



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Traverse City, MI	Accident Number:	CHI04LA026
Date & Time:	11/01/2003, 1552 EST	Registration:	N515KH
Aircraft:	Master Donald C BD5B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane was destroyed when it impacted the terrain during landing approach. The airplane came to rest about 1,000 feet short of the intended landing runway. According to the air traffic controller (ATC), the pilot taxied and called for departure at 1543. The airplane was cleared for takeoff and was to maintain a southwest heading after takeoff. The controller stated that the pilot called to return to the field at 1545. The controller asked the pilot if anything was wrong, because of the brief duration of the flight. The controller stated that at this time the pilot reported no problems. At 1546, the airplane was cleared to land. At 1547, the pilot indicated a gear problem and requested to circle the field. At 1550, the pilot informed the controller that "everything looks ok." The airplane was again cleared to land. At 1552, the airplane crashed approximately 1/2 mile south of runway 36. No pre-impact defects were found with respect to the aircraft during a post-accident examination. The reported winds were from 090 degrees at 5 knots.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot in command not maintaining control of the aircraft during the final approach.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

2. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Factual Information

On November 1, 2003, at 1552 eastern standard time, an experimental amateur-built Master BD5B airplane, N515KH, piloted by a private pilot, was destroyed when it impacted the terrain during landing approach at the Cherry Capital Airport (TVC), Traverse City, Michigan. The airplane came to rest about 1,000 feet short of runway 36 (5,107 feet by 150 feet, asphalt). The 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight was operating in visual meteorological conditions without a flight plan. The pilot was fatally injured. The local flight originated at 1543.

According to the air traffic controller at TVC tower, the pilot taxied and called for departure at 1543. The airplane was cleared for takeoff and was to maintain a southwest heading after takeoff. The controller stated that the pilot called to return to the field at 1545. The controller asked the pilot if anything was wrong, because of the brief duration of the flight. The controller stated that at this time the pilot reported no problems. At 1546, the airplane was cleared to land. At 1547, the pilot indicated a landing gear problem and requested to circle. At 1550, the pilot informed the controller that "everything looks ok." The airplane was again cleared to land. At 1552, the airplane crashed approximately 1/2 mile south of runway 36.

The accident aircraft was an amateur-built Master BD5B, serial number 474. The BD5B is an experimental category airplane with 1 seat. The accident aircraft was powered by a Honda CX500 engine rated at 60 horsepower powering a pusher propeller. The accident aircraft was issued its registration on July 15, 2003, pending a N number change, and received its airworthiness certificate on October 20, 1991.

An investigator from the Federal Aviation Administration conducted a post-accident inspection of the airplane. No pre-impact defects were found.

The reported winds at the time of the accident were from 090 degrees at 5 knots.

An autopsy was performed on the pilot at Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Federal Aviation Administration's Civil Aeromedical Institute prepared a Forensic Toxicology Fatal Accident Report on the pilot. The report indicated SALICYLATE found in urine. Salicylate is found in Aspirin.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/10/2003
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	180 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Master Donald C	Registration:	N515KH
Model/Series:	BD5B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	474
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	890 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Honda
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	CX500
Registered Owner:	Christopher S. Wood	Rated Power:	60 hp
Operator:	Christopher S. Wood	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TVC, 624 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1553 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 4000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	6°C / 1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Traverse City, MI (TVC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	(TVC)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1543 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	CHERRY CAPITAL (TVC)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	624 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5107 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

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:	44.741389, -85.582222

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John M Brannen	Report Date:	12/03/2004
Additional Participating Persons:	Dan Allison; Federal Aviation Administration; Grand Rapids, MI		
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 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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