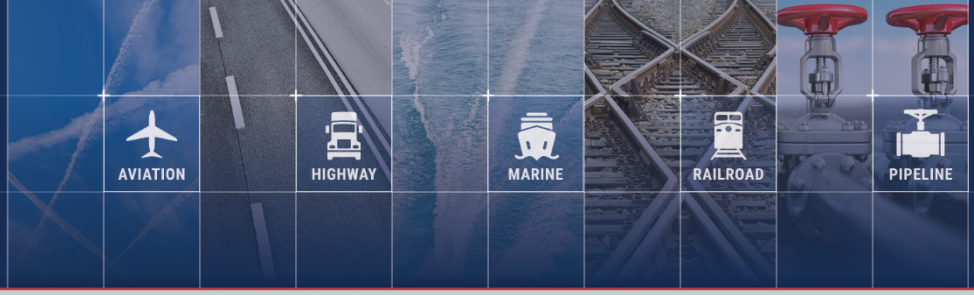

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	PALO ALTO, California	**Accident Number:**	LAX92LA056
Date & Time:	December 1, 1991, 15:55 Local	**Registration:**	N3170Z
Aircraft:	PIPER PA22-150	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:		**Injuries:**	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HIS AIRPLANE HAD BEEN MODIFIED BY THE INSTALLATION OF A TAIL WHEEL ASSEMBLY. ACCORDING TO THE PILOT, HE LANDED ON RUNWAY 12 AND DURING ROLLOUT LOST DIRECTIONAL CONTROL. THEREAFTER, THE AIRPLANE GROUND LOOPED. AT THE TIME THE WIND WAS FROM 120 DEGREES AT 5 KNOTS. DURING THE POST-ACCIDENT EXAMINATION OF THE AIRPLANE NO EVIDENCE WAS FOUND OF ANY MECHANICAL MALFUNCTIONS. THE PILOT REPORTED HAVING 600 HOURS OF TAIL DRAGGER FLIGHT TIME.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN DIRECTIONAL CONTROL DURING THE LANDING ROLLOUT.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings
1. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings
2. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	48,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	March 16, 1990
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	1162 hours (Total, all aircraft), 45 hours (Total, this make and model), 1048 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	**Registration:**	N3170Z
Model/Series:	PA22-150 PA22-150	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	**Serial Number:**	22-7122
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 25, 1991 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	24 Hrs	**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2707 Hrs	**Engine Manufacturer:**	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	**Engine Model/Series:**	O-320
Registered Owner:	JAMES HAM	**Rated Power:**	150 Horsepower
Operator:	JAMES HAM	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None
Operator Does Business As:		**Operator Designator Code:**	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAO ,5 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:56 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	1°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Visibility**	5 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2000 ft AGL	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/
Wind Direction:	120°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	16°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Haze		
Departure Point:	BAKERSFIELD , CA (BFL)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	VFR
Destination:		**Type of Clearance:**	VFR
Departure Time:	14:00 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class D;Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	PALO ALTO PAO	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	12	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 65 ft	**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	4 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	37.3404,-121.879005(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Petterson, George
Additional Participating Persons:	HAROLD CACCAMISE; SAN JOSE , CA
Original Publish Date:	May 3, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=27512