

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

July 20, 2016

GPS Device

Specialist's Factual Report By Sean Payne

1. EVENT

Location: Stephenville, Texas
Date: March 26, 2016
Aircraft: Grumman American Aviation Corp. AA-1B
Registration: N8883L
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: CEN16LA134

2. SUMMARY

On March 26, 2016, about 1115 central daylight time (CDT), a Grumman American Aviation Corp. AA-1B airplane, N8883L, impacted terrain during a forced landing near Stephenville, Texas, following a loss of engine power. The pilot and his passenger sustained minor injuries. The airplane was substantially damaged during the forced landing. The airplane was registered to and operated by the pilot as a 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* 91 personal flight. Day visual meteorological conditions prevailed along the route of flight about the time of the accident, and the flight was not operating on a flight plan. The flight originated from the Dallas Executive Airport, near Dallas, Texas, about 0958 and was destined for the Stephenville Clark Regional Airport (SEP), near Stephenville, Texas.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following device:

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Magellan GPS 315
Serial Number:	215307

3.1. Device Description

The Magellan GPS 315 is a small, handheld GPS receiver. It has a built in database that can store information for cities and user generated landmarks. It has a small electronic display with 2 levels of brightness. The unit is ruggedized and weatherproof. The unit does not appear to have the capability to store tracks in non-volatile memory.

3.2. Device Condition

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an examination revealed the unit had not sustained any damage. The unit is pictured below in figure 1.



Figure 1. Photo of Magellan GPS 315.

3.3. Data Description

This device is not capable of storing track data in the non-volatile memory (NVM).¹ The unit can store GPS breadcrumb data had it remained under power. Power was applied to the unit and the device did not reveal a track history. Figure 2 shows the plot screen after the device was powered in a GPS signal free environment. The device showed a map in the vicinity of Stephenville Clark Regional Airport (KSEP), Stephenville, TX.



Figure 2. Photo of Magellan GPS 315 screen when powered.

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.