

Gordon-Tennant, Wally (FAA)

From: Ben M [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 1:36 PM
To: Gordon-Tennant, Wally (FAA)
Subject: Statement

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Wally, please see below for my statement. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Regards , Ben McGill

On April 22, 2018 at approximately 1:15pm I was launching my glider at 5B2. The following is the description of events from my perspective as the glider pilot.

I assembled the glider in the ramp area outside of the ADK Soaring hangar at 5B2. Once assembly and pre-flight inspection was complete the glider was pushed out to the staging area. I entered aircraft, carried out the launch checklist, performed a positive controls check with the assistance of a launch crew member, and was rolled by launch crew into position on runway 32. We were carrying out a normal assisted aerotow takeoff. The initial launch sequence was normal as the glider accelerated and achieved low level flight behind the towplane tail. The glider then abruptly pitched into steep nose high attitude, accelerated rapidly, and was unresponsive to elevator control input. Within a matter of seconds I had lost sight of the tow plane and released the tow rope. Once off tow, elevator responsiveness returned, and I was able to achieve level flight attitude at an estimated altitude of 150 feet (AGL). I made shallow left turn, deployed air-brakes, and landed on the grass to the West of and parallel to runway 23. There was no damage to the glider and I was not injured.