



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Warren, Vermont	Accident Number:	NYC08CA217
Date & Time:	June 17, 2008, 14:45 Local	Registration:	N227K
Aircraft:	Schleicher ASW-27B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The commercial pilot stated that he was flying his Schleicher ASW-27B glider in a soaring competition, which consisted of flying to a given point and returning, while being timed. The pilot turned around at the specified location, and flew along a ridge on the return to the airport of origin. An on-board computer indicated that the glider would arrive at the airport at an altitude of 100 feet above ground level (AGL). The pilot continued to "work the ridge" in order to gain altitude, since his standard personal minimum was to arrive at an airport no lower than 600 feet AGL, and 1,000 feet AGL was his "ideal" arrival altitude. When still short of the airport, the pilot realized that the ridge was no longer producing lift, and that he would not make either the last suitable landing site behind him, or the destination airport. The pilot slowed the glider down so that he could "fly into the trees." The left wing impacted trees first. The glider fell through the trees, impacted the ground right wing first, and came to rest inverted. The glider was substantially damaged. The pilot noted that there were no mechanical anomalies with the glider.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's delayed decision to divert to a suitable landing area.

Findings

Personnel issues	Delayed action - Pilot
Environmental issues	(general) - Decision related to condition
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Not specified

Factual Information

History of Flight

Emergency descent	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-flare/touchdown	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 1, 2007
Flight Time:	2443 hours (Total, all aircraft), 254 hours (Total, this make and model), 2203 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schleicher	Registration:	N227K
Model/Series:	ASW-27B	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	27199
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tandem	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 1, 2008 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	250 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	John Dezzutti	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:	MPV,1165 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	12 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:51 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 6500 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	0 knots / 0 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.69 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19°C / 13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Warren, VT (0B7)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	(0B7)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:01 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Warren-Sugarbush Airport 0B7	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1470 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

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:	44.116664,-72.822776

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Huhn, Michael

Additional Participating Persons: Sandy Taylor; Portland, ME

Original Publish Date: August 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=68242>

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