



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Orlando, Florida	Accident Number:	ERA21LA078
Date & Time:	December 15, 2020, 16:15 Local	Registration:	N5023L
Aircraft:	Lake LA-4-200	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abnormal runway contact	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the amphibious airplane departed the lake with a passenger, landed at a nearby airport where he deplaned the passenger, and was returning to the lake for landing. When the pilot reached the lake, he noted that it was hard to judge the airplane’s distance above the calm, glassy water while landing into the direction of the setting sun. Following the landing flare, the airplane “floated” a considerable distance before bouncing multiple times. The pilot then concluded he could neither complete the landing nor abort the landing before striking structures or other obstacles on the shore and deliberately nosed the airplane into the water to arrest its forward progress. As a result, the airplane’s fuselage and right wing were substantially damaged. The pilot stated that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures of the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot’s improper recovery from a bounced landing.

Findings

Personnel issues

Aircraft control - Pilot

Aircraft

Landing flare - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	65
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 24, 2020
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 12, 2020
Flight Time:	256.3 hours (Total, all aircraft), 14.9 hours (Total, this make and model), 256.3 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8.4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Lake	Registration:	N5023L
Model/Series:	LA-4-200	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	480
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle; Amphibian	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 27, 2020 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1952.2 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-AIB
Registered Owner:	ISLAND HOPPERS SEAPLANES 2 LLC	Rated Power:	200
Operator:	ISLAND HOPPERS SEAPLANES 2 LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KORL, 112 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	9 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	83°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.94 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24°C / 17°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Avon Park, FL (AVO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Orlando, FL	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:05 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Lake NONE	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	70 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Water-calm; Water-glassy
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	28.528496, -81.481477(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Rayner, Brian

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: August 20, 2021

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class 4](#)

Note: The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=102426>

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).