



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MANSFIELD, NJ	<b>Accident Number:</b>	NYC88DHA01
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	11/01/1987, 1638 EST	<b>Registration:</b>	N341SB
<b>Aircraft:</b>	COUDEN SKYBOLT	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

WITNESSES OBSERVED ACFT PERFORMING MULTIPLE AEROBATIC MANEUVERS. THEY SAID AIRPLANE WAS PERFORMING VERTICAL MANEUVER OR NEARING TOP OF LOOP WHEN IT ENTERED AN INVERTED FLAT SPIN. ROTATION WAS STOPPED, BUT RECOVERY INCOMPLETE WHEN AIRPLANE CRASHED IN A HAY FIELD. WITNESSES SAID THEY HEARD LOUD ENGINE NOISE UNTIL IMPACT WITH GROUND. AIRPLANE DESTROYED BY IMPACT AND POSTCRASH FIRE. PROPELLER REVEALED EVIDENCE OF POWER AT IMPACT. EXAMINATION OF WRECKAGE REVEALED NO INDICATION OF PRE-IMPACT MALFUNCTION.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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: MANEUVERING

#### Findings

1. (F) AEROBATICS - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) FLIGHT CONTROLS - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) STALL/SPIN - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE

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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>	35, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Rear
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<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--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	05/30/1987
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	720 hours (Total, all aircraft), 33 hours (Total, this make and model), 700 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	COUDEN	<b>Registration:</b>	N341SB
<b>Model/Series:</b>	SKYBOLT SKYBOLT	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental	<b>Serial Number:</b>	01977
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	04/01/1987, Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	48 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	228 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	FRANKLIN
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	6A-350-C1
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	MILTON E. BEERS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	220 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	KEVIN A. WHITING	<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	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	HACKETTSTOWN, NJ (N05)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1630 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GENE H CULP	Report Date:	12/12/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	ROBERT H SHAPIRO; ALLENTOWN, PA RAYMOND L KUBA; ALLENTOWN, PA BERNARD O'KEEFE; TRENTON, NJ LES HOOVER; MANSFIELD, NJ		
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](#).