

Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Westwater, UT	Accident Number:	WPR24FA083
Date & Time:	February 7, 2024, 10:48 Local	Registration:	N900VA
Aircraft:	HAWKER BEECHCRAFT CORP HAWKER 900XP	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Positioning		

On February 7, 2024, about 1048 mountain standard time, a Hawker 900XP, N900VA, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Westwater, Utah. The captain and co-pilot were fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 positioning flight.

The airplane, which was owned by Vici Aviation, LLC, and operated by Clay Lacy Aviation, Inc., arrived at West Star Aviation’s facility at Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT), Grand Junction, Colorado on December 20, 2023 for routine maintenance. According to preliminary information from the maintenance facility, multiple routine inspections had been completed on the airplane including a requirement to remove the wing leading edges and TKS panels to inspect for cracks and signs of corrosion. After the inspections were completed, the airplane was returned to service on February 6, 2024.

The flight crew had planned to fly the airplane from GJT to Gig Harbor, Washington on the day of the accident, during which time they would perform a stall warning and systems check in accordance with the airframe manufacturer’s requirements. These requirements, which were listed in the pilot’s operating manual, included a required altitude above 10,000 ft above ground level, 10,000 ft above clouds and below 18,000 ft mean sea level. In addition, this check flight could only be conducted during day visual meteorological conditions with a good visual horizon, with the autopilot disengaged, an operative stall identification system, the external surfaces free of ice, the ventral tank empty and weather radar on standby.

According to preliminary automatic dependent system broadcast (ADS-B) data, the airplane departed GJT at 1037 and entered a climb on a southeast heading. The flight crew asked air traffic control (ATC) for a block of altitude from FL180 to FL200 and ATC approved the request. The airplane circled to the northwest as it continued to climb and subsequently

leveled off at 1043:49, near the top of the altitude block. At 1046:47 the flight track data showed the airplane begin a rapid descent in circular pattern that resembled the shape of a corkscrew. The airplane made multiple rotations before the track ceased at 1047:44.

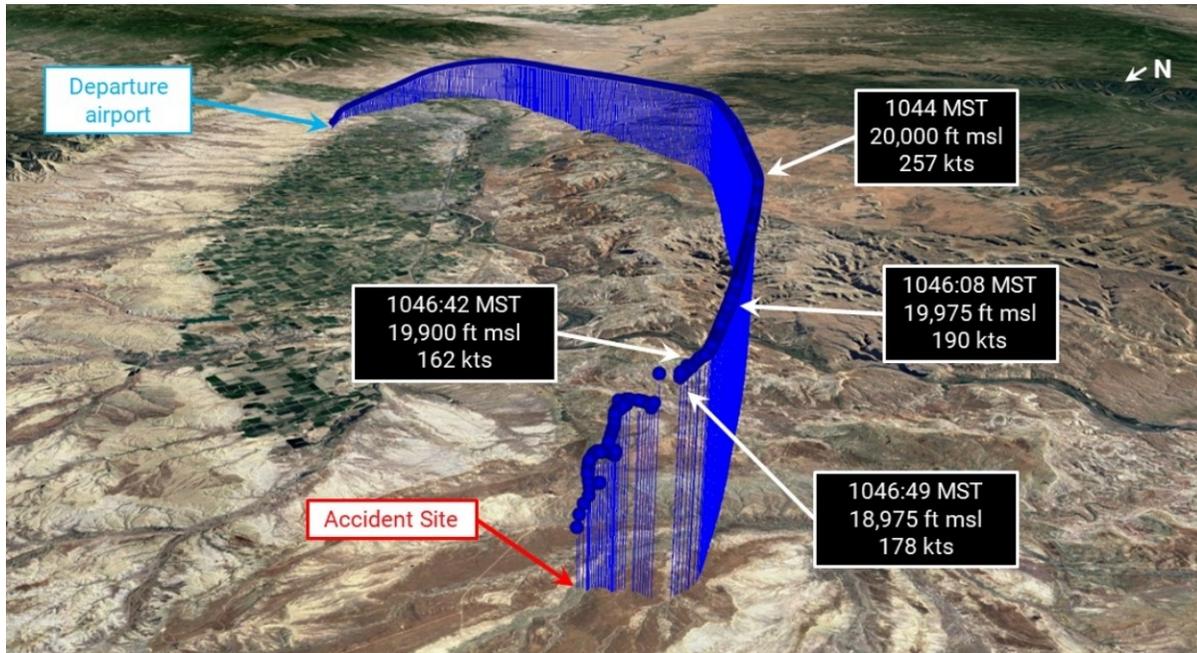


Figure 1: Accident airplane flight track

The airplane came to rest in flat open terrain about 25 nm northwest of GJT at an elevation of about 4,800 ft mean sea level and oriented on a west heading. The airplane's major structures were all accounted for at the accident site. A debris path was traced from the main wreckage to the end of a burn area that was about 200 ft long and 175 ft wide at the widest point, oriented on a magnetic heading of 345°. A silhouette of the left wing, fuselage and both engines was located about 10 ft south of the main wreckage.

The airplane's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder were both recovered from the accident site. The wreckage has also been retained for further examination.



Figure 2: Accident site main wreckage

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HAWKER BEEHCRAFT CORP	Registration:	N900VA
Model/Series:	HAWKER 900XP	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	Clay Lacy Aviation, Inc.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	IMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KGJT,4839 ft msl	Observation Time:	11:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	8°C /-1°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 6000 ft AGL	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / , 260°
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.59 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Departure Point:	Grand Junction, CO (GJT)	Destination:	Tacoma, WA (TIW)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	39.26625,-109.05652 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Stein, Stephen
Additional Participating Persons:	Patrick Lusch; FAA; Washington, DC Jay Eller; Honeywell; Phoenix, AZ Ricardo Asensio; Textron Aviation; Wichita, KS Dondi Pangalangan; Clay Lacy; Van Nuys, CA Ed Mirzhakanian; Clay Lacy; Van Nuys, CA Allen McReynolds; West Star; Grand Junction, CO
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	