



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	WAYNESBORO, Virginia	<b>Accident Number:</b>	BF092LA003
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 26, 1991, 14:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N34396
<b>Aircraft:</b>	SCHWEIZER	SGS 2-33A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b> Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation		

## Analysis

THE STUDENT GLIDER PILOT REALIZED THAT HE HAD DRIFTED TOO FAR FROM HIS DEPARTURE FIELD. HE ASKED THE INSTRUCTOR TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE AIRCRAFT. THE INSTRUCTOR CONSIDERED LANDING IN AN OPEN FIELD BUT DECIDED TO ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO THE AIRPORT. AS THE INSTRUCTOR MANEUVERED FOR THE APPROACH OVER A HIGH POINT OF GROUND, THE GLIDER STRUCK THE TOP OF A TREE AND CRASHED SHORT OF THE AIRPORT.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: IMPROPER IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION BY THE INSTRUCTOR (CFI). CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS THE INSTRUCTOR'S FAILURE TO PROPERLY MONITOR THE STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

### Findings

1. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - DUAL STUDENT
2. (C) INATTENTIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
3. (F) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	77, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Rear
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Glider	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Glider	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 14, 1968
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3290 hours (Total, all aircraft), 955 hours (Total, this make and model), 2950 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	SCHWEIZER	<b>Registration:</b>	N34396
<b>Model/Series:</b>	SGS 2-33A SGS 2-33A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Glider
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	417
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Ski/wheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	June 1, 1991 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1040 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	95 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	0 Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1500 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	RIDGE VALLEY SOARING CLUB	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	RIDGE VALLEY SOARING CLUB	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	CHO ,641 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	27 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	13:45 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	280°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 1500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	180°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	25°C / 15°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	13:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class D

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	WAYNESBORO W13	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.059425,-78.899208(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Reitan, Albert
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	D HUNTER; RICHMOND , VA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	March 31, 1993
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=11746">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=11746</a>

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