

On July 20, 2016 during daylight hours, N526TC a Diamond HK36TC Motogliders was involved in a landing accident at a private grass runway in Blanchester, Ohio.

I, Todd Ritchey, was the CFIG giving dual instruction to a certificated private glider pilot. The following is my thoughts on what happened and why:

Weather was not an issue of any kind during this event. The private grass airfield (uncharted) is approximately 3,000ft. long and 100ft wide. An important note is that the runway has a significant crown for drainage.

During landing roll, post touchdown, the motorglider's left wheel went off the left side of the crown which caused the left wingtip to strike corn (approximately 5ft. tall). When the left tip touched the corn it spun the motorglider counterclockwise into the corn field. The motorglider slid laterally for a few feet causing the right main landing gear to buckle/bend inward. Also, during the left spinning motion, it is my opinion that the tail skid struck the grass and caused significant damage to the composite tail boom. The engine was running idle power during the entire event and was shutdown after the aircraft stopped.

The cause of this event was lack of directional control during the landing phase and I believe the crown of the runway played a significant part. When the left main wheel left the crown, full right rudder and brake was not enough to make the appropriate corrections.

Future prevention would include a briefing of wingtip clearances and the importance of "centerline tracking" even on a grass runway. Also, importance of rudder usage and aggressive directional control.

Todd Ritchey

07/22/2016