



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	BETHANY, OK	Accident Number:	FTW90DPJ04
Date & Time:	04/02/1990, 2246 CST	Registration:	N3514X
Aircraft:	MOONEY M20F	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING A NIGHT VFR APPROACH TO THE AIRPORT, WITNESSES SAW THE AIRPLANE START A TURN TO BASE LEG AND THEN SPIN INTO THE GROUND. THE AIRPLANE WAS DEMOLISHED BY IMPACT AND THE PRIVATE PILOT RECEIVED FATAL INJURIES. THE FLIGHT HAD ORIGINATED IN CHESTER, SC ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT. THE PILOT HAD RECEIVED HIS PILOT'S LICENSE ON MARCH 24, 1990, HAD FLOWN THE AIRPLANE TO SOUTH CAROLINA ON MARCH 28, 1990, AND WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO ARIZONA TO VISIT HIS SICK FATHER. THE PILOT'S TOTAL FLYING TIME WAS 106 HOURS, OF WHICH 6.7 HOURS HAD BEEN FLOWN AT NIGHT.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: LOSS OF CONTROL IN FLIGHT WHEN THE PILOT STALLED AND SPUN THE AIRPLANE INADVERTENTLY WHILE TURNING TO THE BASE LEG. A FACTOR WAS LACK OF NIGHT FLYING TIME.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE TURN

Findings

1. LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT
2. (C) STALL/SPIN - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OPERATION - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: OTHER

Findings

4. (F) OBJECT - FENCE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	32, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/30/1989
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	106 hours (Total, all aircraft), 26 hours (Total, this make and model), 54 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 66 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MOONEY	Registration:	N3514X
Model/Series:	M20F M20F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	670052
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/21/1989, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2740 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	121 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3013 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-AIA
Registered Owner:	NICHOLSON ENTERPRISES INC.	Rated Power:	200 hp
Operator:	NICHOLSON, DAVID ROBERT	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PWA, 1299 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2248 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	190°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	20 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	8°C / 3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	ST. LOUIS, MO (3WE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (PWA)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1830 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	WILEY POST (PWA)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	1299 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	35	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7198 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

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):	LLOYD R COOK	Report Date:	09/28/1992
Additional Participating Persons:	CLINT BOEHLER ED NOWE RAYMOND STEICH		
Publish Date:			
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).