



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	GULF OF MEXICO,	Accident Number:	ERA20CA201
Date & Time:	June 1, 2020, 10:53 Local	Registration:	N619J
Aircraft:	Jabiru J250-SP	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel related	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was conducting a cross country flight and departed the airport with slightly less than 36 gallons of fuel on board. About 1.5 hours into the flight, he noticed that the fuel tank quantities were dropping rapidly. The engine subsequently lost all power, and he set up for a ditching in the Gulf of Mexico. After ditching, the pilot and passenger were picked up by a U.S. Navy helicopter and transported to a local hospital for observation. The airplane eventually sank and was not recovered. The pilot also reported that the engine consumed about 5.5 to 6 gallons of fuel per hour and he suspected a breach of the fuel system prior to the loss of engine power. The airplane was configured with two wing tanks that gravity fed to a header tank; both tanks fed simultaneously utilizing an "On-Off" fuel selector in the cockpit.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A total loss of engine power due to a fuel leak that could not be identified since the wreckage was not recovered.

Findings

Aircraft	(general) - Malfunction
Not determined	(general) - Unknown/Not determined

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Fuel related (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Ditching

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	66, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport pilot	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 15, 2020
Flight Time:	2000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 300 hours (Total, this make and model), 1355 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Jabiru	Registration:	N619J
Model/Series:	J250-SP	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2007	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Special light-sport (Special)	Serial Number:	457
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 15, 2019 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	13 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	290 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Jabiru
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	3300A
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	120 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	EYW,3 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	22 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2500 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	120°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / 24°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Crystal River, FL (CGC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Key West, FL (EYW)	Type of Clearance:	VFR flight following
Departure Time:	08:23 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	26.014999,-82.112503(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Ralph
Additional Participating Persons:	Donald Casto; FAA/FSDO; Miramar, FL
Original Publish Date:	January 29, 2021
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101356

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