



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Eufaula, Alabama	Accident Number:	GAA15CA198
Date & Time:	July 26, 2015, 09:15 Local	Registration:	N804EV
Aircraft:	EVEKTOR-AEROTECHNIK AS SPORTSTAR	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that after completing his before takeoff checklist, the checklist was "blown" outside of the airplane. After he retrieved the checklist and restarted his engine, he stated that he "scanned all the instruments but did not go through the complete checklist". As the main landing gear lifted off the runway during the takeoff roll the canopy "popped up". The pilot stated that as he was attempting to close the canopy, the airplane drifted to the left of the runway and impacted trees about 8 feet above the ground. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and empennage.

The pilot reported there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation.

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 direction control during takeoff, and the pilot's failure to ensure that the canopy of the airplane was secured and locked prior to departure.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Personnel issues	Use of checklist - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Effect on equipment

Factual Information

History of Flight

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	60
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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:	Sport pilot None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 14, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 385 hours (Total, all aircraft), 245 hours (Total, this make and model), 358 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	EVEKTOR-AEROTECHNIK AS	Registration:	N804EV
Model/Series:	SPORTSTAR NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2006	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Special light-sport (Special)	Serial Number:	2006 0804
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 10, 2015 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1213 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	5.7 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	269.3 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	912 ULS
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KEUF, 285 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:58 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	11°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	120°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.98 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Eufaula, AL (EUF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	HEADLAND, AL (0J6)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WEEDON FIELD EUF	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	285 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	31.950277,-85.129165(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Vanover, Jackie
Additional Participating Persons:	George B Castleberry; FAA; Vestavia, AL
Original Publish Date:	September 11, 2015
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=91634

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