



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Peoria, Arizona	Accident Number:	LAX08CA136
Date & Time:	May 11, 2008, 15:59 Local	Registration:	N8829A
Aircraft:	A. Schleicher GMBH & Co. ASW 27-18	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing area undershoot	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

At the conclusion of a cross-country flight, the glider pilot arrived at his intended destination and entered a normal left-hand traffic pattern to runway 23R. The pilot reported that he observed the wind conditions on the downwind and base legs, and he maintained a normal traffic pattern. The wind was from 190 degrees at 10 knots. The initial approach to the runway was normal. However, the pilot said that on short final approach he suddenly encountered a "very heavy downward sink, accompanied by a sharp drop in IAS [indicated air speed]." The pilot responded by retracting the wing spoilers and adjusting the glider's pitch to maintain the requisite approach speed. The downdraft continued, and despite the performance capabilities of his glider the pilot was unable to glide to the runway. The pilot turned to avoid a set of power lines, and a wing contacted the ground. The glider touched down hard on the flat open terrain several hundred yards short of the threshold.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's misjudged distance and altitude while on final approach to land. A factor contributing to the accident was a downdraft.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Downdraft - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Landing area undershoot (Defining event)
Landing	Hard landing

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	47, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	780 hours (Total, all aircraft), 32 hours (Total, this make and model), 32 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	A. Schleicher GMBH & Co.	Registration:	N8829A
Model/Series:	ASW 27-18	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	29034
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Ted C. Wagner	Rated Power:	
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

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	50 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	190°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bullhead City, AZ (A20)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Peoria, AZ (P48)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Pleasant Valley P48	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	1580 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	23R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4200 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	33.811943,-112.253334

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Pollack, Wayne
Additional Participating Persons:	Chris Clark; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ
Original Publish Date:	June 30, 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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=68027

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