



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	BREVARD, NC	Accident Number:	ATL83AA029
Date & Time:	11/12/1982, 0514 EST	Registration:	N59771
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-350	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

AFTER A MISSED APPROACH AT ASHEVILLE THE FLT WAS CLEARED TO THE GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG ARPT AT GREER,SC. ENROUTE TO GREER RADAR CONTACT WAS LOST. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM ATLANTA ARTCC THE PLT VERIFIED HIS POSITION AS BEING ON THE 235 DEG RADIAL OF SPARTANBURG VOR & 11.9 MI SW. HE WAS THEN CLEARED TO DESCEND TO 2700 FT & EXECUTE AN ILS APCH. THE ACFT IMPACTED A MOUNTAIN AT THE 3200 FT LEVEL. THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND ON THE 235 DEG RADIAL OF THE SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN VORTAC & AT 24 MI. REVIEW OF THE ACFT'S LOGBOOK REVEALED THAT MECHANICAL IRREGULARITIES REPORTED WERE NOT CORRECTED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. NO CORRECTIVE ACTION WAS LISTED FOR AN "OUTER MARKER INOP AURAL & VISUAL (NEEDS TO BE FIXED NOW, SINCE ADF IS ALSO INOP)." & "LIGHT IN #2 VOR HEAD OUT.". THE MARKER BEACON WAS DESCRIBED AS INOPERATIVE ON 3 DATES BEGINNING 8/22/81, & THE ADF WAS DESCRIBED AS INOPERATIVE ON 7 DATES BEGINNING 5/8/81. NO CORRECTIVE ACTION WAS LISTED FOR ANY ENTRY ABOUT THE MARKER BEACON OR ADF.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) COMM/NAV EQUIPMENT - INOPERATIVE
2. (F) MAINTENANCE - NOT PERFORMED - COMPANY MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
3. (F) OPERATION WITH KNOWN DEFICIENCIES IN EQUIPMENT - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) COMPANY-INDUCED PRESSURE - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT
5. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
7. (F) MISSED APPROACH - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (C) IFR PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
9. (C) FLIGHT/NAVIGATION INSTRUMENT(S) - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
10. (F) COMPANY-INDUCED PRESSURE - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT
11. (F) EXCESSIVE WORKLOAD (TASK OVERLOAD) - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	25, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/06/1982
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3300 hours (Total, all aircraft), 900 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N59771
Model/Series:	PA-31-350 PA-31-350	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	31-7652041
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	65 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5131 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-J2BD
Registered Owner:	CRABTREE AVIATION COMPANY	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:	HILL-WILLIFORD AVIATION	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	AVL, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	19 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0547	Direction from Accident Site:	55°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	17 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	58° C / 0° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	COLUMBUS, OH (CMH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	ASHEVILLE, NC (AVL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0243	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Report Date:	11/12/1983
Additional Participating Persons:		
Publish Date:		
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .	

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).