

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD PILOT/OPERATOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

This form to be used for reporting civil and public aircraft accidents and incidents

BASIC INFORMATION

Accident/Incident Location

Nearest City/Place: Spruce Grove Rd. Hidden Valley Lake State: CA
 ZIP: 95467 Country: USA
 Latitude: 38°48'12.01"N Longitude: 122°34'28.52"W
(Enter in decimal degrees or degrees:minutes:seconds)

Accident/Incident Date/Time

Date: 07/18/2015 Local Time: 8:45
mm/dd/yyyy Time Zone: PST

Collision with Other Aircraft: ☐ Midair ☐ On-ground ☒ None

AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

Registration Number: N-938S

Manufacturer: Kubicek

Model: BB100Z

Serial Number: 914

Year of Manufacture: 2012

Amateur-Built: ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes: ☐ Kit/Plans ☐ Original Design Make: _____

☐ IFR-Equipped and Certified
☒ Commercial Space Flight
☐ Unmanned Aircraft

Maximum Gross Weight: 7000 lbs

Weight at Time of Accident/Incident: 5360 lbs

Number of Seats: _____ Flight Crew Seats: 1

Cabin Crew Seats: _____ Passenger Seats: 20

Number of Engines: 4 burners

Category of Aircraft

- ☐ Airplane
☒ Balloon
☐ Blimp/Dirigible
☐ Glider
☐ Gyroplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift
☐ Rocket
☐ Ultralight
☐ Unknown

Type of Airworthiness Certificate (Check all that apply)

- | Standard | Special |
|---|---|
| ☒ Normal | ☐ Restricted |
| ☐ Aerobatic | ☐ Limited |
| ☐ Balloon | ☐ Provisional |
| ☐ Commuter | ☐ Special Flight |
| ☐ Transport | ☐ Experimental |
| ☐ Utility | ☐ Special Light-Sport |
| | ☐ Experimental Light-Sport |
| ☐ Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA) | |
| ☐ None ☐ Unknown | |

Landing Gear

- (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Retractable
- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Tricycle | ☐ Tailwheel |
| ☐ Amphibian | ☐ High Skid |
| ☐ Emergency Float | ☐ Skid |
| ☐ Float | ☐ Ski |
| ☐ Hull | ☐ Ski/Wheel |
| ☐ Other Launch/Recovery System | |
| ☒ None ☐ Unknown | |

Engine Type (Select one)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Reciprocating | ☐ Liquid Rocket |
| ☐ Turbo Shaft | ☐ Solid Rocket |
| ☐ Turbo Prop | ☐ Hybrid Rocket |
| ☐ Turbo Jet | ☐ None |
| ☐ Turbo Fan | ☐ Unknown |
| ☐ Electric | |

Fuel System Type (Reciprocating)

- ☐ Carburetor ☐ Fuel-Injected

Engine	Engine Manufacturer	Engine Model/Series	Manufacturer's Serial Number	Date of Mfg. <i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>	Rated Power ☐ Horsepower or ☐ lbs of Thrust	Total Time (hours)	Time Since: Inspection (hours)	Overhaul (hours)
Eng. 1								
Eng. 2								
Eng. 3								
Eng. 4								

Last Inspection Type

- ☐ 100-Hour ☒ Continuous Airworthiness
☐ AAIP ☐ Conditional Inspection
☐ Annual ☐ Unknown

Date Last Inspection: 03/06/2015
mm/dd/yyyy

Airframe Total Time: 339:10 hrs
 hours measured at (Select one)
☐ Last Inspection ☒ Time of Accident/Incident

Type of Maintenance Program (Select one)

- ☒ Annual
☐ Conditional (Amateur-built only)
☐ Manufacturer's Inspection Program
☐ Other Approved Inspection Program (AAIP)
☐ Continuous Airworthiness
☐ Other, specify: _____

