



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Wake Forest, North Carolina	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA23LA207
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	April 15, 2023, 15:11 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N33873
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Schweizer SGS 1-26E	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Aerodynamic stall/spin	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

According to the student pilot of the glider, another glider was still on the runway as he was entering the downwind leg of the airport traffic pattern for landing. He decided to land short of the turf runway and entered the glider into a forward slip in order to touch down in the intended area. He reported that, upon removing the slip, he noted that the airspeed decayed "from 60 to 30," and about 40 to 45 ft above the ground, he realized that the glider was "stalled" and that he "had no control over the aircraft." The glider impacted a parked tow airplane and terrain, resulting in substantial damage to the leading edge of the left wing and the aft fuselage. The student pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the glider 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 student pilot's failure to maintain airspeed during the landing approach, which resulted in an exceedance of the glider's critical angle of attack, an aerodynamic stall, and a loss of control.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Angle of attack - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Landing	Aerodynamic stall/spin (Defining event)
Landing	Loss of control in flight
Landing	Collision during takeoff/land

### Student pilot Information

Certificate:	None	Age:	16, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	25 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Schweizer	<b>Registration:</b>	N33873
<b>Model/Series:</b>	SGS 1-26E	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Glider
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1974	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	615
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tandem	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	June 1, 2022 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	700 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	0
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1425 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	NORTH CAROLINA SOARING ASSOCIATION	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	NORTH CAROLINA SOARING ASSOCIATION	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KLHZ, 369 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	11 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	11:15 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	44°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>		<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 1400 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	4 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	None / None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	260°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.98 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	18°C / 15°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Wake Forest, NC	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Wake Forest, NC	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	CROOKED CREEK 7NC5	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	250 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	22	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2500 ft / 50 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.89035,-78.486213(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Boggs, Daniel
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Eden King; FAA; Greensboro, NC
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	June 29, 2023
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 4</a>
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=107132">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=107132</a>

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