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Sr. Air Safety Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety-Eastern Region

Date: April 24, 2024

Subject: ERA22LA427, Wing Examination

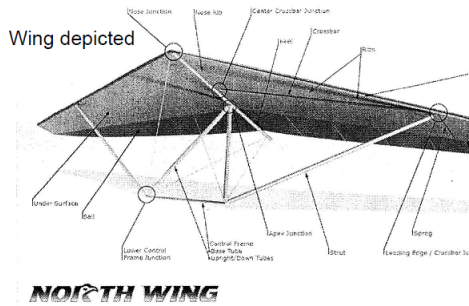
Contact: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airworthiness Inspector Jerry L. Toms, Greensboro, North Carolina, Flight Standards District Office (FSDO).

As part of the initial wreckage examination, the wing assembly had not been recovered nor part of the initial inspection by FAA inspector Toms which took place on October 6, 2022¹. The wing was subsequently located months later.

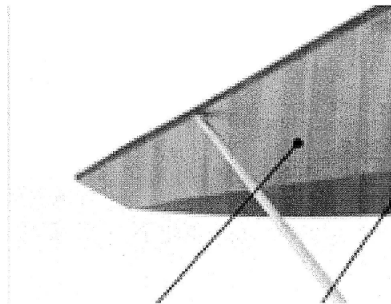
On October 18, 2023, inspector Toms reported he and one other FAA inspector examined the recovered wing assembly. As part of that inspection, he reported that the wing sail appeared, "as I recall, to have moved inboard along the leading edge tube, and bunched up at the leading edge tube and strut juncture (Figure 1). The inspector reported that the right leading edge tube remained extended beyond the strut attachment. His inspection of the left side wing revealed it was relatively intact. He did not perceive of structural failure of any portion of the wing, rather the outer portion of the right sail moved inboard along the leading edge tube for undetermined reasons².

¹ Refer to NTSB Wreckage Examination Summary contained in the NTSB public docket for the investigation.

² Inspector Toms was informed NTSB would contact a representative of the airframe manufacturer for information as to how the sail was secured to the wing structure.



Focused on Right Wing and Center Section of Ultralight



Right Wing Outboard Leading edge and tip to Strut at LE.

Lower Right: Fabric appeared to come loose at Wingtip then slid and moved inward across remaining wing structure, then loose fabric bunching up inboard near the wing to strut fittings area of wing.

Readable note in highlighted box below, and shows leading edge tubular spar which fabric appeared to slide across while bunching up.

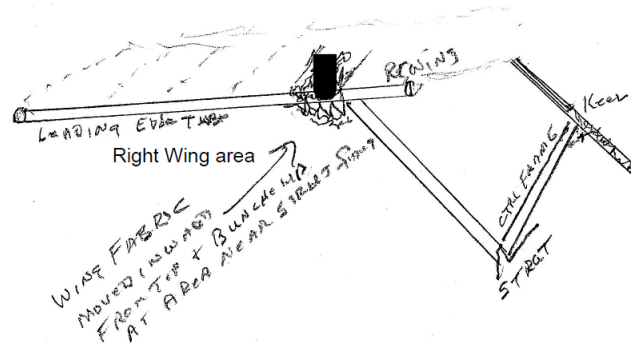


Figure 1: Annotated Pictures From Weight-Shift Control (WSC) Aircraft Manufacturer's web site and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airworthiness Inspector's Illustration and Notes of Wreckage Wing Examination.