



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Bridgeport, CT	Accident Number:	ERA09CA034
Date & Time:	11/01/2008, 1704 EDT	Registration:	N4540L
Aircraft:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP. AA-5B	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."

Flight Events

Enroute - Miscellaneous/other

Landing-flare/touchdown - Runway excursion

Probable Cause

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-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Directional control-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Physical-Impairment/incapacitation-Neurological-Pilot - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Blue Sky Flight	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O&VO-360 SER
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	BDR, 10 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 20°
Temperature:	16° C / 4° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bridgeport, CT (BDR)	Destination:	Bridgeport, CT (BDR)

Airport Information

Airport:	Bridgeport/Sikorsky (BDR)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	06	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Brian C Rayner	Adopted 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 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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