



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Avoca, New York	Accident Number:	ERA14CA426
Date & Time:	September 7, 2014, 16:30 Local	Registration:	N31GF
Aircraft:	Schleicher ASW 19B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of lift	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The glider pilot stated that when he reached his intended destination, lift increased and he decided to fly back to the departure airport. As the glider flew closer to the departure airport, the lift decreased and the glider was about 800 feet above ground level, approximately 10 miles away from the departure airport. The pilot was unable to locate another airport and elected to land in a field. While on final approach for the field, the pilot observed a small hill prior to the field and turned left to avoid a straight-on collision. The left wing subsequently struck the hill and the glider came to rest upright in the field. The pilot added that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions with the glider. Examination of the glider by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed damage to the left wing, forward fuselage, and tailcone.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's decision to attempt a return to his departure airport which resulted in the glider's encounter with atmospheric conditions where the lift was not sufficient to maintain flight and an off-airport landing.

Findings

Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
Aircraft	Altitude - Attain/maintain not possible
Environmental issues	Rough terrain - Contributed to outcome
Environmental issues	(general) - Effect on equipment

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Loss of lift (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	70
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 12, 2014
Flight Time:	296 hours (Total, all aircraft), 32 hours (Total, this make and model), 98 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schleicher	Registration:	N31GF
Model/Series:	ASW 19B	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:	1983	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	19386
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable -	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 28, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	959 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DSV,660 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	320°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.18 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Dansville, NY (DSV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Corning, NY (7N1)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	14:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	42.410278,-77.425552(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gretz, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	William Abbott; FAA/FSDO; Rochester, NY
Original Publish Date:	October 9, 2014
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=90040

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