



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	Maricopa, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX04CA310
Date & Time:	09/02/2004, 1422 MST	Registration:	N2873H
Aircraft:	Schweizer SGS 2-33A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional

On September 2, 2004, at 1422 mountain standard time, a Schweizer SGS 2-33A, N2873H, encountered a dust devil during the landing flare at the Estrella Sailport, about 6 miles west of Maricopa, Arizona. The glider touched down hard on the runway and was substantially damaged. The student pilot was seriously injured during the solo instructional flight. The glider's owner, Arizona Soaring, Inc., Maricopa, operated the glider under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan had been filed. The flight originated from the sailport at 1409.

The student's certified flight instructor (CFI) reported to the National Transportation Safety Board investigator that his student had flown a normal traffic pattern to the runway. When the student was on short final approach to runway 24C, the CFI observed a "really large" dust devil in the area. The CFI stated that he believes the glider encountered the adverse weather. Thereafter, the glider nosed down and impacted the runway hard. Minutes prior to the mishap, the local wind speed was from 240 degrees, between 5 and 10 knots.

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	21, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	23 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6 hours (Total, this make and model), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schweizer	Registration:	N2873H
Model/Series:	SGS 2-33A	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	543
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Arizona Soaring, Inc.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Arizona Soaring, Inc.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	80 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots / 10 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	240°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	39° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Maricopa, AZ (E68)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Maricopa, AZ (E68)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Estrella Sailport (E68)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	24C	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	33.085278, -112.161111

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wayne Pollack
Additional Participating Persons:	Chris Clark; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .