



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Corona, NM | Accident Number: | CEN13CA336 |
| Date & Time: | 06/01/2013, 1800 MDT | Registration: | N62TW |
| Aircraft: | SCHEMPP-HIRTH VENTUS-2B | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control in flight | Injuries: | 1 Minor |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

The pilot was ridge-soaring in his glider near a mountain peak in gusty wind conditions, when he was blown into trees. The glider sustained substantial damage to the airframe and wings. The pilot reported no mechanical problems with the glider. He said that he was unfamiliar with the terrain and the wind gusts and down-drafts were higher than he anticipated.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control while ridge-soaring in gusty wind conditions.

Findings

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| Personnel issues | Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause) |
| Environmental issues | Gusts - Response/compensation (Factor) |

Factual Information

History of Flight

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|-------------|--|
| Maneuvering | Loss of control in flight (Defining event) |
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Pilot Information

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|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Certificate: | Commercial | Age: | 63, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine Land | Seat Occupied: | |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | Glider | Restraint Used: | Seatbelt, Shoulder harness |
| Instrument Rating(s): | Airplane | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | Airplane Single-engine | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations | Last Medical Exam: | 04/30/2012 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | 04/30/2012 |
| Flight Time: | 4800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1652 hours (Total, this make and model) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------|
| Aircraft Manufacturer: | SCHEMPP-HIRTH | Registration: | N62TW |
| Model/Series: | VENTUS-2B | Aircraft Category: | Glider |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Experimental | Serial Number: | 140 |
| Landing Gear Type: | None | Seats: | 1 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 12/02/2012, Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 0 |
| Airframe Total Time: | 2200 Hours | Engine Manufacturer: | |
| ELT: | Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | Engine Model/Series: | |
| Registered Owner: | PAYNTER G FRANK | Rated Power: | |
| Operator: | PAYNTER G FRANK | Air Carrier Operating Certificate: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | | Observation Time: | |
| Distance from Accident Site: | | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Direction from Accident Site: | | Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | | Temperature/Dew Point: | |
| Lowest Ceiling: | | Visibility | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Altimeter Setting: | | Visibility (RVV): | |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | Moriarty, NM (0E0) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Moriarty, NM (0E0) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 1300 MDT | Type of Airspace: | |

Airport Information

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|----------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| Airport: | None | Runway Surface Type: | |
| Airport Elevation: | | Runway Surface Condition: | |
| Runway Used: | N/A | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | | VFR Approach/Landing: | None |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|---------------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Minor | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 Minor | | |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Leah D Yeager | Adopted Date: | 08/13/2013 |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Robert O'Havre; FAA/FSDO; Albuquerque, NM | | |
| Publish Date: | 08/13/2013 | | |
| 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=87151 | | |

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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