

Witness Report - N690V - April 26, 2009
L. Rolf Peterson

I watched the approach and landing of Van's RV-6, N690V, at Air Sailing Gliderport about 12:30 PM PDT, April 26, 2009, at Air Sailing Gliderport, Reno, NV.

N690V made a normal left pattern approach to dirt Runway 3L at Air Sailing. This runway is commonly used by the towplanes at the gliderport. The weather was clear below 10,000 ft with turbulent wind 050 - 060 at ~12 kts gusting to ~15 - 18 kts (estimated).

I watched N690V continuously during the left base, final approach, and landing from a location approximately 1200 feet from the landing location.

The approach appeared to be a normal approach for landing. I saw N690V touch down and bounce slightly as evidenced by a small cloud of dust and a small increase in altitude. The plane remained in a three point landing attitude as it touched down again. As the plane touched down again, the right wing dropped and the plane veered to its right. Then the plane made a rapid approximately 90 degree left turn and tipped up on its nose as it came to an abrupt stop.

The plane remained tipped up on its nose after it stopped.

Other people at the gliderport drove to the plane in vehicles and arrived there before I got there on foot. They lowered the tail of the plane to the ground and were helping the pilot, Bob McKay, get out of the plane as I arrived at the plane. He was not injured.

N690V was located in sagebrush about 30 feet south of the runway. I observed that the right wing was damaged near the wingtip. The left landing gear strut was bent rearward. Both fiberglass composite wheel fairings were badly damaged with one completely torn off from the landing gear. The propeller was badly bent and the propeller spinner was damaged.

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