



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	RICHMOND, Virginia	Accident Number:	BF087LA063
Date & Time:	September 7, 1987, 18:30 Local	Registration:	N37526
Aircraft:	BALLOON WORKS FIREFLY 7	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

THE BALLOON WAS 10TH TO TAKEOFF IN A HOUND-&HARE COMPETITION. DRG FLT, THE PLT NOTICED THE WIND HAD PICKED UP & THAT THE BALLOON WAS DRIFTING TOWARDS RICHMOND. HE DECIDED TO LAND IN A CEMETERY & BRIEFED THE PASSENGERS THAT THE BALLOON WOULD TOUCH DOWN HARD & MOST LIKELY BE DRAGGED. DRG THE LANDING, ONE OF THE PASSENGERS SUSTAINED A BROKEN ANKLE. THE BALLOON DRIFTED INTO A FENCE & A POWER LINE & RECEIVED MINOR DAMAGE.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
2. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING
3. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	29, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon; Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	350 hours (Total, all aircraft), 250 hours (Total, this make and model), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BALLOON WORKS	Registration:	N37526
Model/Series:	FIREFLY 7 FIREFLY 7	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	F7-137
Landing Gear Type:	Hull	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 15, 1987 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1660 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	70 Hrs	Engines:	Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	250 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	KEN ROESCHEN	Rated Power:	
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RIC ,168 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	19:00 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4500 ft AGL	Visibility	8 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 18000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	RIC	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Precautionary landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	37.510299,-77.26963(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Dickinson, Alfred
Additional Participating Persons:	GENE ROBERTS; RICHMOND , VA
Original Publish Date:	January 11, 1989
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=11338

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