



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	PETALUMA, CA	Accident Number:	LAX89DVD01
Date & Time:	12/02/1988, 1216 PST	Registration:	N58EE
Aircraft:	HITCHCOCK JH-1	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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

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

Findings

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

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	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

Aircraft Make:	HITCHCOCK	Registration:	N58EE
Model/Series:	JH-1 JH-1	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	JERRY N. HITCHCOCK	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	532
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:	Witness
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / 15 knots, 110°
Temperature:		Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	PETALUMA (069)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	11	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3600 ft / 75 ft		

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	RAY E MURPHY	Adopted Date:	01/24/1990
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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