



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Palmer, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC14CA059
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 2, 2014, 13:10 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N821AK
<b>Aircraft:</b>	STEVEN R MCNEESE AIRBORNE EDGE X	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control in flight	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The non-certificated pilot was performing a high speed taxi test at a privately-owned, dirt and gravel-covered airport, in his tricycle-gear equipped weight-shift-control airplane. He reported that after arriving at the airport, he assembled the airplane, and then did a thorough preflight, which included checking wind conditions aloft by releasing helium balloons. He stated that the airplane had recently undergone an extensive rebuild, and he intended to do series postmaintenance taxi tests before flying the airplane. During the first high speed taxi test, as the airplane reached a takeoff speed, the pilot pushed the control bar forward, and the airplane became airborne. In an attempt to land the airplane and gain additional airspeed, the pilot pulled back on the control bar, but the airplane began to roll to the left. The pilot then applied full right control bar input, but the airplane continued to the left, and it subsequently collided with a stand of trees, sustaining substantial damage to the wings. The pilot stated that there were no preaccident mechanical anomalies 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 non-certificated pilot's failure to maintain directional control while performing a high speed taxi test and inadvertent lift-off, which resulted in an inflight collision with trees and terrain.

## Findings

**Personnel issues**

Aircraft control - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Pilot Information

Certificate:	None	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	17 hours (Total, all aircraft), 17 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	STEVEN R MCNEESE	Registration:	N821AK
Model/Series:	AIRBORNE EDGE X Classic X	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	None	Serial Number:	582-796
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Continuous airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	206 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	582
Registered Owner:	MCNEESE STEVEN R	Rated Power:	64 Horsepower
Operator:	MCNEESE STEVEN R	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAAQ,248 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	5 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	330°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 4000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Palmer, AK (AK1 )	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Palmer, AK (AK1 )	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class E

## Airport Information

Airport:	BUTTE MUNI AK1	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt;Grass/turf;Gravel
Airport Elevation:	64 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	07	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1806 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

## 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:	61.530834,-149.011672(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Johnson, Clinton
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Larry Hammerbeck; FSDO-3; Anchorage, AK
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	February 11, 2015
<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.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=89802">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=89802</a>

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