



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Vero Beach, FL	Accident Number:	ERA09LA001
Date & Time:	10/01/2008, 1502 EDT	Registration:	N373DB
Aircraft:	Bezinque Alisport-Silent	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the powered glider stated that about 30 seconds after takeoff, about 170 feet above the ground, the engine rpm decreased. He then leveled the glider and the engine stopped producing power. The pilot entered a left turn to land to the east and the engine "suddenly regained power." He then turned the glider to return to the airport, but when he leveled the wings the engine again stopped producing power. Lacking the altitude to return to the airport, the pilot chose a road for a forced landing. The landing area was blocked with cars and power poles, so he landed the glider "hard" in the grass adjacent to the roadway to avoid the obstacles. A detailed examination of the glider revealed that with electrical power applied, the fuel boost pump did not pump fuel from the pump outlet port.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power)
Initial climb - Loss of engine power (total)
Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-flare/touchdown - Hard landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The failure of the electric fuel boost pump which resulted in a loss of engine power due to fuel starvation.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Fuel system-Fuel pumps-Failure - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	2800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 36 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Bezinque	Registration:	N373DB
Model/Series:	Alisport-Silent	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Vincent Powers	Engine Manufacturer:	
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	VRB, 24 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7000 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots
Temperature:	28°C / 22°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Vero Beach, FL (FL74)	Destination:	Vero Beach, FL (FL74)

Airport Information

Airport:	Indian River Aerodrome (FL74)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	17	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2600 ft / 200 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Brian C Rayner	Adopted Date:	11/09/2009
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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