



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Preston, Idaho	Accident Number:	WPR11CA342
Date & Time:	July 20, 2011, 18:04 Local	Registration:	N78AB
Aircraft:	Schleicher ASW-27	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of lift	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The glider pilot reported that he was unable to find thermals that would provide suitable lift for continued flight. Subsequently, a field was selected that the pilot assessed was adequate for a successful landing. After overflying the field at 1,000 feet above ground level the pilot began his approach. The approach and touchdown were uneventful. During the landing roll, as the pilot deployed the speedbrakes and applied braking, the glider pitched forward and the left and right wings contacted crops that were located on either side of the glider's landing roll. The left wing engaged the crops more fully than the right wing and the glider yawed to the left before coming to rest. As a result, the empennage was substantially damaged. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe that would have precluded normal flight.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The glider's impact with crops during the off-airport landing.

Findings

Environmental issues	Downdraft - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Rough terrain - Effect on equipment

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Loss of lift (Defining event)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Single
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	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 21, 2011
Flight Time:	1153 hours (Total, all aircraft), 531 hours (Total, this make and model), 1136 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 21 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schleicher	Registration:	N78AB
Model/Series:	ASW-27	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	27207
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 24, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1102 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	532 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	BLACKBURN L ANDERSON	Rated Power:	
Operator:	BLACKBURN L ANDERSON	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLGU,4457 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	14 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:51 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	208°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	186°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.87 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / 3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Logan, UT (LGU)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Preston, ID (N/A)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	14:57 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	43.508056,-112.068885(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rich, Jefferey
Additional Participating Persons:	Lyndsay Carlson; Federal Aviation Administration; Salt Lake City, UT
Original Publish Date:	October 6, 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=81182

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