Description of Fire Extinguishing System

- ☐ None ☒ Specify: On Board Fire Extinguisher

Propeller 1

- ☐ Fixed Pitch
☐ Controllable Pitch
☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Propeller 2

- ☐ Fixed Pitch
☐ Controllable Pitch
☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

ELT Installed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

ELT Manufacturer: _____

Model or Part No.: _____

TSO No.: ☐ C91 (121.5 MHz) ☐ C91a (121.5 MHz)
☐ C126 (406 MHz)

Was ELT still mounted in aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was ELT still connected to antenna? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Did ELT Activate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If activated:

Did ELT Aid in Locating Aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not activated:

- Indicate Reason: ☐ Impact Damage
☐ Fire Damage
☐ Battery Expired/Damaged
☐ Unknown

Additional Equipment (Check all that apply)

- ☐ ADS-B
☐ Airframe Parachute
☐ Angle of Attack Indicator
☐ Autopilot
☐ Data Recorder
☐ Electronic Flight Bag or Handheld Device
☐ Electronic Multifunction Display
☐ Electronic Primary Flight Display
☐ Handheld GPS
☐ Heads Up Display
☐ Onboard Weather
☐ Satellite Tracking Device
☐ Stall Warning System
☐ Video Recording Device
☐ Other, Specify: _____

Registered Aircraft Owner

Name: Wim Scott van der Horst

Fractional Ownership Aircraft: ☐ Yes ☒ No

City: Eagle Point

State: OR ZIP: 97524

Country: _____

City: Sebastopol

State: CA ZIP: 95472

Country: USA

☐ Aerial Application ☐ Firefighting ☐ Unknown
☒ Aerial Observation ☐ Flight Test
☐ Air Drop ☐ Glider Tow
☐ Air Race/Show ☐ Instructional
☐ Banner Tow ☐ Other Work Use
☐ Business ☐ Personal
☐ Executive/Corporate ☐ Positioning
☐ External Load ☐ Skydiving
☐ Ferry

☐ Yes ☐ No

Distance From Airport Center: _____ sm
Direction From Airport: _____ degrees true
Airport Elevation: _____ ft. msl

☐ Dry	☐ Snow-Compacted	☐ Water-Calm
☐ Holes	☐ Snow-Crusted	☐ Water-Choppy
☐ Ice Covered	☐ Snow-Dry	☐ Water-Glassy
☐ Rough	☐ Snow-Wet	☐ Wet
☐ Rubber Deposits	☐ Soft	
☐ Slush-Covered	☐ Vegetation	☐ Unknown

☐ Asphalt	☐ Grass/Turf	☐ Macadam	☐ Water
☐ Concrete	☐ Gravel	☐ Metal/Wood	
☐ Dirt	☐ Ice	☐ Snow	☐ Unknown

☐ Taxi	☐ VFR Departure	☐ On Instrument Approach	☐ Downwind	☐ Low Approach
☐ Takeoff	☐ IFR Departure Procedure/Clearance	☐ Landing	☐ Base	☐ Go Around
☐ Initial Climb			☐ Final	☐ Aborted Landing (after touchdown)
			☐ Crosswind	☐ Unknown

- ☐ None
- ☐ Traffic Pattern
- ☐ Straight-In
- ☐ Valley/Terrain Following
- ☐ Go Around
- ☐ Full Stop
- ☐ Stop and Go
- ☐ Touch and Go
- ☐ Simulated Forced Landing
- ☐ Forced Landing
- ☐ Precautionary Landing
- ☐ Unknown

“Flight Crewmember 1” Responsibilities at the Time of Accident/Incident

“Flight Crewmember 1” was pilot flying ☒ Yes ☐ No

“Flight Crewmember 1” Identification

Certificate Number: [REDACTED]

