

Statement of Anthony Nelson, Student Pilot of N3209E
Thursday, August 18, 2011

To: Albert Branch, ASI, Baton Rouge FSDO

Today, I was on a solo training flight in N3209E from Monroe Regional Airport out in the southeast training area from the airport, practicing intercepting and tracking VOR radials. I intended to do a touch-and-go at Winnsboro and return to Monroe Regional Airport by tracking inbound on various radials.

I made my traffic call-outs on 122.8 and entered the traffic pattern for a landing on Runway 36. I made a normal landing, retracted my flaps, pushed in my carb heat and set full power with the throttle.

As I began to lift off, a cross wind from the right caught me and drifted me to the left. I tried to correct with ailerons and rudder, but was carried further to the left and my left wingtip struck a limb of a small tree at the boundary of the runway right-of-way. The airplane lost speed and came down on the runway shoulder, causing the nose wheel collapsed and the prop struck the ground.

The wind sock at Winnsboro was showing wide swings in direction at the time. I feel I got caught by a sudden, gusty cross wind.

Anthony Nelson
