

Rapid Travel Racing update on Reno NCAR 2010

Rapid Travel , Race 75, piloted by George Giboney sustained an engine failure during the Super Sport Gold heat on Sunday, September 19, 2010 while entering the Valley of Speed at nearly 390 mph. A scant one minute and 30 seconds later, after calling a mayday and gaining whatever altitude he could, Giboney attempted an emergency dead-stick landing on Runway 26. Despite a lack of air speed, traffic on the race course, and gusting winds, George was able to set the powerless aircraft down diagonally across the east end of the



runway.

Race 75 struck a berm on the side of the runway. Traveling at nearly 70 mph and into a strong headwind the aircraft was launched back up into the air... and the right wing



dropped



The wing tip dug into the sand and the aircraft cart wheeled.



High octane aviation fuel spewed from the left wing as the engine separated from the

fuselage and the cockpit was laid open at George's sides.



The plane continued to cart wheel one more time absorbing its' momentum ...



Finally coming to rest in an upright position, the engine under the wing and George left virtually out in the open, strapped into his safety harness.

George was helped out of the wreckage by the rapidly responding emergency and fire crew who transported him to the medical facilities behind the grandstands. By the grace of God there was no fire, the plane stayed upright and Georges' injuries, though painful, were not critical. Several hours after the crash George was well enough to attend the awards banquet, much to the surprise of those in attendance at the ceremony. Rapid Travel ver 2.0 was damaged beyond repair.



The crew gathered up the pieces on Monday and with the help of John Parker at his hanger, loaded them into the team trailer for the long haul back to Thun Field in WA. Only time will tell what the future holds for George Giboney and the Rapid Travel Racing Team, but one thing is certain we are all thankful that George survived to fly another day!

The dramatic photo sequence of the crash was taken by Jeffery Howard from a grandstand location.