



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	PETALUMA, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX89DVD01
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	12/02/1988, 1216 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N58EE
<b>Aircraft:</b>	HITCHCOCK JH-1	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

PLT WAS ON INITIAL FLT IN NEWLY-BUILT GYROCOPTER. AFTER TAKEOFF, WITNESSES OBSERVED THE ACFT TO CLIMB TO ABOUT 100 FEET THEN TO NOSE OVER UNTIL GROUND IMPACT. NO EVIDENCE OF MECHANICAL FAILURE WAS FOUND.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	57, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	09/03/1987
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2 hours (Total, this make and model), 1741 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	HITCHCOCK	<b>Registration:</b>	N58EE
<b>Model/Series:</b>	JH-1 JH-1	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Gyroplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental	<b>Serial Number:</b>	4-8-87
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	11/17/1988, Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	2 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	ROTAX
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	532
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	JERRY N. HITCHCOCK	<b>Rated Power:</b>	64 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	JERRY N. HITCHCOCK	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots / 15 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	110°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1215 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Airport Information

Airport:	PETALUMA (069)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	87 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	11	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3600 ft / 75 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):	RAY E MURPHY	Report Date:	01/24/1990
Additional Participating Persons:			
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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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](#).