



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Davenport, WA	Accident Number:	SEA06LA134
Date & Time:	07/01/2006, 1530 PDT	Registration:	N2554
Aircraft:	Taylor Royal T	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

The amateur-built experimental category airplane descended to ground impact while maneuvering near the destination airport during a cross-country flight. Two witnesses aboard a boat, reported that the airplane was maneuvering over the river. One of the witnesses stated the airplane had followed them for approximately two miles, at an estimated altitude of 400 feet above ground level, before turning to the south. According to the witness, the airplane appeared to be turning when "the plane did a complete nosedive. ... Straight up and down." An inspector from the Federal Aviation Administration examined the wreckage at the accident site. The inspector reported that the airplane came to rest in an open ravine, approximately 436 feet south of the airport and was destroyed by impact forces. The inspector reported that the airplane impacted terrain in a right wing down, nose low attitude. All major components of the airplane were identified at the accident site, and according to the inspector, there was no evidence of a preaccident mechanical malfunction. The airplane was equipped with dual flight controls. It could not be determined which of the two front seat pilots was seated in the left front seat, nor which one of the pilots was manipulating the flight controls when the accident occurred.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control while maneuvering, resulting in a collision with terrain.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

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

HISTORY OF FLIGHT

On July 1, 2006, approximately 1530 Pacific daylight time, an experimental category, amateur built, Taylor Royal T airplane, N2554, was destroyed when it collided with terrain near the Seven Bays Airport, Davenport, Washington. The first pilot, a private pilot and registered owner of the airplane; the second pilot, a private pilot who was seated in the front seat and the pilot rated passenger seated in the rear seat, were fatally injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the cross-country flight that originated at Auburn, Washington. A flight plan was not filed and the exact time of departure from the Auburn Airport, a non-towered airport, was not determined.

According to a family member, the first pilot frequently visited friends who lived at the Seven Bays Airport and, for the past 8 years, had completed numerous flights between the two airports. The first pilot's family was not aware of any specific plans by the pilot to travel to Seven Bays on the day of the accident.

Two witnesses, who were boating on Roosevelt Lake, reported that the airplane was maneuvering over the river. One of the witnesses stated the airplane had followed them for approximately two miles, at an estimated altitude of 400 feet above ground level (agl), before turning to the south. According to the witness's statement, the airplane appeared to be turning when "the plane did a complete nosedive. Straight up and down."

The second witness reported that the airplane "was keeping up with our boat" while it maneuvered over the river. The witness reported the airplane turned south over the boat and then appeared to be turning to the east, just before it "took a complete nose dive."

A third witness, who was located at the airport, reported the airplane was in a steep bank "knife edge position" just before hearing what he described as a full power application for approximately 5-6 seconds. Shortly after the power application the airplane impacted terrain.

The airport was owned by the Seven Bays Homeowners Association and was located adjacent to Roosevelt Lake. The airport elevation was 1,580 feet above sea level, with a single turf runway (18/36), which was 2,600 feet long.

PILOT INFORMATION

It could not be determined which of the two front seat pilots was seated in the left front seat, nor which one of the pilots was manipulating the flight controls when the accident occurred. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, they are referred to as first and second pilot.

First Pilot/Owner

The first pilot held a private pilot certificate (airplane) issued in June of 1977. The certificate carried single and multi-engine land ratings. His most recent medical certificate (third class) was issued December 12, 1991. The medical certificate carried restrictions requiring the pilot to wear lenses for distant vision and possess glasses for near vision. On the pilot's last medical certificate application he indicated that his total aeronautical experience consisted of 2,000 flight hours, of which 25 hours were accrued in the 6 months preceding the medical.

Second Pilot

The second pilot held a private pilot certificate (airplane) issued in May of 2006. The certificate carried a single-engine land rating. His most recent medical certificate (third class) was issued May 11, 2006. The medical certificate carried a restriction requiring the pilot to wear corrective lenses. On the pilot's last medical certificate application he indicated that his total aeronautical experience consisted of 160 flight hours, of which 15 hours were accrued in the 6 months preceding the medical.

WRECKAGE AND IMPACT INFORMATION

An inspector from the Federal Aviation Administration, Spokane Flight Standards District Office, examined the wreckage at the accident site on July 1, 2006. The inspector reported that the airplane came to rest in an open ravine approximately 436 feet south of the airport and was destroyed by impact forces. The inspector reported that the airplane impacted terrain in a right wing, nose low attitude. All four corners of the airplane were identified at the accident site, and according to the inspector, there was no evidence of a pre accident mechanical malfunction. The airplane was equipped with dual flight controls.

MEDICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL INFORMATION

First Pilot:

A postmortem examination of the pilot was conducted by the Spokane County Medical Examiner on July 4, 2006. According to the postmortem report, the pilot's cause of death was attributed to "transection of the brainstem due to Atlanto-occipital dislocation due to blunt impact to the head."

The FAA's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, conducted a toxicological examination. According to the toxicology report, Trazodone was detected in the pilot's blood and liver.

Trazodone is a prescription medication used primarily to treat depression.

Refer to the toxicological report (contained in the public docket) for specific test parameters and results.

Second pilot:

A postmortem examination of the second pilot was conducted by the Spokane County Medical Examiner on July 4, 2006. According to the postmortem report, the pilot's cause of death was attributed to "transection of the brainstem due to Atlanto-occipital fracture/dislocation due to blunt impact to the head."

The FAA's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, conducted a toxicological examination. According to the toxicology report, results were negative for tested substances.

Refer to the toxicological report (contained in the public docket) for specific test parameters and results.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	74, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/01/1991
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2000 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/01/2006
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	160 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Taylor	Registration:	N2554
Model/Series:	Royal T	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	RT2
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2884 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360
Registered Owner:	Charles W. McCanna	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Charles W. McCanna	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSKA, 2461 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	31 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1455 PDT	Direction from Accident Site:	135°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 6000 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	30° C / 10° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	AUBURN, WA (S50)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Davenport, WA (73WA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	PDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	7 BAYS (73WA)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	1580 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2600 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	47.850833, -118.330000

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Dennis J Hogenson	Report Date:	04/25/2007
Additional Participating Persons:	Judy Black; FAA, Spokane FSDO; Spokane, WA		
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.ntsbt.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).