



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Logan, Utah	Accident Number:	WPR15LA232
Date & Time:	August 2, 2015, 15:00 Local	Registration:	N20YZ
Aircraft:	Schleicher ASW 20B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of lift	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was participating in a mountain flying training course when the glider encountered a strong downdraft while maneuvering near a mountain ridge and lost lift. The pilot was unable to arrest the glider's descent rate, and the left wing impacted a tree. The pilot reported no preimpact 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 pilot's failure to maintain glider control when it encountered a strong downdraft while maneuvering near a ridgeline.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Downdraft - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Not specified

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering	Loss of lift (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

On August 2, 2015, about 1500 mountain daylight time, a Schleicher ASW 20B glider, N20YZ, experienced a loss of lift during cruise flight, and impacted terrain near Logan, Utah. The private pilot owned and operated the glider under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a personal flight. The pilot was seriously injured. The glider sustained substantial damage throughout the fuselage and wings. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the local flight that departed the Logan-Cache Airport (LGU), Logan, at 1430. No flight plan had been filed.

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Postaccident examination of the wreckage revealed that the left wing was completely separated from the fuselage, and the right wing partially separated from the fuselage. The empennage forward of the vertical stabilizer was separated from the fuselage.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	None	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	Unknown
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:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 18, 2015
Flight Time:	280 hours (Total, all aircraft), 280 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schleicher	Registration:	N20YZ
Model/Series:	ASW 20B	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:	1984	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility; Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	20664
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 22, 2015 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1157 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	1448 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	ABBOTT DAVID H	Rated Power:	
Operator:	ABBOTT DAVID H	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLGU,4454 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	5 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:51 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	260°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ Unknown
Altimeter Setting:	29.95 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	34°C / 1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	LOGAN, UT (LGU)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	LOGAN, UT (LGU)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	14:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	LOGAN-CACHE LGU	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	4457 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Vegetation
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	41.800277,-111.75389(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Plagens, Howard
Additional Participating Persons:	Jon Hanson ; Federal Aviation Administration ; Salt Lake City , UT
Original Publish Date:	November 5, 2015
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=91706

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