



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	PALM BAY, FL	Accident Number:	MIA84FU003
Date & Time:	04/01/1984, 0905 EST	Registration:	NONE
Aircraft:	PTERODACTYL ASCENDER II	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 103: Ultralight		

Analysis

THE PLTS OF 2 ULTRALIGHT VEHICLES WERE ACCOMPANYING EACH OTHER & WERE FLYING WEST AT 500 FT AGL IN CALM AIR WHEN AN ACFT CROSSED AHEAD OF THEIR FLT PATH. THE ACFT WAS ESTIMATE TO BE FLYING AT ABOUT 140 KTS & APRX 40 FT ABOVE THE ULTRALIGHTS' ALT. THE SURVIVING PLT STATED THAT HE CLIMBED TO CROSS ABOVE THE ACFT'S FLT PATH. HOWEVER, THE OTHER ULTRALIGHT, A PTERODACTYL ASCENDER II, CONTINUED STRAIGHT AHEAD & CROSSED ABOUT 10 SEC BEHIND THE ACFT. AFTER CROSSING THE ACFT'S FLT PATH, THE ASCENDER WAS SEEN TO SLOW DOWN & DRIFT TO THE RIGHT, THEN ENTER A SPIN & CRASH. REPORTEDLY, A PORTION OF THE RIGHT WING HAD FAILED BEFORE THE ULTRALIGHT CRASHED. NO PREEXISTING CRACKS WERE FOUND. ALL FACTURES WERE TYPICAL OF THOSE PRODUCED BY OVERSTRESS.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: VORTEX TURBULENCE ENCOUNTERED
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT
2. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

3. WING - OVERLOAD

Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	None	Age:	62
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	15 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PTERODACTYL	Registration:	NONE
Model/Series:	ASCENDER II ASCENDER I	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	ROBERT W. ROPER	Engine Manufacturer:	CUYUNA
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	430
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 103: Ultralight		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MLB, 33 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots / , 360°
Temperature:	21 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	

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):	THOMAS W WATSON	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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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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