



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Comstock, TX	Accident Number:	DFW06CA064
Date & Time:	02/02/2006, 1200 CST	Registration:	N192D
Aircraft:	WSK-PZL WARZAWOKECIE PZL-104 WILGA 80	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The 600-hour private pilot became lost during a 125-nautical mile dead reckoning cross-country flight. Running low on fuel, the pilot elected to land at a ranch. Upon landing, the pilot realized that he was in Mexico, approximately 206 miles south of his intended destination. The pilot quickly departed the ranch and flew in a northerly direction until he spotted a Texas flag. Estimating that he had about 3 gallons of fuel remaining, the pilot elected to land on a gravel road before his remaining fuel was exhausted. While on final approach to the gravel road, the pilot observed a tall fence running parallel to the road and elected to land off the road on rocky and uneven terrain. While landing, the airplane's horizontal stabilizer sustained structural damage following impact with sagebrush and cactus plants. The pilot reported that he did not have a navigational chart on board the airplane, and very strong winds aloft, with speeds up to 65 mph, prevailed throughout the area, forcing his airplane off-course.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate preflight planning and preparation leading to him becoming lost. Contributing factors were the unfavorable winds and the lack of suitable terrain for a precautionary landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
2. (C) BECAME LOST/DISORIENTED - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. FLUID,FUEL - LOW LEVEL
4. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

6. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN
7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	54, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	02/01/2005
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	02/01/2004
Flight Time:	600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model), 500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 70 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 55 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	WSK-PZL WARZAWOKECIE	Registration:	N192D
Model/Series:	PZL-104 WILGA 80	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	CF14800559
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/01/2005, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1550 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	PZL WSK
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	AL-14RA
Registered Owner:	TAILWIND PRODUCTIONS	Rated Power:	251 hp
Operator:	TAILWIND PRODUCTIONS	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few	Temperature/Dew Point:	21 °C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	20 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	25 knots/ 35 knots, 360°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Private Ranch	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	COLORADO CITY, TX (KT88)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy J LeBaron	Adopted Date:	05/30/2006
Additional Participating Persons:	Frank G Fortman; SAN ANTONIO		
Publish Date:			
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 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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