



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Rutherfordton, North Carolina	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA11CA129
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 30, 2011, 14:45 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N457A
<b>Aircraft:</b>	KOLB AIRCRAFT INC KOLB MARK III	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Aerodynamic stall/spin	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

The pilot reported that he was practicing takeoffs and landings at his home airport. As he made a left turn over a hangar, a crosswind increased, and the airplane banked too steeply. The left wing subsequently stalled and the airplane was too low for the pilot to recover. The airplane impacted the ground near a hangar. A witness stated that shortly after takeoff, the airplane returned and made a low pass at the airport. He observed the airplane then fly low over the pilot's restaurant and subsequently stall/spin at low altitude. During the stall, the witness heard the engine noise increase to full power. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation. The recorded weather at the accident airport, about the time of the accident, included clear skies and calm wind.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed while maneuvering at low altitude resulting in a stall/spin and ground impact.

## Findings

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<b>Personnel issues</b>	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Maneuvering-low-alt flying</b>	Aerodynamic stall/spin (Defining event)
<b>Uncontrolled descent</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	61, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	August 12, 2009
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 450 hours (Total, all aircraft), 200 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	KOLB AIRCRAFT INC	<b>Registration:</b>	N457A
<b>Model/Series:</b>	KOLB MARK III	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	M-346
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	ROTAX
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	912S
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Ronald McKinney	<b>Rated Power:</b>	100 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	Ronald McKinney	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	FQD,1077 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	0 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	14:42 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	0°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	22°C / -2°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Rutherfordton, NC (FQD )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Rutherfordton, NC (FQD )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	14:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Rutherfordton FQD	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	19	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	5000 ft / 100 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<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 Serious	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.42361,-81.934448(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Gretz, Robert
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Ralph Carr; FAA/FSDO; Charlotte, NC
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	June 8, 2011
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=78237">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=78237</a>

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