



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	STATESVILLE, NC	Accident Number:	ATL94LA089
Date & Time:	05/01/1994, 1545 EDT	Registration:	N41ES
Aircraft:	HESTERLEE RUTAN VARI EZE	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING THE INITIAL CLIMB AFTER TAKEOFF, THE ENGINE QUIT. A FORCED LANDING WAS ATTEMPTED, WHICH RESULTED IN A COLLISION WITH A DITCH AS THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO RE-LAND ON THE REMAINDER OF THE DEPARTURE RUNWAY. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE MOVED THE FUEL SELECTOR FROM THE AUXILIARY TANK POSITION TO THE OFF POSITION INSTEAD OF THE MAIN TANK POSITION.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper positioning of the fuel selector, which resulted in fuel starvation during the initial climb after takeoff. A factor was a ditch adjacent to the runway.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
2. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	32
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; None
Flight Time:	1535 hours (Total, all aircraft), 69 hours (Total, this make and model), 333 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 70 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HESTERLEE	Registration:	N41ES
Model/Series:	RUTAN VARI EZE RUTAN VARI	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	STAMPER, EDWARD K., JR.	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-200
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / 8 knots, 190°
Temperature:	21° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination: ASHEBORO, NC (W44)		

Airport Information

Airport:	STATESVILLE MUNICIPAL (SVH)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	28	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	5004 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): PRESTON E HICKS,

Adopted Date: 02/24/1995

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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