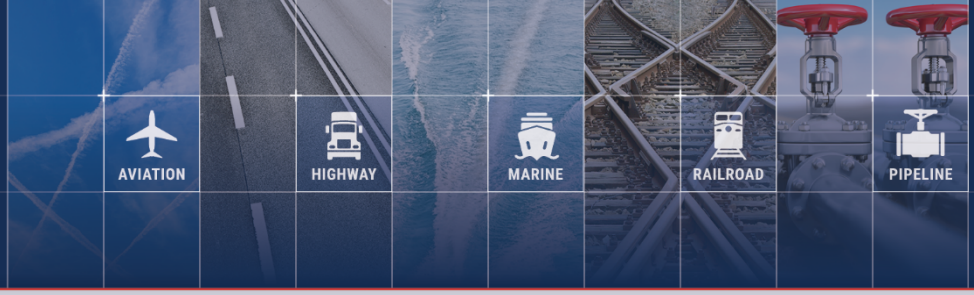

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	HEMET, California	**Accident Number:**	LAX96LA022
Date & Time:	October 26, 1995, 12:30 Local	**Registration:**	N8649V
Aircraft:	BELLANCA 7GCBC	**Aircraft Damage:**	Destroyed
Defining Event:		**Injuries:**	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Other work use		

Analysis

THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO DEMONSTRATE HIS SKILL AT PERFORMING A SHORT FIELD LANDING DURING A PREEMPLOYMENT EVALUATION FLIGHT TO BECOME A GLIDER TOW PILOT. ON SHORT FINAL APPROACH, THE PILOT DESCENDED TO BETWEEN 10 AND 15 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL, 200 FEET SHORT OF THE THRESHOLD, AND THE AIRCRAFT STALLED. THE WIND WAS CALM.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed and the inadvertent stall while performing a short field landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings
1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) STALL/MUSH - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

Factual Information

On October 26, 1995, around 1230 hours Pacific daylight time, a Bellanca 7GCBC, N8649V, collided with terrain on short final approach to the Hemet-Ryan Airport, Hemet, California. The airplane was destroyed, and the certificated commercial pilot received minor injuries The passenger received serious injuries. At the time of the accident the pilot was demonstrating his airman skills to the rear seated glider flight instructor (CFI) for the purpose of acquiring employment towing gliders. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The flight originated from Hemet around 1215.

The CFI reported that during the preemployment evaluation flight he asked the pilot-in-command to demonstrate his skill at performing a short field landing. The airplane's engine was operating normally, and the wind was light and variable. The pilot's initial approach appeared satisfactory; however, on short final approach the pilot allowed the airplane to become low and slow. The CFI stated that there was ample time for the pilot to take corrective action.

Between 10 and 15 feet above ground level, the pilot suddenly stalled the airplane, lost control, and crashed into a rough field about 200 feet short of the threshold. The CFI further stated that there was insufficient time for him to have acquired control of the airplane in order to avert the accident.

On November 1, 1995, the pilot reported to the National Transportation Safety Board that during the accident flight his approach speed was initially 65 knots. He was trying to make a "low energy" landing. Although the wind was calm he may have encountered a shear, and then the airplane stalled. There were no reported mechanical malfunctions with the airplane.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	**Age:**	45,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	**Second Pilot Present:**	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	April 14, 1995
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	399 hours (Total, all aircraft), 105 hours (Total, this make and model), 344 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 268 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 98 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BELLANCA	**Registration:**	N8649V
Model/Series:	7GCBC 7GCBC	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Aerobatic	**Serial Number:**	819-75
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 21, 1995 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	1650 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	71 Hrs	**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3120 Hrs	**Engine Manufacturer:**	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	**Engine Model/Series:**	O-320-A2B
Registered Owner:	LARRY HANSEN	**Rated Power:**	150 Horsepower
Operator:	AMERICAN VALET AIR	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None
Operator Does Business As:		**Operator Designator Code:**	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		**Distance from Accident Site:**	
Observation Time:		**Direction from Accident Site:**	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Visibility**	25 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/
Wind Direction:	0°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/
Altimeter Setting:		**Temperature/Dew Point:**	27°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	, CA (HMT)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	(HMT)	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	12:15 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	HEMET-RYAN HMT	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1512 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	22	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	2045 ft / 20 ft	**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	**Aircraft Damage:**	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	**Latitude, Longitude:**	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Pollack, Wayne
Additional Participating Persons:	ERIC JACKSON; RIVERSIDE , CA
Original Publish Date:	January 29, 1996
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=29318