

		NTSB ID: LAX02LA022		Aircraft Registration Number: N3516W	
		Occurrence Date: 11/03/2001		Most Critical Injury: None	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Avalon	State CA	Zip Code 90704	Local Time 1645	Time Zone PST	
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility: 5		Direction From Airport: 360	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Piper		Model/Series PA-32-260		Type of Aircraft Airplane	
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 November 3, 2001, at 1645 Pacific standard time, a Piper PA-32-260, N3516W, experienced a loss of engine power during departure climb and ditched into the Pacific Ocean about 5 miles north of Catalina Island, Avalon, California. The airplane was not recovered and is assumed to be substantially damaged. The private pilot and his two passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the personal cross-country flight, which was operating under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 91, and a flight plan had not been filed. The flight was originating at the time of the accident and was en route to Carlsbad, California.</p> <p>According to the pilot's written statement, he inspected the airplane prior to departure. They took off from runway 22 and proceeded with a right downwind departure. While departing the downwind (approximately 3 to 5 miles northeast of the airport), the engine "began to flutter then made several loud metal to metal sounds." The pilot said that the engine continued to run and produce partial power, but he made an emergency radio call and attempted to return to the airport. Though the engine was still running, the airplane lost too much altitude to make the airport so the pilot diverted north along the coast, away from the island cliffs.</p> <p>In less than 1 minute the engine lost total power. The pilot located a boat in the water and ditched the airplane as close to the boat as possible (within 100 yards). The pilot and his passengers manually filled up the buoyancy control vests that they had in the airplane for a scuba diving trip and swam away from the airplane. Within 4 minutes, a 4-man rubber boat picked up the pilot and passengers and took them to a larger boat.</p> <p>The Catalina Island airport manager stated that a pilot reported hearing the accident airplane prior to departure and that the engine sounded "terrible or strange" to him.</p> <p>Review of the aircraft's maintenance records revealed that the airplane underwent its last annual inspection on September 23, 2000, at an airplane total time of 3,462.5 hours. Due to the fact that the airplane and engine were not recovered, the reason for the loss of engine power could not be determined.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					
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 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: LAX02LA022			
		Occurrence Date: 11/03/2001			
		Occurrence Type: Accident			
Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name Catalina	Airport ID: AVX	Airport Elevation 1602 Ft. MSL	Runway Used NA	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type: Unknown					
Runway Surface Condition: Unknown					
Type Instrument Approach: NONE					
VFR Approach/Landing: Forced Landing					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Piper		Model/Series PA-32-260		Serial Number 32-399	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 6	Certified Max Gross Wt. 3400 LBS	Number of Engines: 1		
Engine Type: Reciprocating	Engine Manufacturer: Lycoming	Model/Series: O-540-E4B5	Rated Power: 260 HP		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection Annual	Date of Last Inspection 09/2000	Time Since Last Inspection Hours	Airframe Total Time 3462.5 Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed? Yes	ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner David A. Raine		Street Address On File			
		City Carlsbad	State CA	Zip Code 92009	
Operator of Aircraft Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner		Street Address Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner			
		City	State	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					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: LAX02LA022
	Occurrence Date: 11/03/2001
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 34
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Principal Profession: Unknown	Certificate Number: On File
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Certificate(s): Private

Airplane Rating(s): Single-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None

Instrument Rating(s): None

Instructor Rating(s): None

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review?
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Medical Cert.: Class 3	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 10/1999
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- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
						Actual	Simulated			
Total Time	150									
Pilot In Command(PIC)										
Instructor										
Last 90 Days										
Last 30 Days										
Last 24 Hours										

Seatbelt Used?	Shoulder Harness Used?	Toxicology Performed? No	Second Pilot? No
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: None

Departure Point Avalon	State CA	Airport Identifier AVX	Departure Time 1640	Time Zone PST
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Destination Carlsbad	State CA	Airport Identifier CRQ	
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Type of Clearance: None

Type of Airspace: Class G

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Unknown

Method of Briefing: Unknown

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: LAX02LA022
	Occurrence Date: 11/03/2001
	Occurrence Type: Accident

Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
AVX	1640	PST	1610 Ft. MSL	NM	Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Partial Obscuration			200 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: Indefinite (V V)		200 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 0.75	SM	Altimeter: 30.05 "Hg
Temperature: 13 °C	Dew Point: 13 °C	Wind Direction: 230		Density Altitude: 1632 Ft.	
Wind Speed: 9	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Instrument Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV)	SM	Intensity of Precipitation:		
Restrictions to Visibility: Haze					
Type of Precipitation: None					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: Substantial	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None

Classification: U.S. Registered/U.S. Soil					
- 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				2	2
- TOTAL ABOARD -				3	3
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -				3	3

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: LAX02LA022

Occurrence Date: 11/03/2001

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

George E. Petterson

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Mike Pickering
Aviation Safety Inspector
Federal Aviation Administration
5001 Airport Plaza Drive; Suite 100
Long Beach, CA 90815