



National Transportation Safety Board

Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Middlefield, OH	Accident Number:	CEN10LA035
Date & Time:	11/01/2009, 1610 EST	Registration:	N1142
Aircraft:	Blanik L-13	Injuries:	2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The glider pilot, who was a certificated flight instructor (CFI), reported that he was following the student pilot on the controls during the takeoff climb. He observed the tow plane rock its wings indicating to the glider to “wave off”. The CFI took control of the glider and stated, “It’s my airplane.” He released the tow line, turned 180 degrees to return to the airport, and lowered the nose to increase aircraft energy. The student felt they were too low to the ground and panicked. The student pilot grabbed the controls and pulled back on the stick. The CFI could not overpower the student on the controls and the airplane started to spin left. He picked up the left wing by applying opposite rudder. The glider impacted a tractor dealer’s parking lot. The inspection of the glider revealed that it sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and wings. No pre-impact anomalies were noted.

Flight Events

- Initial climb - Glider tow event
- Initial climb - Low altitude operation/event
- Initial climb - Aerodynamic stall/spin
- Initial climb - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's improper control inputs which resulted in the inadvertent stall of the glider.

Findings

- Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C
- Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Angle of attack-Capability exceeded - C
- Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incorrect action performance-Student pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial; Private	Age:	52
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	Glider
Flight Time:	1840 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 1730 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 44 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Blanik	Registration:	N1142
Model/Series:	L-13	Engines:	0
Operator:	CLEVELAND SOARING SOCIETY INC	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:	YNG, 1192 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4000 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Temperature:	9°C / -1°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Middlefield, OH (7G8)	Destination:	Middlefield, OH (7G8)

Airport Information

Airport:	Geauga County Airport (7G8)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	29	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3499 ft / 65 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	James P Silliman	Adopted Date:	06/17/2010
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74993		

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