



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Peoria, AZ	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR11LA069
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	12/01/2010, 1700 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N765MH
<b>Aircraft:</b>	SABRE TRIKE	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control in flight	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

During a personal flight, the experimental light-sport weight-shift-control aircraft was observed by witnesses in a spiraling descent until it impacted the ground. Postaccident examination of the airframe and engine revealed no mechanical failures or malfunctions that would have precluded normal operation. The reason for the loss of control was not determined.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: An in-flight loss of control for undetermined reasons.

## Findings

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Not determined	Not determined - Unknown/Not determined (Cause)
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## Factual Information

### HISTORY OF FLIGHT

On December 1, 2010, about 1700 mountain standard time (MST), an experimental light-sport weight-shift-control Sabre Trike, N765MH, impacted terrain during an uncontrolled descent near Pleasant Valley Airport, Peoria, Arizona. The owner/pilot was operating the airplane under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 91. The sport pilot was fatally injured; the trike sustained substantial damage to both wings and fuselage structure. The local personal instructional flight departed Peoria at an unknown time. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan had been filed.

Witnesses near the airport saw the trike in a spiraling descent before losing sight of it. After a short search of the area, the accident site was located about 0.5 nm south of the airport.

A Federal Aviation Administration inspector from the Scottsdale Flight Standards District Office responded to the accident site.

The debris field, including the trike and all of the components and control surfaces, were within the immediate impact area. A 60-pound bag of dry ready cement was found in the front area of the trike wreckage. It was later discovered that the pilot was using the cement bag as a ballast to simulate a front seat passenger.

The accident site was documented, and the trike was recovered for further examination.

On December 2, 2010, the Maricopa County Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy on the pilot. The cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma of torso and extremities. The manner of death was by accident.

On December 8, 2010, investigators examined the wreckage at Air Transport, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona. The engine was examined; after minor adjustments the engine was started, and ran without issues.

Examination of the airframe revealed no abnormalities that would have precluded normal operations.

### History of Flight

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

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Sport Pilot	<b>Age:</b>	70, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Rear
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Sport Pilot	<b>Last Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	195 hours (Total, all aircraft), 190 hours (Total, this make and model)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	SABRE	<b>Registration:</b>	N765MH
<b>Model/Series:</b>	TRIKE	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Weight-Shift
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental Light Sport	<b>Serial Number:</b>	002
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	04/25/2010, Conditional	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	91 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	ROTAX
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	447
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	40 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	GEU, 1071 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	1647 MST
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	16 Nautical Miles	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	190°	<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Few / 25000 ft agl	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21° C / -13° C
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility</b>	20 Miles
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	Calm	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.05 inches Hg	<b>Visibility (RVV):</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Peoria, AZ (P48)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Peoria, AZ (P48)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	MST	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Pleasant Valley Airport (P48)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	1580 ft	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Used:</b>		<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal		

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Patrick H Jones	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	08/15/2012
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Stacey L Skrocki; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ Ronald Smith; Rotax flight safety Inc.; Lucedale, MS		
<b>Publish Date:</b>	08/15/2012		
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77919">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77919</a>		

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