Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Wake Forest, North Carolina	**Accident Number:**	ERA23LA207
Date & Time:	April 15, 2023, 15:11 Local	**Registration:**	N33873
Aircraft:	Schweizer SGS 1-26E	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Aerodynamic stall/spin	**Injuries:**	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

According to the student pilot of the glider, another glider was still on the runway as he was entering the downwind leg of the airport traffic pattern for landing. He decided to land short of the turf runway and entered the glider into a forward slip in order to touch down in the intended area. He reported that, upon removing the slip, he noted that the airspeed decayed “from 60 to 30,” and about 40 to 45 ft above the ground, he realized that the glider was “stalled” and that he “had no control over the aircraft.” The glider impacted a parked tow airplane and terrain, resulting in substantial damage to the leading edge of the left wing and the aft fuselage. The student pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the glider that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The student pilot’s failure to maintain airspeed during the landing approach, which resulted in an exceedance of the glider’s critical angle of attack, an aerodynamic stall, and a loss of control.

Findings

Aircraft	Angle of attack - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Aerodynamic stall/spin (Defining event)
Landing	Loss of control in flight
Landing	Collision during takeoff/land

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	None	**Age:**	16,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	**Seat Occupied:**	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:	None	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	25 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schweizer	**Registration:**	N33873
Model/Series:	SGS 1-26E	**Aircraft Category:**	Glider
Year of Manufacture:	1974	**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	**Serial Number:**	615
Landing Gear Type:	Tandem	**Seats:**	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 1, 2022 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	700 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	0
Airframe Total Time:	1425 Hrs as of last inspection	**Engine Manufacturer:**	
ELT:	Not installed	**Engine Model/Series:**	
Registered Owner:	NORTH CAROLINA SOARING ASSOCIATION	**Rated Power:**	
Operator:	NORTH CAROLINA SOARING ASSOCIATION	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLHZ,369 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	11 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:15 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	44°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1400 ft AGL	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	None / None
Wind Direction:	260°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.98 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	18°C / 15°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Wake Forest, NC	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Wake Forest, NC	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:		**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CROOKED CREEK 7NC5	**Runway Surface Type:**	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	250 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	22	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 50 ft	**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:		**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	**Latitude, Longitude:**	35.89035,-78.486213(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Boggs, Daniel
Additional Participating Persons:	Eden King; FAA; Greensboro, NC
Original Publish Date:	June 29, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=107132