



		NTSB ID: ATL98FAMS1		Aircraft Registration Number: N25626	
		Occurrence Date: 08/18/1998		Most Critical Injury: Fatal	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place MISSING	State CB	Zip Code 00000	Local Time 0000	Time Zone EDT	
Airport Proximity: Unknown		Distance From Landing Facility:			
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Piper		Model/Series PA-28-181 /PA-28-181		Type of Aircraft Airplane	
Revenue Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On August 18, 1998, at an undetermined time, a Piper PA-28-181, N25626, was reported missing and is assumed destroyed, while over the Caribbean Sea. The personal flight operated under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 with a flight plan filed. Weather data recovered during the initial search efforts disclosed that visual weather conditions prevailed at the possible time of the accident. The private pilot and the three passengers are all presumed fatal. According to the fixed base operator, where the airplane was rented, the occupants were British, South African, and Austrian, citizens. According to Customs officials, the flight departed Matthew Town, in the Bahama Islands, at 1023.</p> <p>According to the fixed base operator, the pilot rented the airplane on August 7, 1998 for a trip to the Grand Bahama Island. The pilot and his friends were scheduled to return to Titusville, Florida, on August 24, 1998. When the airplane did not arrive as scheduled, the owner became concerned and began to inquire. Upon establishing contact with the U.S. Coast Guard, the fixed base operator learned that, on August 19, 1998, the U.S. Coast Guard had initiated a sea search for N25626.</p> <p>The search efforts were based upon an overdue airplane report from the air traffic authorities in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They reported that N25626 never arrived at the destination airport in Kingston, Jamaica. According to the air traffic authorities in Port-au-Prince, at 1248, the pilot reported their position at Benet intersection, which is 15 miles from the western tip of the south claw of Haiti. The pilot was instructed to contact Norman Manley Tower in Kingston. No further radio contact was received from N25626.</p> <p>The U.S. Coast Guard conducted a two-day air and sea search for the missing airplane. In addition to the air and sea efforts, the Government of Cuba was asked for assistance. Ramp checks were conducted at several airports along the intended route of flight. These efforts failed to locate the airplane. No aircraft wreckage debris was found on the sea (see attached U.S Coast Guard communication and search report).</p> <p>There were satellite weather images taken at the approximate time N25626 checked in with Port-au Prince, and in the vicinity of Benet Intersection. A review of the weather data revealed cloud cover over Benet intersection and the possibility of convective activity.</p> <p>A review of flight performance data for the Piper PA28-181 disclosed that the total distance between the last departure point and the destination airport is approximately 254 nautical miles. According to the performance charts for the Piper PA-28-181, at 75% cruise power the airplane has a range of 500 to 590 miles.</p> <p>The fixed base operator stated that the pilot was not authorized to fly the airplane beyond the Grand Bahama Island. There were four life vest placed on the airplane when the flight initially departed Titusville. The fixed base operator also stated that he was not aware of the pilot's</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION	NTSB ID: ATL98FAMS1	
	Occurrence Date: 08/18/1998	
	Occurrence Type: Accident	
Narrative (Continued)		
<p>intentions to fly to Kingston. However, a friend of the pilot stated that she was aware of the pilot and his friends intention to continue their trip to Kingston.</p>		
<div>FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION</div> <div>Page 1a</div>		

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: ATL98FAMS1			
		Occurrence Date: 08/18/1998			
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Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used 0	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:					
Runway Surface Condition:					
Approach/Arrival Flown:					
VFR Approach/Landing:					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Piper		Model/Series PA-28-181 /PA-28-181		Serial Number 28-8590091	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Utility					
Landing Gear Type: Tricycle					
Amateur Built Acft? No	Number of Seats: 4	Certified Max Gross Wt. 2550 LBS		Number of Engines: 1	
Engine Type: Reciprocating	Engine Manufacturer: Lycoming		Model/Series: O-260-A4M	Rated Power: 180 HP	
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection 100 Hour	Date of Last Inspection 07/1998	Time Since Last Inspection 103 Hours		Airframe Total Time 4432 Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed?/Type Yes /		ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?		
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner DISCOVERY AVIATION CENTER		Street Address 7003 CHALLENGER AVE			
		City TITUSVILLE	State FL	Zip Code 32780	
Operator of Aircraft PAUL D. BAXTER		Street Address 7 MOTRENWOOD GROVE			
		City HUDDERSFIELD	State UK	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code:		
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held: None					
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):					
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:		
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation					
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Personal					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION Page 2 </div>					

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: ATL98FAMS1																																																																																											
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First Pilot Information																																																																																													
Name		City		State	Date of Birth	Age																																																																																							
On File		On File		On File	On File	25																																																																																							
Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Occupational Pilot? Unknown			Certificate Number: On File																																																																																								
Certificate(s): Private																																																																																													
Airplane Rating(s): Single-engine Land																																																																																													
Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None																																																																																													
Instrument Rating(s): None																																																																																													
Instructor Rating(s): None																																																																																													
Current Biennial Flight Review?																																																																																													
Medical Cert.: Class 3		Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.			Date of Last Medical Exam: 11/1996																																																																																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>- Flight Time Matrix</th> <th>All A/C</th> <th>This Make and Model</th> <th>Airplane Single Engine</th> <th>Airplane Multi-Engine</th> <th>Night</th> <th colspan="2">Instrument Actual Simulated</th> <th>Rotorcraft</th> <th>Glider</th> <th>Lighter Than Air</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Total Time</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Pilot In Command(PIC)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Instructor</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Instruction Received</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Last 90 Days</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Last 30 Days</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Last 24 Hours</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>						- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument Actual Simulated		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air	Total Time											Pilot In Command(PIC)											Instructor											Instruction Received											Last 90 Days											Last 30 Days											Last 24 Hours										
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Seatbelt Used? Unknown		Shoulder Harness Used? Unknown		Toxicology Performed? No		Second Pilot?																																																																																							
Flight Plan/Itinerary																																																																																													
Type of Flight Plan Filed: VFR																																																																																													
Departure Point			State	Airport Identifier	Departure Time	Time Zone																																																																																							
MATTHEW TOWN			BI		1023	EDT																																																																																							
Destination			State	Airport Identifier																																																																																									
KINGSTON			JA	MKJP																																																																																									
Type of Clearance: None																																																																																													
Type of Airspace:																																																																																													
Weather Information																																																																																													
Source of Wx Information:																																																																																													
No record of briefing																																																																																													
<div>FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION</div> <div>Page 3</div>																																																																																													

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: ATL98FAMS1			
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Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
O/S	0858	EDT	10 Ft. MSL	0 NM	0 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear				0 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day
Lowest Ceiling: None			0 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 29.00 "Hg
Temperature: °C		Dew Point: °C		Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions	
Wind Direction: 110		Wind Speed: 8		Wind Gusts:	
Visibility (RVR): 0 Ft.		Visibility (RVV) 0 SM			
Precip and/or Obscuration:					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed	Aircraft Fire: Unknown	Aircraft Explosion: Unknown

- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL	
First Pilot	1				1	
Second Pilot						
Student Pilot						
Flight Instructor						
Check Pilot						
Flight Engineer						
Cabin Attendants						
Other Crew						
Passengers	3				3	
- TOTAL ABOARD -	4				4	
Other Ground	0	0	0		0	
- GRAND TOTAL -	4	0	0		4	

FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION		Page 4
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National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT
AVIATION

NTSB ID: ATL98FAMS1

Occurrence Date: 08/18/1998

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

PHILLIP POWELL

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

STEVE H GORDON
FT LAUDERDALE, FL