

Gynoplane N470CH

NOV-17-2017

This is a statement of facts concerning an incident that occurred this morning at approximately 10:50 AM EST at Cape Fear Jet Port (KSUT). The aircraft involved was gynoplane N470CH. I was PIC with an instructor (Mike Smith). We were training in said gynoplane to gain currency and my Bi Annual Review. After a very thorough preflight and briefing we started engine and did a lengthy warm up. Skies were clear with a 9KT Head wind straight down Runway 23. We did our run up at 4000 RPM and completed magenta checks, then I further throttled the engine close to 5000 RPM. We were satisfied with Run up and completed pre take off Checklist. We took off on Runway 5 and climbed to Approx 70'-100' AGL. The gyno took off normally. I leveled off and noticed that the engine did not seem to be making maximum power. As we approached the runway end our power had greatly diminished. I said to Mike that we need to land now! He took control of the gyno and did a 180° Turn and by the end of the turn we were on the ground in the grass just west of the end of Runway five. Mike used his emergency skills flawlessly to save life and limb. He stopped Rotor and shut down engine. We exited the plane safely.

Michael T. Simmons

11/17/2017

Statement from Michael Smith SEI Gyroplane/Rotorwing
ON NOV 17, 2017 WENT TO FLY CAVALON 470CH WITH
MIKE SIMMONS. WE STARTED THE AIRCRAFT, LET IT WARM
UP AND TAXIED TO RUNWAY 5. WE DID A GOOD RUN UP
AND MAG CR. WE EVEN PUSHED THE THROTTLE UP TO CLOSE
TO 5,000 RPM BUT THE BRAKES COULDN'T HOLD US. MIKE
SIMMONS DID THE PRE-ROTATION/TAKE OFF. EVERYTHING SEEMED
NORMAL. AS WE WERE APPROACHING THE DEPARTURE END OF
THE RUNWAY HE MENTIONED THAT HE DIDN'T FEEL LIKE WE WERE
GETTING ANYWHERE. HE BACKED OFF THE THROTTLE ^{CHIE} A LITTLE THEN
WENT BACK TO FULL THROTTLE. I NOTICED THE ENGINE
WAS NOT PRODUCING 100%. I SAW 4,000 RPM AND IT WAS
DECREASING. BY THIS TIME WE STARTED SINKING A LITTLE
SO I SAID MY AIRCRAFT, KNOWING I DIDN'T WANT TO LAND
ON THE PAVEMENT WITH A HIGH RATE OF DESCENT, I DID A
180 AND LANDED IT ON THE GRASS NEXT TO THE RUNWAY.

Michael A. Smith

SEI