



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Saint Marys, GA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL04LA001
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	10/01/2003, 1803 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N1928J
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Johnson Walter A Hornet	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

According to witnesses in the area, the airplane had been circling when they heard the engine sputter. The airplane descended nose down behind a stand of trees and they heard a "boom". Several witnesses in the area telephoned the 911-operator and reported the accident. Examination of the wreckage on-scene found the airplane in a nose down attitude. Examination of the engine found one of the two sparkplugs out of its cylinder hanging by the sparkplug wire. During a telephone interview with the brother of the pilot he stated that about 15 to 20 hours prior to the accident they had done some maintenance on the engine including changing the spark plugs. He further stated that he believes that the spark plugs were not tightened adequately which allowed one to "blow out causing the loss of engine power".

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The loss of engine power due to improper maintenance and the pilot's failure to maintain airspeed during the attempted forced landing that resulted in a stall.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

### Findings

1. (C) IGNITION SYSTEM, SPARK PLUG - LOSS, TOTAL
2. (F) MAINTENANCE - IMPROPER - OWNER/PILOT MECHANIC

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

### Findings

3. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

## Findings

### 5. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

#### Pilot Information

Certificate:	None	Age:	52
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:			

#### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Johnson Walter A	Registration:	N1928J
Model/Series:	Hornet	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Glen M. Readdick	Engine Manufacturer:	Hirth
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	2703
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:	SSI, 19 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / , 30°
Temperature:	23° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Kingsland, GA (PVT)	Destination:	Kingsland, GA (PVT)

#### Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	30.757778, -81.562222		

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Butch Wilson

**Adopted Date:** 07/07/2005

**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](mailto: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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