

Monday, February 07, 2011

Airplane crashes on Koshkonong

Pilot, passenger not hurt

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Regional Editor

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PLANE CRASH — The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the Saturday afternoon crash of a small single-engine aircraft on Lake Koshkonong. David McCoy, of Helenville, was piloting a Piper PA-16 fixed-wing aircraft at 3:05 p.m. Saturday. Edgerton Fire Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office officials say he was trying a low pass over Lake Koshkonong when the plane suffered mechanical problems, forcing him to attempt to land on the lake. The aircraft reportedly flipped when the landing gear hit a snow drift about a mile southeast of the Bingham Road boat launch in the Town of Sumner. Emergency personnel from multiple agencies, including the Edgerton and Milton fire departments and Jefferson and Rock County sheriff's offices, responded to the scene at 4:53 p.m. However, neither McCoy and nor his passenger, Michael Claxton, Edgerton, was injured in the crash. Both had been taken from the scene previously by snowmobilers in the vicinity. Pictured above, McCoy and FAA investigators reportedly were at the scene Sunday as part of the investigation and to remove the aircraft from the lake. — Daily Union photo by Ryan Whisner.

SUMNER - No one was injured Saturday afternoon when a single-engine aircraft overturned during an attempted landing on the frozen waters of Lake Koshkonong.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the Town of Sumner incident.

Multiple emergency response agencies were dispatched to the scene of the crash, located approximately one mile southeast of the Bingham Road boat launch at 4:53 p.m. Saturday when snowmobilers came across the tipped-over aircraft.

It was dispatched to authorities as a plane that had crashed into the lake.

While en route to the scene, the Edgerton Fire Department requested assistance from the Rock County Sheriff's Office rescue and dive team. In addition, mutual aid was requested from the Milton Fire Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Edgerton Fire Chief Brian Demrow said the additional assistance was requested due to the location and the possible need for water rescue personnel.

A small fixed-wing, single-engine Piper PA-16 registered to David L. McCoy of Helenville was found on the ice. Demrow said that snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and the Rock County Sheriff's Department airboat were utilized to reach the downed aircraft from the boat launch. No one was around the plane when rescuers arrived.

Demrow said the airplane did not break through the ice.

"There were snowmobilers around the area and they came over to us," Demrow said. "Once we started doing some investigating and searching, we finally found out that they (McCoy and his passenger Micheal Claxton of Edgerton) had been taken off the ice."

Neither reportedly was injured in the mishap.

McCoy, who was the pilot, returned to the scene around 6 p.m. and informed the emergency rescue personnel that he and Claxton were OK.

Apparently, at approximately 3:05 p.m. Saturday, McCoy, was flying over the lake alongside two other airplanes.

Demrow said McCoy had powered down to fly low over the lake. When he went to power back up, the plane suffered some kind of mechanical problem and would not power back up.

"He ended trying to land on the lake," the chief said. "When he landed on the lake, the snow was piled up in snowdrifts and the landing gear hit one of them and the aircraft tipped up and over."

He noted that the airplane did sustain some serious damage as a result of the impact with the snow drift.

McCoy and FAA officials were at the scene of the crash Sunday morning. Authorities were not certain whether the aircraft had been removed from the lake as of this morning.