



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	BOULDER, CO	Accident Number:	DEN99LA111
Date & Time:	07/01/1999, 1515 MDT	Registration:	N4785F
Aircraft:	Piper PA-18-150	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation -

On July 1, 1999, approximately 1515 mountain daylight time, a Piper PA-18-150, N4785F, owned and operated by the Soaring Society of Boulder, was substantially damaged when the aircraft nosed over during landing roll at Boulder Municipal Airport, Boulder, Colorado. The private pilot, the sole occupant aboard, was not injured. The local glider tow flight was being conducted under Title 14 CFR Part 91, and no flight plan had been filed. The flight originated approximately 15 minutes prior to the accident, and visual meteorological conditions prevailed.

According to the pilot, she departed the airport with a glider in tow. After the glider was released, she returned to the airport for landing. The pilot stated that the wind was calm during landing. She made a "smooth wheel landing with no bounces," and the aircraft rolled "straight and smoothly" on the two main wheels (in a telephone interview with the pilot shortly after the accident, she stated that the aircraft's wheels touched down twice on the runway prior to the third actual touchdown.) She felt the tail of the airplane begin to rise, and she pulled back on the stick. She stated that there was no response from the elevator, and the aircraft continued to roll forward slowly until the spinner impacted the pavement. The airplane then nosed over onto its back. The aircraft sustained damage to the propeller, firewall, vertical stabilizer, and both wing spars.

At the NTSB's request, a functional test of the elevator control system was performed by a mechanic with Jensen Aircraft, Salida, Colorado. The elevator operated effectively, and no abnormalities or discrepancies were found.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	41, Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/22/1997
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	546 hours (Total, all aircraft), 43 hours (Total, this make and model), 430 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4785F
Model/Series:	PA-18-150 PA-18-150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-7906
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/16/1999, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1625 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	158 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	12125 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A3A
Registered Owner:	SOARING SOCIETY OF BOULDER	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	SOARING SOCIETY OF BOULDER	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BJC, 5670 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	9 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1545 MDT	Direction from Accident Site:	148°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 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:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31° C / 13° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(1V5)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1500 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BOULDER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (1V5)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5288 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	8	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4100 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

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
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	B. BEACH SCOTT
Additional Participating Persons:	WALTER R WISE; DENVER, CO
Investigation Docket:	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 pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .