



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Bridgeport, CT	Accident Number:	ERA09CA034
Date & Time:	11/01/2008, 1704 EDT	Registration:	N4540L
Aircraft:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP. AA-5B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Runway excursion	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The solo student pilot of the Grumman AA5B stated he was maneuvering in his local training area when he experienced symptoms of "vertigo." The pilot was on a westerly heading in the late afternoon, looking through the propeller, at the onset of the symptoms. He managed to navigate back to his home airport, but during the landing, lost directional control, departed the runway, and collided with an airport sign. The pilot was not injured, but examination of his medical records revealed he was treated by a physician for symptoms of vertigo in the days following the accident. According to the Federal Aviation Administration Airplane Flying Handbook (FAA-H-8083-3A), flicker vertigo is defined as: "A disorienting condition caused from flickering light off the blades of the propeller."

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of directional control during landing and while suffering symptoms of vertigo.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Neurological - Pilot (Cause) Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Miscellaneous/other
Landing-flare/touchdown	Runway excursion (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	56, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Front
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:	06/27/2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/10/2008
Flight Time:	46 hours (Total, all aircraft), 46 hours (Total, this make and model), 21 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP.	Registration:	N4540L
Model/Series:	AA-5B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	AA5B1307
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/30/2008, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7627 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O&VO-360 SER
Registered Owner:	Calvin Munson	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	Blue Sky Flight	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	BDR, 10 ft msl	Observation Time:	1652 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 4°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 20°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.2 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bridgeport, CT (BDR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Bridgeport, CT (BDR)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1600 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	Bridgeport/Sikorsky (BDR)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	10 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	06	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

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):	Brian C Rayner	Adopted Date:	01/22/2009
Additional Participating Persons:	William Dekine; FAA/FSDO; Windsor Locks, CT		
Publish Date:	01/22/2009		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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