



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	TULLAHOMA, TN	Accident Number:	ATL84FU006
Date & Time:	07/01/1984, 1845 CDT	Registration:	NONE
Aircraft:	RITZ A	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 103: Ultralight		

Analysis

THE ULTRALIGHT HAD BEEN FLOWN FOR 4 FTLS AND THE PLT UPON LANDING MENTIONED A POSSIBLE CONTROL PROBLEM WITH THE OWNER AND BUILDER. THE BUILDER THEN TOOK THE VEHICLE UP TO SHOW HOW FAST IT WOULD GO. AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES OF FLT HE DOVE AT THE RWY IN A FULL POWER SHALLOW DIVE AND ENTERED A LEFT TURN AT ABOUT 30 FT AGL. THE RIGHT AILERON WAS SEEN FLUTTERING BY A WITNESS JUST BEFORE THE RIGHT WING MOVED. A FEW SECONDS LATER, THE LEFT WING SEPARATED FROM THE AIRFRAME. THE ACFT CRASHED NOSE FIRST AND BOUNCED ABOUT 40 FT FROM THE INITIAL IMPACT POINT ON THE RWY.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) FLIGHT CONTROL,AILERON - FLUTTER
 2. (C) DESIGN STRESS LIMITS OF AIRCRAFT - EXCEEDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) ACFT/EQUIP,INADEQUATE DESIGN - PRODUCTION/DESIGN PERSONNEL
 4. (C) WING - SEPARATION
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:		Age:	68
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	RITZ	Registration:	NONE
Model/Series:	A A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	GERALD G. RITZ	Engine Manufacturer:	ZENOAH
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	250
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 103: Ultralight		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BNA, 599 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 10°
Temperature:	26° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Airport Information

Airport:	TULLAHOMA (THA)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

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):	CHARLES T FOUTS	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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