



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	LITTLE COMPTON, Rhode Island	<b>Accident Number:</b>	NYC85LA024
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 30, 1984, 08:10 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4272Y
<b>Aircraft:</b>	RAVEN S-66A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	7 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

PLT BRUSHED BASKET AGAINST TREE TOPS AND BUSHES TO SLOW THE BALLOONS FORWARD SPEED. PLT PULLED DEFLATION PORT APRX 10 FT AGL OVER A MOWN HAY FIELD WITH AN 8-10 MPH HORIZONTAL, 100 FPM VERTICAL SPEED. BASKET BOUNCED AND GUST OF WIND CAUGHT DEFLATING ENVELOPE TIPPING THE BASKET CAUSING THE EDGE OF THE BASKET TO CONTACT THE GROUND FIRST. THE FLOOR OF THE BASKET WAS PULLED AWAY FROM THE SIDE WALLS OF THE BASKET. DURING THE FOLLOWING DRAG, SEVERAL PASSENGERS SLIPPED OUT OF THE SIDE OF THE BASKET.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

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

#### Findings

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) AIRSPEED - EXCESSIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
4. (C) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND

5. (F) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. BALLOON EQUIPMENT, BASKET - FAILURE, PARTIAL

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<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 Unknown	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	670 hours (Total, all aircraft), 205 hours (Total, this make and model), 205 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 83 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	RAVEN	<b>Registration:</b>	N4272Y
<b>Model/Series:</b>	S-66A S-66A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	S66A-140
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>		<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	April 11, 1984 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	80 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	205 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	BALLOON ADVENTURES	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>		<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>	Scattered / 12000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	25 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	8 knots / 12 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	10°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	WESTPORT , MA	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	LITTLE COMPTON , RI	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	07:20 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>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	6 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	7 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Taylor, Vernon

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=35645>

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