is underway, being conducted from the incident command post at Tacoma Narrows Airport (TIW) in Gig Harbor.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Richard Nims, or the location of the missing 2004 Citabria Scout aircraft, is requested to contact:

- WSDOT Tip Line: (360) 410-0461

or

- E-mail: [missingaircraft@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:missingaircraft@wsdot.wa.gov)

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