



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:
KCSO news release #10-052 / 125 / 10

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010

Wreckage of missing aircraft and remains of missing pilot found

Ref: KCSO news release #10-051, dated Friday, Nov. 26, 2010

South Kitsap, Wash. -- The wreckage of a missing 2004 Citabria Scout single engine aircraft was located during late morning hours today on a remote hillside southwest of the City of Bremerton. The body of an adult male, believed to be that of a missing Silverdale man, was found at the scene.

Both the aircraft and its pilot were the subject of a missing person investigation and a search for the aircraft that began Thursday.

The wreckage was found at 11:25 a.m. by a K-9 search team. The crash site was located on a remote steep hillside above, and to the northwest of, the Casad Dam, which is part of the Bremerton Watershed and Reservoir System.

Richard E. Nims, age 74, was reported to the sheriff's office as missing, Nov. 23, by a family relative. Subsequent information later reported to the sheriff's office revealed that one of Nims' vehicles, a Kenworth tractor, was found at Apex Airpark, located west of Silverdale, and the Citabria Scout aircraft was gone.

The airpark manager reported that Nims took off from Apex on Wednesday, Nov. 17. Nims reportedly didn't file a flight plan. Nims was reported to be a retired military and commercial aviation pilot.

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.

When the Citabria Scout aircraft was found missing, search assistance was provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation – Aviation Division. A search mission for the aircraft was initiated from the Tacoma Narrows Airport in Gig Harbor.

The search mission later was moved to Bremerton National Airport off of State Highway 3 West in South Kitsap. Archive radar data was examined which revealed an aircraft flight track believed to be that of the missing Citabria Scout.

With a significant degree of probability that the missing aircraft had flown over the Bremerton Watershed, a ground search of the area was initiated Nov. 27, when adverse weather conditions precluded continued aerial search.

The crash site lies within the jurisdiction of the Bremerton Police Department. As the wreckage site also is the location of a death investigation, Bremerton police are providing site security and coordinating with the Kitsap County Coroner to determine the safest method to recover the remains of the deceased pilot.

The investigation into the cause of the crash will be handled by the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

An autopsy of the pilot will be conducted as soon as practicable. The coroner will confirm the identity of the remains as well as determine the cause and manner of death.

Toxicology tests will take several weeks before results are available. The report from the county's forensic pathologist concerning the deceased pilot will be made a part of the NTSB case file investigation into the cause of this aircraft mishap.

The ground search for the missing person / missing aircraft was coordinated by Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue. Ground search teams were provided by some 30 volunteers representing three organizations:

- Explorer Search and Rescue of Kitsap County
- German Shepherd Search Dogs of Washington State (out of Pierce County)
- Olympic Mountain Rescue

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