



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Casterville, Texas	Accident Number:	CEN12CA202
Date & Time:	March 24, 2012, 10:30 Local	Registration:	N602BV
Aircraft:	Smith AEROSTAR 601P	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot flew a global positioning system approach and, though he was able to see the runway upon reaching the missed approach point, he stated that he was not able to land the airplane. He then decided to circle to land with full flaps while maintaining an airspeed of 140 mph. The airplane entered an “unusually high” sink rate during the turn; the pilot added full power and leveled the wings, but the airplane continued to descend. The airplane impacted the ground off the end of and to the right of the runway. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing spar. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot did not maintain control of the airplane while circling to land.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	(general) - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-circling (IFR)	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	70, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	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 7, 2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 5, 2012
Flight Time:	5402 hours (Total, all aircraft), 267 hours (Total, this make and model), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Smith	Registration:	N602BV
Model/Series:	AEROSTAR 601P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	61P-0338-099
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 15, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	25 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540 SER
Registered Owner:	SPECIALIZED PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY SPECIALITIES LLC	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	Louis F. Fabre	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CVB,771 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	2 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	0 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C / 18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Mist		
Departure Point:	Arcola, TX (AXH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Casterville, TX (CBV)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	09:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	Casterville Municipal Airport CBV	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	15	IFR Approach:	Circling;Global positioning system
Runway Length/Width:	4600 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	29.340509,-98.870063(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sullivan, Pamela
Additional Participating Persons:	Fred Raymond; FAA-FSDO; San Antonio, TX
Original Publish Date:	June 14, 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=83219

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