



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	LOCKPORT, NY	Accident Number:	NYC91LA228
Date & Time:	09/01/1991, 1115 EDT	Registration:	N55SM
Aircraft:	Sportavia-Putzer RF5B	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE POWERED GLIDER WAS MAKING A LANDING, WHEN THE PILOT ENCOUNTERED TURBULENCE AND WAS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN DIRECTIONAL CONTROL. HE APPLIED RUDDER AND AILERON CORRECTION, BUT THE GLIDER DRIFTED OFF THE RUNWAY AND STRUCK SOME TREES.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE FAILURE OF THE PILOT TO MAINTAIN DIRECTIONAL CONTROL OF THE GLIDER DURING LANDING. A FACTOR RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WAS THE TURBULENCE ENCOUNTERED ON APPROACH.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE
2. (C) DISTANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. FLIGHT CONTROLS - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1250 hours (Total, all aircraft), 100 hours (Total, this make and model), 1200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Sportavia-Putzer	Registration:	N55SM
Model/Series:	RF5B RF5B	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	DONALD G. HOBEL	Engine Manufacturer:	LIMBACH
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	SL100E
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:	10 knots / 15 knots, 60°
Temperature:		Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	LOCKPORT CAMBRIA (62NY)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 60 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): Charles F Leonard

Adopted Date: 05/03/1993

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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