Degree of Injury ☒ None ☐ Fatal ☐ Minor ☐ Unknown ☐ Serious		Seat Occupied ☒ Left ☐ Front ☐ Unknown ☐ Right ☐ Rear ☐ Center ☐ Single		Restraint Type Available ☐ None ☒ Lap only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☒ None ☐ Lap only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown		Inflatable Restraints ☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown
Pilot Certificate(s) <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ None ☒ Flight Instructor ☒ Commercial ☐ US Military ☐ Private ☐ Recreational ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Foreign ☐ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Flight Engineer						

Principal Occupation	Medical Certificate	Medical Certificate Validity	Date of Last Medical
☒ Pilot ☐ Other ☐ Unknown	☒ None ☐ Class 3 ☐ Class 1 ☐ Driver's License (Sport Pilot only) ☐ Class 2 ☐ Unknown	☐ Without limitations/waivers ☐ Unknown ☐ With limitations/waivers ☐ N/A ☐ Special Issuance	<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>

Medical Certificate Limitations

Medical Certificate Special Issuance

Date of Last Flight Review or Equivalent, Including FAR 121/135 Checks: 07/07/2015 mm/dd/yyyy	Flight Review Aircraft Make: Kubicek Model: BB100Z
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Airplane Rating(s) (Check all that apply)	Other Aircraft Rating(s) (Check all that apply)	Instrument Rating(s) (Check all that apply)	Instructor Rating(s) (Check all that apply)
☐ None ☐ Single-Engine Land ☐ Single-Engine Sea ☐ Multiengine Land ☐ Multiengine Sea	☐ None ☐ Airship ☒ Balloon ☐ Glider ☐ Gyroplane ☐ Helicopter ☐ Powered Lift	☐ None ☐ Airplane ☐ Helicopter ☐ Powered Lift	☐ None ☐ Airplane Single-Engine ☐ Airplane Multi-Engine ☐ Gyroplane ☐ Powered Lift ☐ Instrument Airplane ☐ Instrument Helicopter ☐ Helicopter ☐ Glider ☐ Sport

Type Ratings	Student Endorsements <i>(Include dates)</i>

[illegible]

"FLIGHT CREWMEMBER 2" INFORMATION**"Flight Crewmember 2" Responsibilities at the Time of Accident/Incident**

☐ Pilot
 ☐ Co-Pilot
 ☐ Student Pilot
 ☐ Flight Instructor
 ☐ Check Pilot
 ☐ Flight Engineer
 ☐ Other Flight Crew

"Flight Crewmember 2" was pilot flying ☐ Yes ☐ No

"Flight Crewmember 2" Identification

First Name: _____ City of Residence: _____

Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Last Name: _____ Country: _____

Age at time of Accident/Incident: _____ Date of Birth: _____ mm/dd/yyyy

Certificate Number: _____

Degree of Injury

☐ None ☐ Fatal
☐ Minor ☐ Unknown
☐ Serious

Seat Occupied

☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Unknown
☐ Right ☐ Rear
☐ Center ☐ Single

Restraint Type**Available**

☐ None
☐ Lap only
☐ 3-point
☐ 4-point
☐ 5-point
☐ Unknown

Used

☐ None
☐ Lap only
☐ 3-point
☐ 4-point
☐ 5-point
☐ Unknown

Inflatable Restraints

☐ Not Installed
☐ Installed
☐ Not Deployed
☐ Deployed
☐ Unknown

Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply)

☐ None ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Commercial ☐ US Military
☐ Private ☐ Recreational ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Foreign
☐ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Flight Engineer

Principal Occupation

☐ Pilot
☐ Other
☐ Unknown

Medical Certificate

☐ None ☐ Class 3
☐ Class 1 ☐ Driver's License (Sport Pilot only)
☐ Class 2 ☐ Unknown

Medical Certificate Validity

☐ Without limitations/waivers ☐ Unknown
☐ With limitations/waivers ☐ N/A
☐ Special Issuance

Date of Last Medical

_____ mm/dd/yyyy

Medical Certificate Limitations**Medical Certificate Special Issuance**
**Date of Last Flight Review
or Equivalent, Including
FAR 121/135 Checks:**

