



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	JASPER, GA	Accident Number:	ATL88FA131
Date & Time:	04/01/1988, 1245 EST	Registration:	N3638N
Aircraft:	MOONEY M20G	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

BEFORE DEPG BLAIRSVILLE, THE PLT REQD THE CURRENT ATLANTA WX FOR THE DEKALB-PEACHTREE ARPT & FOR AN AFTERNOON OUTLOOK. HE TOLD THE BRIEFER THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A PREVIOUS WX BRIEFING. HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE FORECAST WAS FOR INSTRUMENT CONDS UNTIL NOON WITH A CHANCE OF OVERCAST SKIES AT 1500 FT. HE DEPARTED BLAIRSVILLE AT 1210 EST WITH INTENTIONS OF FOLLOWING HIGHWAYS TO THE ATLANTA AREA. A PERSON, WHO WAS DRIVING A CAR BETWEEN BLAIRSVILLE & THE SUBSEQUENT CRASH SITE, SAW A MOONEY FLYING IN & OUT OF FOG AT ABOUT 150' AGL. THERE WAS RAIN, LOW CEILING & POOR VIS ALONG THAT ROUTE. WHEN THE ACFT DID NOT ARRIVE AT THE DESTN, A SEARCH WAS BEGUN. THE ACFT WAS FND WHERE IT HAD CRASHED ON RISING, WOODED TERRAIN ON MT OGLETHORPE AT AN ELEV OF ABOUT 3290'. AN EXAM REVEALED THE ACFT WAS IN LEVEL FLT JUST BEFORE IMPACT. NO PREIMPACT PART FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION WAS FOUND. ALTHOUGH THE PLT WAS INSTRUMENT RATED, HE HAD NO RECENT INSTRUMENT FLT TIME.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) OVERCONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL ABILITY - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) LACK OF RECENT INSTRUMENT TIME - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
8. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - RISING

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	54
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1599 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1365 hours (Total, this make and model), 1499 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MOONEY	Registration:	N3638N
Model/Series:	M20G M20G	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	CHARLES W. SPIKES	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A1D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MGE, 1020 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 140°
Temperature:	17° C	Visibility	3 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BLAIRSVILLE, GA (46A)	Destination:	STOCKBRIDGE, GA (4A0)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Latitude, Longitude:

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PRESTON E HICKS	Adopted Date:	09/19/1989
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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