



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Lehi, Utah	Accident Number:	DEN02LA095
Date & Time:	July 23, 2002, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N48038
Aircraft:	LET BLANIK L-13	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The glider pilot said that he approached the north end of runway 17 for landing. He said "there is a nominal amount of sinking air at all times near the North end of the runway. The day of the incident the sink was far greater than expected." He said that he landed approximately 200 feet short of the runway, and impacted a 3 foot high berm next to an irrigation ditch (which ran perpendicular to the runway) at approximately 50 knots. The glider was "catapulted" over the ditch. The pilot immediately nosed the aircraft down to avoid a stall. "The glider landed flat and hard, crushing the landing gear, then skidding to a halt 75 feet past the runway apron." The glider's keel beam and wing spars were broken.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's inadequate in-flight planning resulting in the glider impacting terrain short of the runway, and the pilot's subsequent abrupt handling of the glider when it became airborne again, which resulted in a hard second landing. A contributing factor was the downdraft weather condition.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - BERM

Occurrence #2: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

4. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - ABRUPT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On July 23, 2002, at approximately 1400 mountain daylight time, a LET Blanik L-13 glider, N48038, was destroyed during a hard landing at Cedar Valley Airpark (private), Lehi, Utah. The private pilot and his passenger were not injured. The Associated Glider Club of Southern California, Ltd., was operating the glider under Title 14 CFR Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the personal local flight which originated approximately 30 minutes before the accident. The pilot had not filed a flight plan.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	45, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	85 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	LET	Registration:	N48038
Model/Series:	BLANIK L-13	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	026047
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 26, 2002 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1102 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	
Airframe Total Time:	1131 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Assoc. Glider Club of So CA LTD.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Brent Davis	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SLC,4227 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	350°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots / 16 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	35°C / 8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lehi, UT (PRIV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Cedar Valley Airpark NONE	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	5020 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	17	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	4700 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.356945,-112.018058

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	STRUHSAKER
Additional Participating Persons:	Dennis A Seals; Federal Aviation Administration; Salt Lake City, UT
Original Publish Date:	April 1, 2003
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=55511

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