



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	HAMILTON, ND	Accident Number:	CHI99LA020
Date & Time:	11/03/1998, 1355 CST	Registration:	N285BB
Aircraft:	Becker Wag Aero SUPER SPORT	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

A witness reported that he saw the airplane about 1,000 to 2,000 feet above ground and 'falling' from the sky. He reported a wing had separated from the airplane. The wreckage was located in a field and the right wing was found about 450 feet to the southwest of the main wreckage. The pilot had built the experimental airplane with his brothers in 1985. The airplane had approximately 1,800 hours total time. A metallurgical examination of the lower right wing strut attachment bracket revealed fatigue fractures of the lower sheet of the attachment bracket. Each side of the lower sheet contained a bend relief slot at the location of maximum bend in the lower sheet. The examination revealed that the fracture through the lower sheet extended across the bracket from one bend relief slot to the other. Aircraft fabric covered over the location of the fracture and it could not be observed during a normal pre-flight. To properly inspect the area where the fracture occurred, the fabric needed to be cut and pulled back from the aircraft frame.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the fatigue failure of the lower wing strut attachment bracket.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) WING,BRACING STRUT - FATIGUE

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

Findings

2. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	59
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1581 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Becker Wag Aero	Registration:	N285BB
Model/Series:	SUPER SPORT SUPER SPOR	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	ALLEN BECKER	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
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:	GFK, 844 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 40°
Temperature:	3°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	CAVALIER, ND (ND06)	Destination:	

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JIM SILLIMAN	Adopted Date:	03/31/2000
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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