



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Sparta, Illinois	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI02CA250
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 9, 2002, 15:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N7744B
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-J3-C65	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

The airplane sustained substantial damage when it impacted a ditch during landing roll. The CFI reported that the flight was an introductory tail wheel instructional flight. He reported, "Student pilot flew aircraft under my direction through several flight maneuvers for initial orientation. He also approached the airport for our initial landing on runway 27 at SAR. Upon turning final for the runway I took full control of the aircraft to demonstrate a 3 point landing. All went well until aircraft started an uncontrollable right turn on the runway. I applied full opposite control but was unable to recover so I chose to initiate a go around but could not gain flying speed before encountering a drainage ditch adjacent to the runway. Power was removed and aircraft was damaged in the drainage ditch."

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The CFI's failure to maintain directional control during landing roll and the unsuccessful attempt at a go around. A factor was the ditch.

## Findings

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

### Findings

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

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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

2. (C) GO-AROUND - NOT SUCCESSFUL - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

## Factual Information

On July 9, 2002, at 1500 central daylight time, a Piper PA-J3-C65, N7744B, sustained substantial damage during landing roll when it veered off the left side of runway 27 (2,450 feet by 135 feet, turf) and impacted a ditch. The certified flight instructor (CFI) and student pilot were not injured. The 14 CFR Part 91 instructional flight had departed the Sparta Community-Hunter Field Airport (SAR), Sparta, Illinois, on a local flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed.

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### Flight instructor Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	54, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	5450 hours (Total, all aircraft), 125 hours (Total, this make and model), 200 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Student pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>		<b>Age:</b>	
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>		<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>		<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>		<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N7744B
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-J3-C65	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	43-570
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1220 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	C-85-8FJ
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Marvin Campbell	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## 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>		<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>		<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Sparta, IL (SAR)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Sparta Community Airport SAR	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	27	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.148887,-89.698608

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** SILLIMAN, JIM

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** November 4, 2002

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:** This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=55576>

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