



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Centre Hall, PA	Accident Number:	NYC07LA155
Date & Time:	07/01/2007, 1600 EDT	Registration:	N176SS
Aircraft:	Burkhart Grob Flugzeugbau Speed Astir II	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The accident glider was under tow for takeoff when the accident occurred. The glider lifted off before the tow airplane and then ascended to between 20 and 50 feet above the ground very quickly, and at a "high" angle of attack. The glider then yawed to the left and the left wing dropped before it began a slow roll to the right. The glider continued to roll right until it reached an attitude where the wings were perpendicular to the ground. It then sank down until the right wing impacted the ground. The glider "cart wheeled" onto its nose before coming to rest inverted. Examination of the glider revealed no evidence of any preimpact mechanical anomalies, and that the tow rope disconnected at the glider end at some point during the accident sequence. Toxicological testing of the pilot revealed the presence of a prescription antidepressant. The extent to which the drug may have affected the pilot, if at all, could not be determined.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inability to maintain control of the glider for undetermined reasons.

Findings

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

Findings

1. REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
2. AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	130 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Burkhart Grob Flugzeugbau	Registration:	N176SS
Model/Series:	Speed Astir II	Engines:	0
Operator:	PS Soaring Inc	Engine Manufacturer:	
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
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:	UNV, 1239 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 330°
Temperature:	23° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Centre Hall, PA (N16)	Destination:	Reedsville, PA (RVL)

Airport Information

Airport:	Centre Airpark (N16)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	6	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3100 ft / 210 ft		

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:	40.811667, -77.656944		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): David S Muzio

Adopted Date: 06/30/2008

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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