



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Brasstown, North Carolina	Accident Number:	ERA11CA364
Date & Time:	June 25, 2011, 17:30 Local	Registration:	N99PM
Aircraft:	Helio H-295	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel exhaustion	Injuries:	3 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

While the flight was descending for landing, the airplane's engine lost power. The pilot was able to restore engine power for a few seconds, but the engine then sputtered and lost power again. The pilot was unable to restart the engine, so he set up a glide for the airstrip he was descending to. There was a headwind and, when he realized he could not make the airstrip, the pilot performed a forced landing in a field. The airplane's landing gear struck the top of a tree and the airplane pitched down and impacted the ground, where it sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and tail. A postaccident examination of the airplane and engine revealed that all of the fuel tanks were devoid of fuel and only three drops of fuel were discovered in the carburetor and fuel supply line. The pilot stated that there was no evidence of any preimpact mechanical malfunction of the airplane or engine.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate preflight planning, which resulted in a loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid level
Personnel issues	Fuel planning - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-descent	Fuel exhaustion (Defining event)
Enroute-descent	Loss of engine power (total)
Emergency descent	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 15, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 25, 2011
Flight Time:	5863 hours (Total, all aircraft), 341 hours (Total, this make and model), 5863 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 97 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 37 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Helio	Registration:	N99PM
Model/Series:	H-295	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	1208
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 15, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2546 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	GO-480-G1D6
Registered Owner:	G-DAWG LLC	Rated Power:	295 Horsepower
Operator:	Gary Schmitt	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RHP,1697 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	20°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	50°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.01 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Franklin, NC (1A5)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Brasstown, NC	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	14:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	35.052776,-83.938056(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gunther, Todd
Additional Participating Persons:	Rene Gonzalez; FAA/FSDO; Charlotte, NC
Original Publish Date:	November 3, 2011
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=80904

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