



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	CLERMONT, FL	Accident Number:	MIA98LA018
Date & Time:	11/01/1997, 1548 EST	Registration:	N813LJ
Aircraft:	Saldairiaga BUCCANEER II	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On November 1, 1997, about 1548 eastern standard time, a Saldairiaga, Buccaneer II, N813LJ, operated by a private owner as a 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight, crashed in the vicinity of Clermont, Florida. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed. The airplane was destroyed. The student pilot was fatally injured. The flight originated from Flying Gator Airpark, Clermont, Florida, about 1 hour 18 minutes before the accident.

Witnesses who knew the pilot stated they observed the airplane between 150 to 300 feet southwest of the airpark. The airplane entered a steep left turn, estimated more than a 45-degree angle of bank at a slow airspeed. The airplane appeared to enter an accelerated stall. The nose pitched down and the airplane collided with the ground in a left wing low nose-down attitude. Before the airplane collided with the ground the engine was heard to increase to full power.

Examination of the airframe, flight control system and engine assembly revealed no evidence of a precrash mechanical failure or malfunction. All components necessary for flight were present at the crash site. Continuity of the flight control system was confirmed for pitch, roll, and yaw. An examination of the engine assembly and accessories was not conducted based on statements provided by eyewitnesses indicating the engine was operating at time of impact with the terrain.

Postmortem examination of the pilot was conducted by Dr. Susan M. Rendon, Associate Medical Examiner District Five, Leesburg, Florida, on November 2, 1997. The cause of death was injuries related to the aircraft accident. Postmortem toxicology studies of specimens from the pilot was performed by the Forensic Toxicology Research Section, Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. These studies were negative for alcohol, basic, acidic and neutral drugs.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	54, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/30/1996
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	500 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Saldairiaga	Registration:	N813LJ
Model/Series:	BUCCANEER II BUCCANEER	Aircraft Category:	Ultralight
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	B2B-K022
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	GERALD M. CROUCH	Rated Power:	
Operator:	GERALD M. CROUCH	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LEE, 77 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1453 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	360°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	Variable	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	29° C / 21° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(3WF4)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1430 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CARROL A SMITH
Additional Participating Persons:	EARNEST WILSON; ORLANDO, FL
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/ .