



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	TRAVERSE CITY, MI	Accident Number:	CHI84FA073
Date & Time:	01/01/1984, 1553 EST	Registration:	N3776T
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-28R-180	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

PRIOR TO THE FLT, THE PLT MADE A PHONE CALL TO A RELATIVE WHO LIVED NEAR THE SOUTHEAST SIDE OF LONG LAKE & SAID HE WOULD 'PASS OVER IN ABOUT 10 MIN.' AFTER HE TOOK OFF, THE ACFT WAS OBSERVED IN A LOW PASS OVER THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE LAKE. THE ACFT THEN CIRCLED & BEGAN A 2ND LOW PASS. ON THE 2ND PASS, IT DESCENDED LOWER, HIT THE SNOW COVERED, FROZEN LAKE, BOUNCED & CRASHED. WITNESSES SAID LIGHT SNOW WAS FALLING, BUT THE VISIBILITY WAS GOOD.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) BUZZING - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - ICY
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - WHITEOUT
6. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	28
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	260 hours (Total, all aircraft), 38 hours (Total, this make and model), 2102 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 103 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 55 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N3776T
Model/Series:	PA-28R-180 PA-28R-180	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	WARD E. SEELEY	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	IO-320-B1E
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:	TVC, 625 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 160°
Temperature:	-4° C	Visibility	3 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TRAVERSE CITY, MI (TVC)	Destination:	SAGINAW, MI (MBS)

Airport Information

Airport:	TRAVERSE CITY (TVC)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Latitude, Longitude:

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GEORGE 1 SEIDLEIN	Adopted 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 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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