# Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Location:** | TULLAHOMA, Tennessee | **Accident Number:** | ATL86LA262 |
| **Date & Time:** | September 20, 1986, 14:35 Local | **Registration:** | N6877 |
| **Aircraft:** | ALEXANDER AS-K13 | **Aircraft Damage:** | Substantial |
| **Defining Event:** | | **Injuries:** | 2 None |
| **Flight Conducted Under:** | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

## Analysis

DURING AN AUTOMOBILE TOW/LAUNCH, THE AUTO EXPERIENCED A LOSS OF POWER BEFORE THE GLIDER REACHED A SAFE RELEASE ALTITUDE. THE PILOT HAD STEERED THE GLIDER OFF OF THE PAVED RWY AND WAS UNABLE TO RETURN TO THE RWY. THE GLIDER PILOT WAS FORCED TO LAND IN HIGH FOLIAGE WHERE SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED TO THE EMPENNAGE. THE PILOT STATED THAT HAD HE REMAINED OVER THE RWY, THE POSSIBILITY OF LANDING IN THE FOLIAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings
1. (C) GLIDER LAUNCH/TOW EQUIPMENT - UNDETERMINED
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings
2. TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION
3. (F) ALL AVAILABLE RUNWAY - NOT USED - PILOT IN COMMAND

# Factual Information

## Pilot Information

| | | | |
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| **Certificate:** | Private | **Age:** | 35,Male |
| **Airplane Rating(s):** | None | **Seat Occupied:** | Rear |
| **Other Aircraft Rating(s):** | Glider | **Restraint Used:** | |
| **Instrument Rating(s):** | None | **Second Pilot Present:** | No |
| **Instructor Rating(s):** | None | **Toxicology Performed:** | No |
| **Medical Certification:** | None None | **Last FAA Medical Exam:** | |
| **Occupational Pilot:** | No | **Last Flight Review or Equivalent:** | |
| **Flight Time:** | 95 hours (Total, all aircraft), 73 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft) | | |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Aircraft Make:** | ALEXANDER | **Registration:** | N6877 |
| **Model/Series:** | AS-K13 AS-K13 | **Aircraft Category:** | Glider |
| **Year of Manufacture:** | | **Amateur Built:** | |
| **Airworthiness Certificate:** | Normal | **Serial Number:** | 13149 |
| **Landing Gear Type:** | Retractable - Tricycle | **Seats:** | 2 |
| **Date/Type of Last Inspection:** | July 10, 1986 Annual | **Certified Max Gross Wt.:** | 1060 lbs |
| **Time Since Last Inspection:** | | **Engines:** | 0 Unknown |
| **Airframe Total Time:** | 485 Hrs | **Engine Manufacturer:** | NONE |
| **ELT:** | Not installed | **Engine Model/Series:** | NONE |
| **Registered Owner:** | UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE | **Rated Power:** | |
| **Operator:** | | **Operating Certificate(s) Held:** | |
| **Operator Does Business As:** | | **Operator Designator Code:** | |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Conditions at Accident Site:** | Visual (VMC) | **Condition of Light:** | Day |
| **Observation Facility, Elevation:** | | **Distance from Accident Site:** | |
| **Observation Time:** | 14:35 Local | **Direction from Accident Site:** | |
| **Lowest Cloud Condition:** | Scattered | **Visibility** | 5 miles |
| **Lowest Ceiling:** | Broken / 5000 ft AGL | **Visibility (RVR):** | |
| **Wind Speed/Gusts:** | 3 knots / | **Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:** | / |
| **Wind Direction:** | 90° | **Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:** | / |
| **Altimeter Setting:** | | **Temperature/Dew Point:** | 27°C |
| **Precipitation and Obscuration:** | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| **Departure Point:** | TULLAHOMA , TN (THA ) | **Type of Flight Plan Filed:** | None |
| **Destination:** | | **Type of Clearance:** | None |
| **Departure Time:** | 00:00 Local | **Type of Airspace:** | Class G |

## Airport Information

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| **Airport:** | TULLAHOMA THA | **Runway Surface Type:** | Grass/turf |
| **Airport Elevation:** | 1081 ft msl | **Runway Surface Condition:** | Dry;Snow;Vegetation |
| **Runway Used:** | 24 | **IFR Approach:** | None |
| **Runway Length/Width:** | | **VFR Approach/Landing:** | Forced landing |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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|---|---|---|---|
| **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:** | 35.370258,-86.200225(est) |

## Administrative Information

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|---|---|
| **Investigator In Charge (IIC):** | Coleman, Ben |
| **Additional Participating Persons:** | CURTIS WILKES; VALLEY , MI |
| **Original Publish Date:** | |
| **Last Revision Date:** | |
| **Investigation Class:** | Class |
| **Note:** | |
| **Investigation Docket:** | https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=7197 |