



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	PEORIA, Arizona	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX93LA084
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	December 26, 1992, 09:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N2815S
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Raven S-55A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT SAID THAT AFTER TAKEOFF THE BALLOON DRIFTED IN A NORTHWEST DIRECTION UNTIL IT REACHED A LARGE FIELD THE PILOT HAD SELECTED FOR LANDING. AT ABOUT 50 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL THE PILOT SAID THE BALLOON ENCOUNTERED A LARGE GUST OF WIND AND A WINDSHEAR WHICH PUSHED IT INTO THE GROUND AND CAUSED A HARD LANDING. THE PILOT NOTED THAT HE HAD OBSERVED TWO OTHER BALLOONS MAKE SOFT LANDINGS IN THE SAME FIELD ABOUT 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO HIS LANDING ATTEMPT. A PASSENGER SUSTAINED A FRACTURED FOOT AND VERTEBRAE DURING THE HARD LANDING.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE BALLOON'S ENCOUNTER WITH A GUSTY WIND SHEAR CONDITION DURING THE FINAL DESCENT FOR LANDING AT AN ALTITUDE INSUFFICIENT FOR THE PILOT TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION TO PREVENT A HARD LANDING.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

- Findings  
1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS

2. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - WINDSHEAR
3. REMEDIAL ACTION - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	46, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Balloon	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	92 hours (Total, all aircraft), 7 hours (Total, this make and model), 92 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Raven	<b>Registration:</b>	N2815S
<b>Model/Series:</b>	S-55A S-55A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	S55A-1108
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>		<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	October 20, 1992 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1435 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	19 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	0 Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	230 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ROBERT HU & DIANE HUTSON	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	LARRY E. DAVIDSON	<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>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	35 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	20 knots / 30 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	360°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	16°C / -1°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>	08:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Rich, Jeff

**Additional Participating Persons:** ROMAN BUETNER; SCOTTSDALE , AZ

**Original Publish Date:** September 28, 1993

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=27899>

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