



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	HUNTSVILLE, Alabama	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL85LKG11
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 24, 1985, 16:05 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N99954
<b>Aircraft:</b>	LET L-13	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

THE COMMERCIAL PLT WAS IN TRAINING FOR A GLIDER RATING & WAS ON A SUPERVISED SOLO FLT TO PRACTICE A LANDING. DURING THE TRAFFIC PATTERN, HE ROLLED OUT HI ON FINAL & EXTENDED THE SPOILERS TO ADJUST TO THE DESIRED GLIDE PATH, THEN RETRACTED THE SPOILERS TO THE 50% POSITION. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE REALIZED HE WAS LOW & RETRACTED THE SPOILERS. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNABLE TO GLIDE TO THE RWY. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE GLIDER COLLIDED WITH A HEDGE ROW ABOUT 50 FT SHORT OF THE RWY. THE PLT FELT THAT HIS EXPERIENCE FLYING POWERED ACFT MAY HAVE INTERFERED WITH HIS TRAINING IN GLIDERS.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: UNDERSHOOT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

#### Findings

1. (C) PLANNED APPROACH - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) HABIT INTERFERENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) DISTANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

5. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN KIND OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND  
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

6. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	43, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	October 22, 1984
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	955 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model), 692 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	LET	<b>Registration:</b>	N99954
<b>Model/Series:</b>	L-13 L-13	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Glider
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Utility	<b>Serial Number:</b>	025905
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>		<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	July 11, 1985 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1100 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	none
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	L-13
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	SALE REPORTED	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	HUNSTVILLE SOARING CLUB	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	06

## 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>	Thin Overcast	<b>Visibility</b>	5 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Unknown / 3000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	11:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	SKY PARK 3M5	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	650 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2200 ft / 100 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Peine, Alan

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=6885>

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