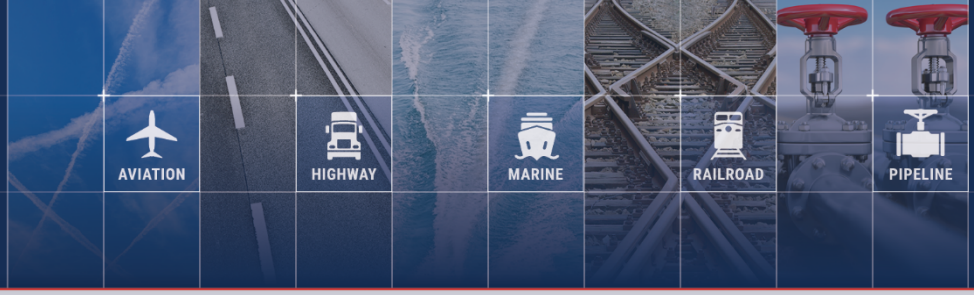

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Strawberry Reservoir, Utah	**Accident Number:**	WPR23LA126
Date & Time:	March 11, 2023, 11:30 Local	**Registration:**	N553AT
Aircraft:	Trendak Taurus	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	**Injuries:**	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while flying low over a snow-covered frozen lake, the gyrocopter was closer to the surface than he realized. The pilot increased engine power to attempt to climb away from the surface, however, the nosewheel impacted snow on the surface and the gyrocopter nosed over, rolled, and came to rest on its side. The fuselage, horizontal stabilizer, and rudders were substantially damaged. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the gyrocopter 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 clearance from the snow-covered lake while flying at a low altitude.

Findings

Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Aircraft	Altitude - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Snowy/icy terrain - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	59,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Gyroplane	**Restraint Used:**	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	May 14, 2021
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	550.3 hours (Total, all aircraft), 33.2 hours (Total, this make and model), 489 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 13.1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0.7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		**Age:**	Male
Airplane Rating(s):		**Seat Occupied:**	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		**Restraint Used:**	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):		**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):		**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:		**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Trendak	**Registration:**	N553AT
Model/Series:	Taurus	**Aircraft Category:**	Gyroplane
Year of Manufacture:	2017	**Amateur Built:**	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	**Serial Number:**	T&S F26917S
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	**Seats:**	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 7, 2023 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	140 Hrs as of last inspection	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Rotax
ELT:	Not installed	**Engine Model/Series:**	912 UL 2-01
Registered Owner:	On file	**Rated Power:**	160 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:	KPVU,4497 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:56 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	276°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 6000 ft AGL	**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 20000 ft AGL	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	None / None
Wind Direction:		**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	3°C / -5°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Provo, UT (KPVU)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Provo, UT (KPVU)	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	10:49 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:		**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	**Latitude, Longitude:**	40.17,-111.13(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Blocher, Kristyn
Additional Participating Persons:	John Hansen; Federal Aviation Administration; SLC
Original Publish Date:	April 20, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106882