



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Muscle Shoals, Alabama	Accident Number:	NYC08CA073
Date & Time:	December 12, 2007, 19:29 Local	Registration:	N112ED
Aircraft:	Piper PA-31T	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

While conducting an instrument approach, the pilot of a Piper PA-31T crossed the initial approach fix and descended to 2,300 feet, per the instrument approach procedure. Upon reaching the final approach fix, he then selected 1,200 feet in the altitude preselect and almost simultaneously visually acquired the runway and visual approach slope indicator. The pilot then "became distracted," and "forgot to extend the [landing] gear." He then fully extended the wing flaps, but the power setting remained above the "trigger point" for the landing gear warning horn. The airplane touched down with the landing gear retracted and was substantially damaged.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to lower the landing gear.

Findings

Factual Information

History of Flight

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	58, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	November 1, 2007
Flight Time:	10127 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1500 hours (Total, this make and model), 8768 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 79 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 37 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N112ED
Model/Series:	PA-31T	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31T-8020060
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 1, 2007 Continuous airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	9000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo prop
Airframe Total Time:	2823.4 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney Canada
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-28
Registered Owner:	E. H. Darby DBA	Rated Power:	620 Horsepower
Operator:	DARBY AVIATION	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
Operator Does Business As:	Alpha Jet International	Operator Designator Code:	YDBA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MSL,550 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	19:20 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Thin Overcast / 1700 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots / 0 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.21 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	10°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fort Worth, TX (FTW)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Muscle Shoals, AL (MSL)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	17:34 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Muscle Shoals MLS	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	550 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	11	IFR Approach:	Global positioning system
Runway Length/Width:	6693 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.745277,-87.610275

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gunther, Todd
Additional Participating Persons:	Warren Green; FAA/FSDO; Birmingham, AL
Original Publish Date:	February 28, 2008
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=67336

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