



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MEMORY LAKE, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC92LA091
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 15, 1992, 15:50 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N1480H
<b>Aircraft:</b>	AERONCA 15AC	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT OF THE AERONCA 15AC HAD 'GONE LIGHT' ON FUEL BECAUSE OF THE WEIGHT OF THE PASSENGERS AND THEIR CARGO. DUE TO HIS LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH THE AIRCRAFT FUEL INDICATING SYSTEM, HE WAS UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE EXACT AMOUNT OF USABLE FUEL REMAINING. FUEL EXHAUSTION OCCURRED WHILE ON DOWNWIND AT HIS DESTINATION, AND THE PILOT EXECUTED A FORCED LANDING IN UNSUITABLE TERRAIN.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: FUEL EXHAUSTION. FACTORS INCLUDE INADEQUATE PREFLIGHT PLANNING, LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH THE AIRCRAFT, AND UNSUITABLE TERRAIN.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - DOWNWIND

### Findings

1. (F) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY  
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	32, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Expired	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	November 7, 1989
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	201 hours (Total, all aircraft), 44 hours (Total, this make and model), 139 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1.3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	AERONCA	<b>Registration:</b>	N1480H
<b>Model/Series:</b>	15AC 15AC	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	15AC-550
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Float	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 2, 2000 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2100 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-360
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	RICHARD SLATTERY & TOM ALLEN	<b>Rated Power:</b>	180 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	RICHARD SLATTERY & TOM ALLEN	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## 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>	Scattered / 3000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	50 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 5000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	3 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	240°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	13°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	SHULIN LAKE , AK	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:15 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing;Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Daw, Roy

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** May 26, 1993

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=5742>

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