



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Polk City, Florida	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA24LA119
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	February 15, 2024, 17:10 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N429SH
<b>Aircraft:</b>	ALEXANDER SCHLEICHER GMBH & CO ASW 27-18	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of lift	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot of the glider reported that prior to the accident flight, he had not flown in over 90 days. The purpose of the accident flight was to refamiliarize himself with the tasking area of an upcoming soaring contest, with a general aim to stay within gliding distance of the departure gliderport. For about 2 hours, the pilot flew south of the gliderport at altitudes between 3,000 to 4,000 ft above ground level. He then encountered weaker soaring conditions and miscalculated his altitude by 300 ft due to a discrepancy between the glider’s primary altimeter and the altitude displayed on his GPS/moving map computer. By that time, he was too low to glide back to the gliderport and elected to land in a field about 5 miles southeast of it. During the landing, the left wing struck a fence and sustained substantial damage. The pilot added that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions with the glider.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

The glider pilot’s misjudged altitude, which resulted in an off-airport landing and collision with a fence.

## Findings

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<b>Personnel issues</b>	Identification/recognition - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Altitude - Not attained/maintained

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Enroute-cruise</b>	Loss of lift (Defining event)
<b>Emergency descent</b>	Off-field or emergency landing
<b>Landing-landing roll</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	71, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Single
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Glider	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	4-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	August 20, 2023
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1948 hours (Total, all aircraft), 344 hours (Total, this make and model), 1908 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	ALEXANDER SCHLEICHER GMBH & CO	<b>Registration:</b>	N429SH
<b>Model/Series:</b>	ASW 27-18 NO SERIES	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Glider
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2008	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	29032
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 11, 2024 Continuous airworthiness	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1322 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	0
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1624 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	C126 installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	GIF, 143 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	15 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	16:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	174°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	4 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	None / None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	10°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.16 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	23°C / 11°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Groveland, FL (6FL0)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Groveland, FL (6FL0)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	14:54 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	28.302724,-81.781731(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Gretz, Robert
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Joseph Gramzinski; FAA/FSDO; Orlando, FL
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	April 12, 2024
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 4</a>
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=193828">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=193828</a>

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