_____ mm/dd/yyyy

Flight Review Aircraft

Make: _____

Model: _____

Airplane Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Single-Engine Land
☐ Single-Engine Sea
☐ Multiengine Land
☐ Multiengine Sea

Other Aircraft Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Airship
☐ Balloon
☐ Glider
☐ Gyroplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift

Instrument Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Airplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift

Instructor Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☐ None ☐ Instrument Airplane
☐ Airplane Single-Engine ☐ Instrument Helicopter
☐ Airplane Multi-Engine ☐ Helicopter
☐ Gyroplane ☐ Glider
☐ Powered Lift ☐ Sport

Type Ratings**Student Endorsements** (Include dates)
Flight Time (Enter appropriate
number of hours in each box)

**All
Aircraft**

**This Make
& Model**

**Airplane
Single
Engine**

**Airplane
Multiengine**

Night

Instrument

Actual

Simulated

Rotorcraft

Glider

**Lighter
Than Air**

Flight Time (Enter appropriate number of hours in each box)	All Aircraft	This Make & Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multiengine	Night	Instrument Actual	Instrument Simulated	Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
Total Time										
Pilot in Command (PIC)										
Time as Instructor										
This Make/Model										
Last 90 Days										
Last 30 Days										
Last 24 Hours										

ADDITIONAL FLIGHT CREWMEMBERS (Exclusive of cabin crew, complete the following information)									
Crew Name and Address					Seat Occupied		Injury		
First Name: _____ City of Residence: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____					☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Center ☐ Rear ☐ Right ☐ Single ☐ Unknown ☐ Unknown		☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown		
Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply)					Restraint Type:		Inflatable Restraints		
☐ None ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Commercial ☐ US Military ☐ Private ☐ Recreational ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Foreign ☐ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Flight Engineer					Available ☐ None ☐ Used ☐ Lap Only ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown ☐ Unknown		☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown		
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft?			Total Flight Time at the Time of this Accident/Incident:						
☐ Yes ☐ No			_____ hrs						
Crew Name and Address					Seat Occupied		Injury		
First Name: _____ City of Residence: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____					☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Center ☐ Rear ☐ Right ☐ Single ☐ Unknown ☐ Unknown		☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown		
Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply)					Restraint Type:		Inflatable Restraints		
☐ None ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Commercial ☐ US Military ☐ Private ☐ Recreational ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Foreign ☐ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Flight Engineer					Available ☐ None ☐ Used ☐ Lap Only ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown ☐ Unknown		☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown		
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft?			Total Flight Time at the Time of this Accident/Incident:						
☐ Yes ☐ No			_____ hrs						
PASSENGER(S) / OTHER PERSONNEL (Include cabin crew; continue on separate sheet if necessary)									
Name and Address			Seat	Injury	Restraint Type		Inflatable Restraints	Age	
First Name: <u>Josephine</u> City : <u>Mendocino</u> Middle Initial: _____ State: <u>CA</u> ZIP: _____ Last Name: <u>Bormacoff</u> Country: <u>USA</u> ☐ Crew ☒ Passenger ☐ Other			☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☒ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years If Under 5, ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	
First Name: <u>Brenna</u> City : <u>Rocky Hill</u> Middle Initial: _____ State: <u>CT</u> ZIP: <u>06067</u> Last Name: <u>Merola</u> Country: <u>USA</u> ☐ Crew ☒ Passenger ☐ Other			☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☒ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years If Under 5, ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	
First Name: <u>Deborah</u> City : <u>Davis</u> Middle Initial: _____ State: <u>CA</u> ZIP: _____ Last Name: <u>Baker</u> Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☒ Passenger ☐ Other			☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☒ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years If Under 5, ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	
First Name: _____ City : _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☐ Passenger ☐ Other			☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years If Under 5, ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	

