



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	SKWENTNA, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC83LA105
Date & Time:	June 26, 1983, 17:00 Local	Registration:	N87822
Aircraft:	PIPER J-3	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT STATED THAT HE APPROACHED THE RIVER ON FINAL AT 60 MPH IN A 5 DEGREE BANK TO FOLLOW THE CURVE OF THE WATER. WHEN HE DROPPED BELOW TREES AT ABOUT 50 FT AGL THE LEFT WING STALLED. HE ADDED FULL POWER AND LOWERED THE NOSE BUT THE LEFT WING HIT THE WATER.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: DRAGGED WING, ROTOR, POD, FLOAT OR TAIL/SKID
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	38, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 2, 1982
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1130 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1076 hours (Total, this make and model), 1076 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 33 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N87822
Model/Series:	J-3 J-3	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	15200
Landing Gear Type:	Float	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 4, 1982 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6031 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-200A
Registered Owner:	JAMES C. HOULE	Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:		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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 6000 ft AGL	Visibility	50 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots / 5 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	14°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	CHUGIAK , AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Water
Airport Elevation:	148 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Water-calm
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	61.930915,-151.73085(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Kobelnyk, George

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=4135>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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](#).