



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	Oshkosh, WI	Accident Number:	CHI03FA239
Date & Time:	08/02/2003, 0920 CDT	Registration:	N1068S
Aircraft:	Gerlach Skyraider II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

On August 2, 2003, about 0920 central daylight time, an amateur-built Gerlach Skyraider II, N1068S, piloted by a private pilot, sustained substantial damage when it impacted a road after takeoff from the northwest ultralight runway (1,200 feet by 100 feet, turf), at the Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The flight was performed during the annual Experimental Aircraft Association gathering. The pilot reported that the engine lost power during the takeoff. The 14 CFR Part 91 business flight was operating in visual meteorological conditions without a flight plan. The pilot and passenger were not injured. The local flight was originating when the accident occurred.

In a written report of the accident, the pilot stated that the takeoff roll was long and the airplane's engine seemed to lose power. He stated that he "released [the] flaps to gain speed but the engine seem[ed] to have less power." The pilot said that after clearing the fence at the end of the runway, he turned right and crashed on the road. In his written report, the pilot listed no mechanical malfunction of the airplane.

In a written statement to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the pilot stated that the engine power "wasn't up to its normal standard. It did takeoff [and] seemed to get better but all of a sudden it seemed to lose power again. I tried to release the flaps to get some speed and the plane didn't respond." The pilot stated that the airplane kept losing speed and power. He stated that when the airplane cleared the fence, he attempted to land on the road.

The passenger reported that the accident flight was his second flight of the day in the accident airplane. He stated that on the accident flight the pilot used flaps during the takeoff. He stated that, in his opinion, the use of the flaps produced enough drag to slow the aircraft's speed on takeoff.

A witness stated that he observed the accident airplane during the takeoff. He stated that the airplane was "going too slow, too low, and it was climbing too steeply." The witness stated that the airplane then stalled and struck the ground. He stated that the airplane's engine was running until the airplane struck the ground.

A postaccident examination of the airplane revealed no pre-impact anomalies.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	34, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	11/01/2000
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	07/11/2002
Flight Time:	166 hours (Total, all aircraft), 41 hours (Total, this make and model), 166 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 19 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Gerlach	Registration:	N1068S
Model/Series:	Skyraider II	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	SR11-036
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	MZ
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	202
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	57 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	OSH, 808 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0853 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.87 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22° C / 18° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Oshkosh, WI (OSH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0920 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WITTMAN REGIONAL (OSH)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	808 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	31	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1200 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	43.984444, -88.556944

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John M Brannen
Additional Participating Persons:	Dick Hanusa; FAA, Milwaukee FSDO; Milwaukee, WI
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/ .