



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Murrieta, California	Accident Number:	WPR12CA072
Date & Time:	December 28, 2011, 12:30 Local	Registration:	N8641R
Aircraft:	Schweizer SGS 1-26B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of lift	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

During a solo instructional glider flight, the student pilot released from the tow airplane at a planned altitude of 4,250 feet mean sea level. Upon the release, the student pilot was not able to locate any up-currents, and the sink rates the glider encountered varied between 200 to 600 feet per minute. The pilot stated that there was insufficient lift to clear the ridge safely and glide back to the airport, so he selected two open fields for a possible off-field landing. The pilot stated that, on final approach to the field, he observed signs between the glider’s current position and the intended landing site that he had not seen during his fly-by inspection. He maneuvered around the obstructions and decided to land on a road. The glider landed on the road, and the right wing collided with a previously unseen mailbox post, which resulted in substantial damage to the wing.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The glider’s encounter with insufficient atmospheric lift to maintain soaring flight.

Findings

Environmental issues	(general) - Effect on operation
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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:	59, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	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:	November 1, 1974
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	165 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model), 102 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schweizer	Registration:	N8641R
Model/Series:	SGS 1-26B	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	184
Landing Gear Type:	Ski/wheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 4, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	2250 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	LAKE ELSINORE SOARING CLUB	Rated Power:	
Operator:	LAKE ELSINORE SOARING CLUB	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KRIV, 1508 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	18 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	10°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.19 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / -10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lake Elsinore, CA (CA89)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Lake Elsinore, CA (CA89)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:15 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:	33.582778,-117.312774(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jones, Patrick
Additional Participating Persons:	Ron Allen; Federal Aviation Administration; Riverside, CA
Original Publish Date:	March 27, 2012
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=82590

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