



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Fayetteville, TN	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA11FA435
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	08/02/2011, 1110 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	NONE
<b>Aircraft:</b>	RANS S18	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot was making his inaugural flight in the recently purchased, recently reassembled unregistered experimental airplane. After the pilot's initial takeoff from his home airstrip, witnesses saw the airplane turn back toward the runway then lost sight of it behind a tree line. They continued to hear the airplane's engine operate until hearing the airplane impact the ground. Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed no preexisting mechanical anomalies, and structural damage indicated that it had impacted the ground in a stall/spin to the right. The pilot had not flown in about 6 years, and when a family member suggested that he get some refresher flight training before his first flight in the airplane, the pilot declined to do so.

## Flight Events

Approach-VFR pattern final - Aerodynamic stall/spin  
Approach-VFR pattern final - 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 maintain adequate airspeed, which resulted in an inadvertent stall/spin. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's lack of recent flight experience.

## Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C  
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incorrect action performance-Pilot - C  
Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Experience/qualifications-Recent experience-Pilot - F

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	70
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	640 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0 hours (Total, this make and model), 0 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	RANS	Registration:	NONE
Model/Series:	S18 NO SERIES	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Larry Eugene Sheaks	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	503
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MDQ, 756 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:	Calm
Temperature:	31°C / 23°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fayetteville, TN (NONE)	Destination:	Fayetteville, TN (NONE)

## Airport Information

Airport:	Private	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	01	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry; Vegetation
Runway Length/Width:	1400 ft / 50 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Paul R Cox	Adopted Date:	04/17/2013
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=81353">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=81353</a>		

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