



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Waynesburg, PA	Accident Number:	NYC02LA004
Date & Time:	10/02/2001, 1100 EDT	Registration:	N21468
Aircraft:	Rich Woodstock I	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The student pilot/builder of the glider made five successful tow releases and landings from a paved runway, and was making his first tow release from grass. The driver towed the glider to the starting point, the student pilot got onboard, and he and another individual installed the canopy. The student pilot/builder checked the security of the canopy with a "push-up" on it, then began the glider tow. At liftoff, about 38 knots, the glider hit a clump of grass, and the canopy departed the airframe. The student pilot raised his left arm to protect his face, and thought he must have pulled back on the control stick as he avoided the canopy. The glider stalled about 10 feet in the air, then hit the ground. The student pilot/builder had difficulty latching the canopy prior to previous tows, and felt that the latching mechanism may have been twisted.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: An improperly secured canopy latch, which resulted in canopy separation during liftoff and the pilot's subsequent loss of control. A factor was the improper installation of the latch.

Findings

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

Findings

1. WINDOW,CANOPY - UNLATCHED
2. (F) MAINTENANCE,INSTALLATION - IMPROPER - OWNER/BUILDER
3. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

4. WINDOW,CANOPY - SEPARATION

Occurrence #3: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: OTHER

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	72
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	44 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1 hours (Total, this make and model), 11 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Rich	Registration:	N21468
Model/Series:	Woodstock I	Engines:	0
Operator:	Harry Rich	Engine Manufacturer:	
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
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:	AFJ, 1184 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / 15 knots, 220°
Temperature:	23°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Waynesburg, PA (WAY)	Destination:	Waynesburg, PA

Airport Information

Airport:	Greene County (WAY)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	27	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3500 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Paul R Cox

Adopted Date: 01/02/2002

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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