Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	O'Brien, Florida	**Accident Number:**	ERA25LA056
Date & Time:	November 9, 2024, 11:02 Local	**Registration:**	N214FL
Aircraft:	FINN LASSEN RV-4	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (total)	**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that approximately 7 miles from his destination airport, he reduced engine power to descend when, “suddenly everything went dark” and the engine lost all power. The automotive-style powerplant ignition system was dependent upon the airplane’s battery system. Unable to restart the engine, the pilot attempted a forced landing in a field. The pilot was unable to operate the electrically driven flaps, and as a result, he over flew a series of hay fields before touching down in a third field. The airplane approached a barbed wire fence at the end of the field, so the pilot attempted to steer away from it. The right wing and main landing gear dug into the terrain and spun the airplane around, resulting in substantial damage to the fuselage and right wing.

A postaccident examination of the airplane by the pilot found that the airplane’s battery had intermittent voltage drops as a result of an internal crack in the bridge between cells.

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 and navigational equipment as a result of a faulty battery.

Findings

Aircraft	Ignition power supply - Malfunction

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	68,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:	BasicMed With waivers/limitations	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	December 6, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	July 19, 2024
Flight Time:	1139 hours (Total, all aircraft), 96 hours (Total, this make and model), 1091 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	FINN LASSEN	**Registration:**	N214FL
Model/Series:	RV-4	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2020	**Amateur Built:**	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	**Serial Number:**	2495
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 1, 2024 Condition	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	1650 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	5 Hrs	**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	125 Hrs at time of accident	**Engine Manufacturer:**	MAZDA
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	**Engine Model/Series:**	13-B
Registered Owner:	On file	**Rated Power:**	146 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:	GNV,165 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	39 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:53 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	123°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 3300 ft AGL	**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots / None	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	None / None
Wind Direction:	90°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.1 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	27°C / 22°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bell, FL (9FL5)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	McAlpin, FL (FL10)	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	10:52 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	O'BRIEN AIRPARK EAST/WEST FD71	**Runway Surface Type:**	
Airport Elevation:	55 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry;Rough;Vegetation
Runway Used:		**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:		**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	30.049035,-82.90374(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Enders, Ryan
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael Rodriguez; FAA/FSDO; Tampa, FL
Original Publish Date:	April 22, 2025
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=195534