



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Mackay, ID	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA15CA153
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/01/2015, 0830 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N9887U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP. AA 5A	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	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.

## Flight Events

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

## Probable Cause

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-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Aircraft capability-Climb capability-Capability exceeded - C  
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Heading/course-Not attained/maintained - C  
Personnel issues-Psychological-Perception/orientation/illusion-Geographic disorient (lost)-  
Student/instructed pilot - C  
Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Knowledge-Transfer of knowledge-Instructor/check pilot  
Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Knowledge-Aeronautical knowledge-Student/instructed  
pilot  
Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Training-(general)-Student/instructed pilot

## Student Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Student	<b>Age:</b>	26
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(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

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP.	<b>Registration:</b>	N9887U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AA 5A A	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-360-A4K
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KSUN, 5319 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	
<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	8 knots, 320°
<b>Temperature:</b>	21°C / 6°C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	TWIN FALLS, ID (TWF)	<b>Destination:</b>	CHALLIS, ID (LLJ)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<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

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Adam M Gerhardt	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	08/11/2015
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=91475">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=91475</a>		

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