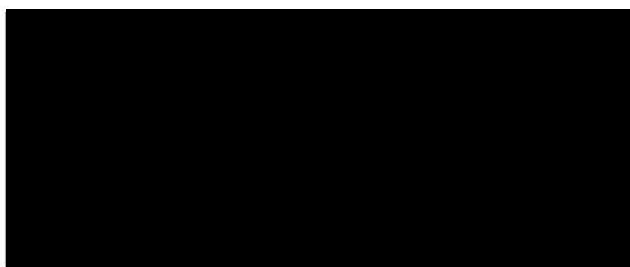


Take off was normal without irregularities proceeding after leaving the airport for a right turn and then another right turn to parallel the runway in a northerly direction climbing to 1000 feet above ground level (AGL) then turning 180 degrees to head South; also parallel to the runway. Continually climbing we again turn to the right 180 degrees heading North again, we are now approaching 3000 feet AGL, the atmosphere was quite bumpy indicating an abundance of thermals. Then we entered what seemed an unusually abrupt atmosphere reminiscent of a rotor of mountainous areas when seeking wave or maybe perhaps a shear situation which startled me, then I heard some thumping in the back and I looked back and noticed that the back canopy was open. At this point I called the tow pilot to let him know.

Having been through this before I knew I would have to land the glider as soon as possible. The tow pilot advised he was going to try to get me closer to the airport, we were still connected by the tow rope. Then totally unexpectedly the glider goes into an uncontrollable downward spin and the front canopy shattered. I was in straight vertical to the ground. This flight configuration lasted what I estimated 10 long seconds, and the as gliders do, the glider turn it itself up and started flying straight and level, minus both canopies, the back canopy was completely gone, the front canopy shattered with jagged edges.

With 3000 feet AGL I viewed my landing options was a large enough field that I knew would be the safest off field landing, but based on my perception of the situation I head for the a very long right base to runway 17, always on the lookout for a spot if the glider did not make it. Fortunately it did and initiated an angled approach to final. AT this point I noticed the controls were not responding properly or none in all. (later inspection on the ground we noticed a section of the tow rope which was still connected to the glider, was wrapped and inserted into the rudder mechanism. Nevertheless, I managed to get the glider onto the runway, but it was an unusually hard landing.



EUGENE LOGAN WAGNER
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