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*Editor's note: Lots of events/articles this month so let's get right to it. Received more emails from ace reporter Ken "crash" McDaniel.*

### THE FOLLOWING IS A TRUE TALE OF DESPAIR AND ANGUISH

[NOTE SAD CRYING]

I PRESENT THIS TALE IN THE HOPE OTHERS WILL HEED THE WARNING IT CONTAINS. TODAY FRIDAY THE 13th IS TRULY AN UNLUCKY DAY FOR ME. THIS IS NOTHING NEW LATELY. FIVE, YES THAT IS 5 DESTROYED AIR PLANES IN 6 WEEKS. IGNORING MY STRING OF BAD LUCK AS I AGAIN TEMPTED FATE. LIKE A LOT OF YOU I TO WOULD "SNEER" AND SCOFF AT BROKEN MIRRORS, BLACK CATS [TARGETS FOR B-B GUN PRACTICE] LADDERS, FRIDAYS THE 13th, STUFF LIKE THAT----SNEER. TODAY, FRIDAY, THE 13th OF NOV SHALL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A TRULY BLACK DAY. SNEERING AT "LUCK" I TOOK OFF FLYING MY ELECTRIC STIK. SHORTLY I HEARD MY GOOD FRIEND ANNOUNCE HE TOO WAS GETTING AIRBORNE WITH HIS BIG, GAS POWERED STIK. [TO AVOID EMBARRASSING HIM, I SHALL OMIT HIS NAME AS WHAT TRANSPIRED]

WAS TRULY MY FAULT FOR "SNEERING" AT "LADY LUCK" BLISSFULLY WE EACH FLEW A NICE SAFE RACE TRACK PATTERN. UNBEKNOWNST TO EACH OTHER WE DECIDED TO LAND AT THE SAME TIME. YOU GUESSED IT. TWO AIRPLANES DO NOT LIKE TO OCCUPY THE SAME AIR SPACE AT THE SAME TIME. MY "LITTLE" STIK DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THAT BIG GAS POWERED MONSTER. THAT BIG OL' NASTY FIBER PROP SLICED COMPLETELY THREW MY CUTE LITTLE DEFENSELESS STIK. DESTROYED!!! THIS I PROMISE, "NEVER AGAIN SHALL I SNEER AT EVIL PORTENTS." IN FACT, AS I'VE BEEN SUCH A "TURKEY" I HAVE A CERTAIN BROTHERHOOD WITH THEM SO THIS THANKSGIVING I SHALL [AS THE COW ADS SAY "EAT CHIKIN"] EAT CHICKEN, OR MAYBE ONLY TATORS. SO, YOU ASK " UH KEN, FIVE AIRPLANES?" I SHALL ASHAMEDLY LIST THEM.  
 #1 PIPER PAWNEE [NEVER FLEW GOOD]  
 #2 ELECT EXTRA 300 [DUMB THUMBS]  
 #3 ELECT STIK [SPIN, UNABLE RECOVER]  
 #4 T-28 [RADIO MAL FUNCTION]  
 # 5 AND FINALLY TODAY'S SAD TALE OF WOE. KEN "BLUE" McD

And then it happened "again" and I received the following e-mail.

### IT COULDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN BUT IT DID

YES, LADY LUCK HAS LEFT ME. I BELIEVE SHE'S IN ANOTHER STATE. CAN LIGHTENING STRIKE IN THE SAME PLACE SIX [6] TIMES? THIS IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE---- BUT TRUE. MY DA 50 POWERED YAK 54 IS NO MORE. THIS AM IN THE DARK NASTY CLOUDY SKY IT HAPPENED. HEY, NO PROBLEM, I'VE USED UP MY BAD LUCK RIGHT? WRONG!!!! FIRST FLIGHT WAS OK, IMAC BASIC 5 AND 6s AND A COUPLE OF 8/9s. I HAVEN'T FLOWN THIS GOOD FOR A LONG WHILE. GETTING THE "FEEL" OF IT AGAIN. LOVED THAT PLANE. [PAST TENSE]. SECOND FLIGHT---- SHOWING OFF. KNIFE EDGE RIGHT WING DOWN "NOT BAD". LEFT WING DOWN. OH OH, TROUBLE!!! DARK SKY, I LOST ORIENTATION, GOING DOWN FAST, UP ELEVATOR PROBABLY, WING STALLED ALMOST HAD IT BUT I DIDN'T. ANOTHER THREE FEET AND I WOULD'VE SAVED IT. [MAYBE] TOTALED OUT. SPENT THE LAST 1 1/2 HRS STRIPPING IT