



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

<b>Location:</b>	PENSACOLA, FL	<b>Accident Number:</b>	MIA98LA218
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	08/01/1998, 1315 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N7631
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Schweizer SGS 1-34	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On August 1, 1998, about 1315 central daylight time, a Schweizer SGS 1-34 glider, N7631, registered to Coastal Soaring Association Inc, operated as a 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight, crashed while on approach for a forced landing at Coastal Airport, Pensacola, Florida. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The aircraft was substantially damaged, and the pilot sustained no injuries. The flight originated from the same airport about 10 minutes before the accident.

The pilot stated that when he was about 100 feet off the ground, the canopy suddenly opened. He had no indication that it would become unlatched. The canopy remained attached to the glider, hanging on the left side of the fuselage. The pilot kept climbing to 200 feet, released the towing latch, and performed a 180 degree turn to the left to return to the airport for landing. When he was approaching the runway, he realized that his sink rate was very high. While pulling up on the stick to try to clear a wooded area before the runway, the right wingtip brushed the top of a tree. The airplane stalled and crash into the ground about 300 feet before the runway. According to the pilot, the canopy's latching mechanism did not reveal any malfunctions during preflight or postcrash examination.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	43, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Glider	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	10/04/1997
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	106 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9 hours (Total, this make and model), 36 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schweizer	Registration:	N7631
Model/Series:	SGS 1-34 SGS 1-34	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	11
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/01/1998, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4 Hours	Engines:	Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	1241 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	COASTAL SOARING ASSOCIATION	Rated Power:	
Operator:	COASTAL SOARING ASSOCIATION	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	32° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	, FL (83J)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1315 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Airport Information

Airport:	COASTAL AIRPORT (83J)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	110 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 250 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	ALAN YURMAN
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	CLOVIS JACKSON; BIRMINGHAM, AL
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	NTSB accident and incident docket 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> .