



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Auburn, WA	Accident Number:	WPR24LA074
Date & Time:	January 16, 2024, 11:30 Local	Registration:	N920MB
Aircraft:	BECK MICHAEL J SONEX	Injuries:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On January 16, 2024, at 1130 Pacific standard time, a Sonex experimental amateur-built airplane N920MB was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident on a public road near the Auburn Municipal Airport (KS50) Auburn, Washington. The pilot was not injured. The airplane was operated as a *Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that shortly after takeoff during the climb, he experienced a partial loss power and began to descend. The pilot planned to land the airplane on a road straight ahead, but several seconds later the engine regained power, enabling the airplane to climb. Approximately forty seconds later, the airplane experienced a total loss of power. The pilot turned in the direction of the airport while in a forced descent, where its wingtip collided with a business sign that spun its orientation in the opposite direction, coming to rest by impacting a light post. The airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings and fuselage.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BECK MICHAEL J	Registration:	N920MB
Model/Series:	SONEX	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	GROVER DANIEL A	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSEA,434 ft msl	Observation Time:	11:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	1°C /-14°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 18000 ft AGL	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 23000 ft AGL	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.97 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Departure Point:	Auburn, WA (S50)	Destination:	Auburn, WA

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	N/A	Latitude, Longitude:	47.342702,-122.2224 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Basti, Paymaun
Additional Participating Persons:	Christopher Tuman; FAA; Seattle, WA
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.