

Oct 8 2022 14:00

While flying a club glider  
(VS20RS) the canopy suddenly  
and without warning separated  
from the aircraft. I was  
looking to the left when I  
heard a loud noise and felt  
the wind blast. I did not  
see the canopy fly off nor  
did I see a bird or other  
object. I thought I had  
accidentally jettisoned the canopy  
but noted the latch and jettison  
position handle in normal  
position. I fortunately had  
full frame sun glasses on that  
protected my eyes from the  
wind so my vision was not

Compromised. I checked the controls and the aircraft was flying normally. I could not hear the radios but made traffic notifications and attempted to inform ground operations of my situation. The incident occurred at about 3,700 MSL. I immediately descended to pattern altitude and completed a normal landing.

This flight was a ferry from KERR to V655. I completed a full pre flight including a positive control check.

Just prior to take off, the assistant duty officer confirmed the canopy was closed and latched through pins.

The flight had moderate to heavy turbulence which was challenging but I did not experience any concerning forces on the aircraft.

However I did hit my head (top of head) on the back of the canopy twice although not hard (no hot in headset). My belts lap + shoulder were snug. I did hear an unusual noise in the cockpit during the flight and I checked the wheels broke (I left the retractable main gear down during the flight for additional drag). I finally attributed the noise to wind turbulence.