



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Sebring, Florida	Accident Number:	MIA04CA053
Date & Time:	February 11, 2004, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N246SG
Aircraft:	American Champion (ACAC) 7GCAA	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that his approach to land on runway 18 was uneventful. The pilot further stated that as the airplane touched down on the mains and tail wheels simultaneously, the airplane suddenly veered to the left. He said he applied right rudder in an attempt maintain control of the airplane, but it skidded and swung to the left. According to the pilot, there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions to the airplane or any of its systems prior to the accident.

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 control during the landing rollout which resulted in the airplane ground looping and incurring damage.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On February 11, 2004, about 1400 eastern standard time, an American Champion 7GCAA, N246SG, registered to and operated by a private individual, as a Title 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight, ground looped during landing at the Sebring Regional Airport, Sebring, Florida. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The private-rated pilot and passenger received no injuries, and the airplane incurred substantial damage. The flight originated from Avon Park Municipal Airport, Avon Park, Florida, the same day, about 1330.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	68, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 23, 2003
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	530 hours (Total, all aircraft), 37 hours (Total, this make and model), 49 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	American Champion (ACAC)	Registration:	N246SG
Model/Series:	7GCAA	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	473-2003
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-320-B2B
Registered Owner:	John R. & Claire M. Lensis	Rated Power:	
Operator:	John R. & Claire M. Lensis	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

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:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 7000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 17°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Avon Park, FL (AVO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Sebring, FL (SEF)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Sebring Regional Airport KSEB	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	Visual
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	27.45,-81.349998

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Lovell, John

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: April 28, 2004

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=58739>

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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](#).