



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MARKESAN, Wisconsin	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI85LA126
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	February 26, 1985, 18:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N54815
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-23-250	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

ALTHOUGH THE PILOT BELIEVED HE HAD ENOUGH VISIBILITY TO LAND AT THIS UNLIGHTED AIRFIELD AT DUSK, HE, IN FACT, ALIGNED THE AIRCRAFT UP APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET TO THE RIGHT OF THE RUNWAY. HE LANDED IN A SHALLOW SNOWBANK THAT PARALLELED THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE RUNWAY. THE NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED SHORTLY AFTER TOUCHDOWN.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

#### Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
2. (C) PROPER TOUCHDOWN POINT - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) IMPROPER USE OF PROCEDURE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) PROPER ALIGNMENT - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

7. TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
8. TERRAIN CONDITION - SOFT

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	37, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	February 23, 1984
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1775 hours (Total, all aircraft), 308 hours (Total, this make and model), 1630 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 79 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N54815
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-23-250 PA-23-250	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	7554112
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	6
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 21, 1985 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5200 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	8 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	3900 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-540-C4B5
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	THOMAS STRAHOTA	<b>Rated Power:</b>	250 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<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>	Dusk
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Unknown	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 3000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	20 knots / 5 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	280°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	BLACK RIVER , WI (Y35 )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	17:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	NOWATZSKI FEILD RLA	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Gravel
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	920 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	27	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2600 ft / 50 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	43.699096,-88.980316(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Benzon, Robert

**Additional Participating Persons:** R TAYLOR; MILWAUKEE , WI

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=13016>

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