



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	UNION PIER, MI	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI96LA325
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/01/1996, 1621 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N238PW
<b>Aircraft:</b>	KARR TITAN TORNADO	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal, 1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The aircraft was observed conducting aerobatics over Lake Michigan near a beach at Union Pier, Michigan. During the fifth successive 'hammerhead turn' the airplane departed controlled flight and impacted the surface of the lake. A post accident examination of the airplane revealed no pre-impact anomalies.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot not obtaining/maintaining altitude/clearance. Factors were the pilot not maintaining aircraft control and intentional aerobatics.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

### Findings

1. (F) AEROBATICS - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT OBTAINED/MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Student	<b>Age:</b>	25
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	36 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	KARR	<b>Registration:</b>	N238PW
<b>Model/Series:</b>	TITAN TORNADO TITAN TORN	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	PATRICK S. WHITE	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Rotax
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	582
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	, 0 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Witness
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Unknown / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	/ ,
<b>Temperature:</b>		<b>Visibility</b>	0 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	VALPARIZO, IN (VPZ)	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>			

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	STEPHEN A WILSON	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	05/23/1997
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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