



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MURRIETA, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX84FUG02
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/01/1984, 1803 PDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N8474
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PHANEUF B8 MOD GYRO	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

A WITNESS OBSERVED THE GYROCOPTER CIRCLE THE APRT. ON THE SECOND TIME AROUND, IT DROPPED DOWN LOW ON THE DOWNWIND LEG AND DISAPPEARED BEHIND A SMALL HILL. HE ALSO STATED THE ENG WAS RUNNING AT FULL POWER AND THAT HE COULD HEAR THE ROTOR BLADES STRIKE THE GROUND WHEN THE GYROCOTER CRASHED. NO PREIMPACT MECHANICAL FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION WAS FOUND DURING THE INVESTIGATION. TOXICOLOGICAL TESTS SHOWED THAT THE PLT'S BLOOD/ALCOHOL LEVEL WAS 0.110%.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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: APPROACH

### Findings

1. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) IMPAIRMENT(ALCOHOL) - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) ROTOR RPM - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. DESCENT - INADVERTENT

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	59, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt
<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>	None Expired	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PHANEUF	<b>Registration:</b>	N8474
<b>Model/Series:</b>	B8 MOD GYRO B8 MOD GYR	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Gyroplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental	<b>Serial Number:</b>	SBP 1000
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	MCCULLOCH
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	UNKNOWN
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ARTHUR GALDAMMER	<b>Rated Power:</b>	90 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	ARTHUR GALDAMMER	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	06

## 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	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	120°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	32° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MURRIETA, CA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Airport Information

Airport:	THOMPSON	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	1120 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2682 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

## 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
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	RALPH W PALMER	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
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](#).