



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Oliver Springs, TN	Accident Number:	GAA17CA236
Date & Time:	04/15/2017, 1525 EDT	Registration:	N122BD
Aircraft:	ZEILER BAKENG DUCE 1976 CZ	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during approach, while flying from the rear seat of the tandem-seat, high-wing airplane, he "needed to lose speed and altitude." He placed the airplane in a right-wing-low, forward slip, and he added that the airplane had poor forward visibility at slower speeds. He aligned the airplane with the center of the runway and "pulled the nose up slightly to slow [down]," and a "wind gust" came from the right and "pushed" the airplane over the trees. He "saw [the] tree tops coming up fast under [his] left wing," and "out of shear instinct, [he] banked slightly right to avoid going in nose first." The airplane collided with the tree tops.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings and the empennage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The automated weather observation system about 3 nautical miles from the accident site, about the time of the accident, reported that the wind was variable at 3 knots. The pilot landed to the southwest.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's unstabilized approach and failure to go around, which resulted in impact with trees.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause) Lack of action - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Miscellaneous/other Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	40, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/28/2016
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/22/2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 277 hours (Total, all aircraft), 27 hours (Total, this make and model), 245 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	ZEILER	Registration:	N122BD
Model/Series:	BAKENG DUCE 1976 CZ NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1982	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	1776-CZ
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/09/2016, Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	787.5 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-290
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	125 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KOQT, 910 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	3 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1853 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	89°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 6000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 9500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Light and Variable /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	Variable	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.25 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26° C / 11° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	WILLIAMSBURG, KY (BYL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Oliver Springs, TN	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1445 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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	Latitude, Longitude:	36.023333, -84.300278 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric A Swenson	Report Date:	06/20/2017
Additional Participating Persons:	Neal R Thorne; FAA; Nashville, TN		
Publish Date:	06/20/2017		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=95017		

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