



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Mackay, ID	Accident Number:	GAA15CA153
Date & Time:	07/01/2015, 0830 MDT	Registration:	N9887U
Aircraft:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP. AA 5A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Low altitude operation/event	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

During the second leg of a solo cross country flight, the student pilot reported that he became disoriented in mountainous terrain, and flew down a valley that he thought would lead him to his planned route. After entering the valley, the student pilot did not believe he had sufficient distance laterally to turn around, so he decided to initiate a climb to clear the ridge line in front of him. During the climb he heard the stall warning horn intermittently and realized he could not clear the ridge line ahead. The student pilot made an emergency landing into the rising terrain ahead of him and came to rest in the trees.

During a postaccident interview, the student pilot reported that he didn't realize that he lacked the training and understanding for flight into mountainous terrain. The flight instructor who endorsed the student pilot's logbook for this route of flight reported that he should have provided "actual mountain flying training prior to a solo flight over mountainous terrain."

The student pilot stated there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. The left wing and fuselage were substantially damaged.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's disorientation in mountainous terrain and course deviation into a canyon, which resulted in the airplane's inability to out climb terrain and a forced landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Climb capability - Capability exceeded (Cause) Heading/course - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Geographic disorient (lost) - Student pilot (Cause) Transfer of knowledge - Instructor/check pilot Aeronautical knowledge - Student pilot Training - Student pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Course deviation Stall warn/stick-shaker/pusher Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	26
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	05/04/2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 45 hours (Total, all aircraft), 43 hours (Total, this make and model), 8 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 41 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP.	Registration:	N9887U
Model/Series:	AA 5A A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	AA5A0287
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/15/2015, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4K
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSUN, 5319 ft msl	Observation Time:	1447 UTC
Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	200°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 15000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 6°C
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots, 320°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.2 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	TWIN FALLS, ID (TWF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	CHALLIS, ID (LLJ)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	0720 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G; Military Operation Area

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
Total Injuries:	1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Adam M Gerhardt	Adopted Date:	08/11/2015
Additional Participating Persons:	Keith Rittenberry; Boise FSDO (FAA); Boise, ID		
Publish Date:	12/01/2015		
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=91475		

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