



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	BELLINGHAM, Washington	<b>Accident Number:</b>	SEA90LA132
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 12, 1990, 18:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N6686L
<b>Aircraft:</b>	LAKE LA-4-200	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT AND HIS PASSENGER WERE DOING A SERIES OF LANDINGS ON LAKE WHATCOM. DURING THE SECOND TAKEOFF RUN, THE LAKE AMPHIBIAN STRUCK AND UNSEEN OBJECT, TEARING A HOLE IN THE HULL. THE AIRCRAFT SANK A FEW MINNUTES AFTER THE OCCUPANTS ESCAPED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: COLLISION WITH A SUBMERGED OBJECT.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

### Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER
2. (C) OBJECT - SUBMERGED OBJECT

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	59, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 3, 1990
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	9360 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 5025 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 44 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	LAKE	<b>Registration:</b>	N6686L
<b>Model/Series:</b>	LA-4-200 LA-4-200	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	449
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-360-A1B
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	WHIDBEY ISLAND NAVY FLYING CL	<b>Rated Power:</b>	200 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	06

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	50 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	24°C / -18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	WHIDBEY NAS , WA (NUW )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>	LAKE WHATCOM , WA	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	17:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	LAKE WHATCOM	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Water
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	307 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Water-choppy
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Stop and go

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Stockhill, Michael

**Additional Participating Persons:** VERN EATON;

**Original Publish Date:** December 15, 1992

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=41237>

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