



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Plattsburgh, New York	Accident Number:	ERA20CA241
Date & Time:	July 2, 2020, 14:20 Local	Registration:	N526MA
Aircraft:	Aviat A1	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abnormal runway contact	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, he overflew the area of intended landing to check for water depth, wind direction, and verify that it was a suitable landing area. While on final approach to the water, a boat crossed underneath the airplane. As the airplane landed on the water, it struck the boat wake, which resulted in the airplane "skip[ping]" over the water. When the airplane impacted the water again, the front float struts collapsed resulting in substantial damage to the fuselage. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation prior to the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of control of the airplane during a water landing after striking a boat wake, which resulted in substantial damage to the fuselage.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 16, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 22, 2019
Flight Time:	382 hours (Total, all aircraft), 26 hours (Total, this make and model), 338 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 36 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aviat	Registration:	N526MA
Model/Series:	A1 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2001	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2142
Landing Gear Type:	N/A; Amphibian	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 3, 2020 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1388 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A1P
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 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:	PBG,234 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	295°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 11000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	130°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.75 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Burlington, VT (BTV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Plattsburgh, NY (PBG)	Type of Clearance:	Traffic advisory
Departure Time:	14:11 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Plattsburgh Intl PBG	Runway Surface Type:	Water
Airport Elevation:	234 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Water-choppy
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic pattern

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:	44.636112,-73.425277(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kemner, Heidi
Additional Participating Persons:	Tim Shaver; FAA/FSDO; Albany, NY
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=101555

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