



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Gerlach, NV	Accident Number:	LAX01LA298
Date & Time:	09/01/2001, 1830 PDT	Registration:	N301CS
Aircraft:	Sparke Air Command 582 Dual	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

After turning downwind following takeoff, the gyrocopter lost forward speed and began to descend. It touched down on the left tire, rolled over, and the main rotor blades contacted the ground. The pilot reported there was no mechanical malfunction. He stated the engine and propeller combination was not providing sufficient performance to operate the gyrocopter safely, and he had been modifying it since it was built 2 years previously. This was the second flight of the day after he had shifted the occupant seats to provide better airflow to the propeller.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inability to maintain altitude because of the gyrocopter's inadequately designed performance capability.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE - INADEQUATE
2. (C) ALTITUDE - NOT OBTAINED/MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) ACFT/EQUIP,INADEQUATE HANDLING/PERF CAPABILITIES - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	42
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Sparke	Registration:	N301CS
Model/Series:	Air Command 582 Dual	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Bombardier
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	unknown
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLOL, 3904 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 160°
Temperature:	31 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Gerlach, NV	Destination:	Gerlach, NV

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	STEVEN R CLINE	Adopted Date:	05/01/2003
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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