

Preliminary Report

Date: June 10, 2025

Aircraft Make: 1965 SCHWEIZER

Certification: Standard

Aircraft Model: SGS-1-26C

Accident No:

Registration: N9839E

Serial No: 270

On June 1, 2025, at 1500 local time, a Schweizer Glider SGS 1-26C (N9839E) experienced a hard landing at Sky Soaring Airport (55LL) in Union, IL. Operating under CFR Part 91, the glider had one pilot on board, who reported no injuries. During the approach from the south to runway 27, the pilot used a slip maneuver to reduce altitude but felt too low to continue the approach. To avoid landing in a surrounding field, the pilot turned 45 degrees to land on runway 90, touching down in the center with one-third of runway left. The aircraft was unable to stop before the runway's end, where it went past the threshold, and came to rest with the left wing contacting the upside of a depression at the end of the field. The aircraft was moved to the parking area with notable damage.

On June 10, 2025, upon arrival at Sky Soaring Airport (55LL) in Union, IL, N9839E was found tied down with flight control locks and covers attached. A flight control continuity checks later showed all movements were correct and functioning. However, a 360-degree inspection revealed damage to the left wing: the root area appeared buckled with popped fasteners, the mid-section had creases, the tip had a dent and scratches, and the underside showed similar damage. These findings indicate a further in-depth damage assessment. All routine maintenance was found to be properly scheduled and up to date.

