



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Sparta, NY	Accident Number:	ERA09CA434
Date & Time:	08/01/2009, 1550 EDT	Registration:	N66FL
Aircraft:	LET L13	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The student pilot encountered a thermal lift, and climbed to 3,000 feet. He stated in a statement to law enforcement personnel, "I got myself into a spin that I was not sure how to get out of." He further stated, "Somehow I was able to get myself out of that, and was headed back to the airport. This is where it gets vague to me. I think I started into another spin." Another glider pilot who departed 10 to 15 minutes before the student pilot stated he observed the glider about a 1,000 feet or less below him spinning to the left. He made a 360 degree turn looking for the glider and could not see it and figured the pilot recovered from the spin and flew away. Examination of the glider by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed the glider collided with the ground in a nose down left wing attitude. The forward cabin area received structural damage, the left wing was pushed aft and the right wing was accelerated forward. The flaps on both wings were extended. The Pilot's Notes for the L-13 Sailplane states, the glider will stall at 30 knots with the flaps extended. No anomalies were noted with the airframe or flight controls.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's failure to maintain airspeed resulting in an aerodynamic stall.

Findings

Aircraft	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering	Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Aerodynamic stall/spin
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	64, 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:	None	Last Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	55 hours (Total, all aircraft), 21 hours (Total, this make and model), 11 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	LET	Registration:	N66FL
Model/Series:	L13 G	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	026346
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/24/2009, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	749 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	26 Hours	Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	3944 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Finger Lakes Soaring Club Inc.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	David V. Vanderlinden	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	DSV, 662 ft msl	Observation Time:	1554 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	30°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 7000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	28° C / 13° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 200°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.99 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Dansville, NY (DSV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Dansville, NY (DSV)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1514 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

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
Total Injuries:	1 Serious		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Carrol A Smith	Adopted Date:	10/19/2009
Additional Participating Persons:	Mary Beth Moran; FAA Rochester FSDO; Rochester, NY		
Publish Date:	11/19/2009		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74423		

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