FLIGHT ITINERARY INFORMATION

Last Departure Point

Airport ID: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Country: _____

Time of Departure

Time: _____

Time Zone: _____

Destination

Airport ID: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Country: _____

Type Flight Plan Filed

☐ None ☐ VFR/IFR
☐ Company VFR ☐ IFR
☐ Military VFR ☐ Unknown
☐ VFR
 Activated? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

Type of ATC Clearance/Service (Check all that apply)

☐ None ☐ Special VFR ☐ Special IFR ☐ VFR Flight Following ☐ Cruise
☐ VFR ☐ IFR ☐ VFR On Top ☐ Traffic Advisory ☐ Unknown / NA

Airspace where the accident/incident occurred (Check all that apply)

☐ Class A ☐ Class G ☐ Military Operations Area (MOA) ☐ Special
☐ Class B ☐ Demo Area ☐ Airport Advisory Area ☐ Air Traffic Control Area
☐ Class C ☐ Warning Area ☐ Jet Training Area ☐ Unknown
☐ Class D ☐ Prohibited Area ☐ TRSA
☐ Class E ☐ Restricted Area ☐ FAR 93

Altitude of In-Flight Occurrence:

_____ ft msl

WEATHER INFORMATION AT THE ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SITE

Source of Pilot Weather Information

(Check all that apply)

☐ National Weather Service ☐ Company
☐ Flight Service Station ☐ Military
☐ TV/Radio ☐ Internet
☐ Automated Report ☐ None
☐ Commercial Weather Service (DUATS) ☐ Unknown
☐ On-Board Weather

Weather Observation Facility

Facility ID: _____

Observation Time: _____

Time Zone: _____

Distance from Accident Site: _____ nm

Direction from Accident Site: _____ degrees true

Basic Conditions

☒ VMC
☐ IMC
☐ Unknown

Light Condition

☐ Dawn ☐ Dusk ☐ Dark Night ☐ Unknown
☒ Day ☐ Night ☐ Bright Night

Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition

☒ Clear ☐ Thin Broken
☐ Few ☐ Thin Overcast
☐ Partial Obscuration ☐ Unknown
☐ Scattered

Lowest Cloud Condition Height

_____ ft agl

Ceiling

☐ None (Clear) ☐ Obscured
☐ Broken ☐ Indefinite
☐ Overcast ☐ Unknown

Ceiling Height

_____ ft agl

Temperature: _____ (C) or _____ (F)

Dew Point: _____ (C) or _____ (F)

Altimeter Setting: _____ in. Hg
 or _____ MB

Wind Direction

☒ Variable

-or-
Direction: _____ degrees true

Wind Speed

☐ Calm
☒ Light and Variable

-or-
Speed: 3 kts

Wind Gusts

☐ Not Gusting

-or-
Speed: _____ kts

Visibility 20 miles

RVR: _____ feet

RVV: _____ miles

Density Altitude: _____ ft

Intensity of Precipitation

☐ Light
☐ Moderate
☐ Heavy
☐ N/A
☐ Unknown

Type of Precipitation (Check all that apply)

☐ None ☐ Drizzle ☐ Freezing Rain
☐ Rain ☐ Ice Pellets ☐ Snow Shower
☐ Snow ☐ Snow Pellets ☐ Ice Pellets Shower
☐ Hail ☐ Snow Grains ☐ Freezing Drizzle
☐ Rain Showers ☐ Ice Crystals

Restriction to Visibility (Check all that apply)

☐ None ☐ Fog
☐ Blowing Dust ☐ Ground Fog
☐ Blowing Sand ☐ Haze
☐ Blowing Snow ☐ Ice Fog
☐ Blowing Spray ☐ Smoke
☐ Dust ☐ Unknown

Icing Forecast

Amount
☐ None ☐ N/A
☐ Trace ☐ Rime
☐ Light ☐ Clear
☐ Moderate ☐ Mixed
☐ Severe ☐ Unknown
☐ Unknown

Icing Actual

Amount
☐ None ☐ N/A
☐ Trace ☐ Rime
☐ Light ☐ Clear
☐ Moderate ☐ Mixed
☐ Severe ☐ Unknown
☐ Unknown

