National Transportation Safety Board
Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	McMinnville, TN	**Accident Number:**	ERA10CA461
Date & Time:	09/02/2010, 1400 CDT	**Registration:**	N320CY
Aircraft:	Yeager Inc. Lancair	**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he taxied to the runway for the purpose of performing a high speed taxi run. After an engine run-up, he latched the two canopy latches on the right side and scanned the instrument panel, noticing that the cylinder head temperature and oil temperature were rising. He stated that his attention was diverted in concern of the rising temperature and did not recall if he latched the two latches on the left side of the canopy. He started the takeoff roll and after becoming airborne, he noticed the canopy opening on the left side. The pilot attempted to latch the canopy, but realized it would take both hands, and continued to climb to pattern altitude while trimming the aircraft for better airspeed control. He then pulled the throttle back to slow the airspeed and attempted to latch the canopy. The canopy started flapping up and down, and when he tried to secure it shut with his hands he was not be able to control the airplane. He stated that debris was flying everywhere and the wind blew off his headset. When he realized that he was getting low he added full engine power and looked for a clear area; shortly thereafter the airplane collided with the ground.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Miscellaneous/other
Initial climb - Loss of control in flight
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's failure to properly latch the cockpit canopy prior to takeoff, resulting in his diverted attention and failure to maintain aircraft control.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft structures-Windows-windshield system-Flight compartment windows-Incorrect use/operation - C
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Forgotten action/omission-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	**Instrument Rating(s):**	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Instructor Rating(s):**	None
Flight Time:	1226 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2 hours (Total, this make and model), 1205 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Yeager Inc.	**Registration:**	N320CY
Model/Series:	Lancair 320	**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Donald Yeager	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	**Engine Model/Series:**	O320-B3B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MQY, 543 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:**	4 knots, Variable
Temperature:	33°C / 19°C	**Visibility**	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	McMinnville, TN (RNC)	**Destination:**	McMinnville, TN (RNC)

Airport Information

Airport:	Warren County Memorial Airport (RNC)	**Runway Surface Type:**	
Runway Used:	N/A	**Runway Surface Condition:**	
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):	Ralph L Wilson	**Adopted Date:**	06/13/2011
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77183		

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