



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Elbert, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN13CA410
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 16, 2013, 14:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N72EM
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Schleicher ASW-27	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control on ground	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

In a written statement, the pilot said he departed in his glider with an observed thunderstorm approximately 50 miles from the airport. About 2 hours later, after hearing that other glider pilots had returned to the airport due to the approaching storm, he returned as well. During the approach to the airport, it was raining and the wind was gusting to 38 knots. The airplane landed with a left crosswind. During the landing roll, the left wing impacted the ground and the glider ground looped. The glider sustained substantial damage to the empennage. The pilot reported no mechanical deficiencies and stated the accident could have been prevented if he had landed sooner.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control while landing in gusting crosswind conditions. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's delayed return to the airport.

## Findings

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<b>Personnel issues</b>	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Thunderstorm - Decision related to condition
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Crosswind - Ability to respond/compensate
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Gusts - Ability to respond/compensate

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing</b>	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	56, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	
<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>	None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1384 hours (Total, all aircraft), 363 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Schleicher	<b>Registration:</b>	N72EM
<b>Model/Series:</b>	ASW-27	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Glider
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	27193
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	None	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	April 1, 2013 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1102 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	0
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	993 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	CULBERTSON RICK C	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	CULBERTSON RICK C	<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>	CO15,7040 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	0 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	13:34 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	270°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 8000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>		<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	27 knots / 33 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	300°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.23 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21°C / 0°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Elbert, CO (CO15)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Elbert, CO (CO15)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Kelly Airpark CO15	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	35	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	3800 ft / 36 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	

## 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>	39.221389,-104.637222(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Yeager, Leah
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Chris Lang; FAA/FSDO; Denver, CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	August 13, 2013
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=87475">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=87475</a>

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