Turbulence

Type (Check all that apply)
☐ None ☐ Light
☐ Clear Air ☐ Moderate
☐ Terrain-Induced ☐ Severe
☐ Convective Turbulence ☐ Extreme

NOTAMs (D and FDC), AIRMETs, SIGMETs, PIREPs in effect at the time of the accident/incident:

None

DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT AND OTHER PROPERTY**Aircraft Damage**

- ☒ None ☐ Substantial
☐ Minor ☐ Destroyed
 ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Fire

- ☐ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Fire at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Explosion

- ☐ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Explosion at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Description of Damage to Aircraft and Other Property *(Use additional sheet if necessary)*

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF FLIGHT (Please type or print in ink)

Describe what occurred in chronological order, including circumstances leading to and nature of accident/incident. Describe terrain and include wreckage distribution sketch if pertinent. Attach extra sheets if needed. State departure time and location, services obtained, and intended destination. Provide as much detail as possible.

All local weather observations and forecast information from NOAA indicated this would be a typical fair-weather flight day in Hidden Valley, Lake County California. This year we have already performed over 40 out of 104 flights in this particular flight corridor. Three other commercial balloons operated at this location that day without incident. Winds aloft were forecasted to be out of the southwest and the ground winds were variable: calm to 3 mph. We used a latex helium pilot balloon to observe relatively calm to variable ground winds at layers up to 500' ultimately heading in a northerly direction and we chose our launch site based on these observations. We inflated at a site located toward the southern center of the valley. I provided all our passengers with a detailed pre-flight briefing with safety instructions. Each passenger party leader joining us that morning had previously received a written description of ballooning hazards via eMail to distribute and every passenger signed a liability waiver before my briefing, which emphasized the possibility of physical injury while flying in a balloon due to adverse wind conditions.

Our balloon inflated without complications. I launched and initially drifted southwest at 3 mph and then ascended to 500' AGL into winds heading north as anticipated. Reaching the northeastern outskirts of the valley I descended from 1200 to 500 AGL and discovered winds moving in a westerly direction. I drifted for about 30 minutes at 300 to 400 feet AGL noticing that the leaves on the trees were now moving and made plans to terminate the flight at our otherwise primary launch site on Spruce Grove Road. At this point, fifteen minutes before landing, I intentionally re-instructed all my passengers about landing procedures, putting an emphasis on the effect of a fast or hard impact landing.

Finally, after being aloft for 45 minutes, using every available wind current, I managed to position the balloon directly over the site on Spruce Grove, hovering approximately 600 to 700 AGL. The ground crew were already in position, prepared for my landing and they kicked up some visible dirt to illustrate the winds were now moving somewhat stronger to the northwest. I descended rapidly in order to make my target, but the shift in winds redirected me toward power lines that extend from the north to the south sides of the field. These lines extend across the entire northwestern portion of the field. I regained buoyancy to avoid contacting the lines but I was committed to landing. After crossing beyond the lines overhead, I deliberately vented excess heat in order to make firm contact the ground. Once the balloon hit the ground it rebounded to a 20 foot height and so I vented once again to reconnect with the ground. I wanted to purposefully slow the balloon's momentum and avoid contact with some upcoming large oak trees. The basket did NOT tip over with either landing and remained upright, awaiting the ground crew's assistance. I requested three male passengers to exit the basket to lighten the balast and assist with the remaining passenger debarkation. I directed the crew to attach a 20' tow strap from the chase vehicle to the burner frame and carefully pulled the balloon backwards along the ground about 50 to 75 feet so it would not deflate against the trees and stabilize its position. This is our routine with any apparent wind conditions. The remaining passengers remained aboard until the balloon was deflated including three individuals who had sustained injury upon our second impact with the ground.

