



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Middletown, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR13CA218
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	April 12, 2013, 13:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N503CW
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Schleicher ASW-27	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of lift	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Glider tow		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that during his return to the airport, the glider encountered heavy downdrafts. Unable to reach the airport, he executed an off-airport landing to a field. During the landing on rough terrain, the glider ground looped, which resulted in substantial damage to the tail and wings. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the glider 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 glider's encounter with atmospheric lift conditions not sufficient to maintain flight, which resulted in a forced landing on rough terrain.

## Findings

<b>Environmental issues</b>	Downdraft - Effect on equipment
<b>Aircraft</b>	(general) - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Weather planning - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Rough terrain - Not specified

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Maneuvering</b>	Loss of lift (Defining event)
<b>Landing</b>	Off-field or emergency landing
<b>Landing-landing roll</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	74, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Single
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Glider	<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>	May 19, 2011
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	June 14, 2012
<b>Flight Time:</b>	5735 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1166 hours (Total, this make and model), 5680 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Schleicher	<b>Registration:</b>	N503CW
<b>Model/Series:</b>	ASW-27	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Glider
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Unknown	<b>Serial Number:</b>	27165
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	October 30, 2012 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	0
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1164 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	WESTERINEN CHARLES J	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	WESTERINEN CHARLES J	<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>	KSTS, 118 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	22 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	19:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	35°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 25000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility:</b>	8 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	3 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	160°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.87 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21°C / 9°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Middletown, CA	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Middletown, CA	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	13:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Crazy Creek Glider Port	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	1000 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>		<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<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 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.771945,-122.575279(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Swick, Andrew

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** August 13, 2013

**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=86813>

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