Both of contacts with the ground were hard but not abnormal and quite similar to deliberate or aggressive landings made during my past piloting experiences. It's very rare for injury to result when passengers are paying proper attention and adhering to my instruction. This landing experience is also comparable with other harder landings that I have witnessed among numerous other balloon flights by other skilled pilots. Our first contact with the ground caused no injury to anyone aboard. The immediate second landing however, probably came as a surprise to people who were still disorientated by the first ground contact. This resulted in a passenger Michael Humphreys (200# age 23) to fall upon Brenna Merola, (age 22 and 120#) causing a compound fracture to her right ankle. In the second of this balloon's four separated passenger compartments, Josephine Bormacoff (86 year old and 115#) sustained two fractures to her lower left leg. Both individuals remained in the basket until paramedics arrived and removed them to be taken to the hospital. In a third compartment, 75 year old? 180# Deborah Baker, had fallen to her knees during the first landing and failed to hold on sufficiently during the second landing. Because of this she struck her shoulder against the padded interior sidewall which caused her some injury. Deborah declined any medical attention at that time and walked with some assistance from the basket to our passenger van 200' away.

RECOMMENDATION (How could this accident/incident have been prevented?)

Operator/Owner Safety Recommendation

Any unforeseeable changes in wind direction and speed as it may affect our landing is difficult to anticipate. As a 35 year veteran balloon pilot, I believe this flight and its landing was performed with adequate skill and attention to safety. The physical experience for any fast or hard landing scenario can be difficult for some first time flyers to comprehend and thus prepare for, despite detailed instruction beforehand. People can be easily distracted when they are out of their normal surroundings. If given the opportunity, I will often do a touch and go landing, well before the flight is terminated, in order to give my passengers a first hand real sense of what to physically expect. Not coming to a full stop, especially if there is some wind movement will illustrate them what they must eventually be prepared for. Its a kind of rehearsal. Thankfully we don't typically find ourselves flying in surprisingly windy conditions here in Northern California. If unfavorable wind is anticipated or observed, we will cancel beforehand.

MECHANICAL MALFUNCTION/FAILURE (If more space is needed, continue on separate sheet)Was there Mechanical Malfunction/Failure? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(If yes, list the name of the part, manufacturer, part no., serial no., and describe the failure.)

Total Time/Cycles
On Part

_____ Hours

_____ Cycles

Time Since This Part
Inspected/Overhauled

_____ Hours

FUEL & SERVICES INFORMATION

Fuel on Board at Last Takeoff

(Convert from pounds, as necessary)

95 gallons Gallons

Fuel Type

☐ 80/87☐ 115/145☐ Jet B☐ Other, specify Propane☐ 100 Low Lead☐ Jet A☐ JP8☐ 100/130☐ Jet A-1☐ Automotive

Other Services, if Any, Prior to Departure

EVACUATION OF AIRCRAFTWas an emergency evacuation of the aircraft performed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Method of Exit – Describe how the occupants exited and how many occupants evacuated each location

4 to 5 passengers used step opening to climb out of the basket. The two injured individuals were lifted out on a flat board by paramedics.**OTHER AIRCRAFT – COLLISION (If air or ground collision occurred, complete this section for other aircraft)**

Aircraft Registration Number

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Damage to Other Aircraft

☐ Destroyed☐ Minor☐ Substantial☐ None

Registered Owner of Other Aircraft

Name: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Country: _____

Pilot of Other Aircraft

Name: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Country: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Please type or print in ink)

Use this space if additional space is needed for any answers.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Date of this Report

07/20/15

mm/dd/yyyy

Name of Pilot/Operator: Wim Scott van der Horst

Signature: _____

-- or -- ☐ Check here to electronically sign this document

If a Person Other than Pilot/Operator is Filing Report

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

-- or -- ☐ Check here to electronically sign this document

FOR NTSB USE ONLY

NTSB Accident/Incident No.

GAA15CA195

Reviewed by NTSB Regional Office

GAA

Name of Investigator

Hicks, Michael

Date Report Received

22JUL2015