



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Lynden, Washington | Accident Number: | WPR09CA002 |
| Date & Time: | October 2, 2008, 18:45 Local | Registration: | N2146M |
| Aircraft: | Piper J3C-65 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control on ground | Injuries: | 2 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

The pilot stated that the tailwheel equipped airplane suddenly veered to the right during the landing roll. Despite his control inputs, the airplane continued to veer to the right, exited the runway, and impacted a hangar located adjacent to the runway. Examination of the airplane revealed that the fuselage and both wings were structurally damaged. The tailwheel spring retaining clip was found separated from the tailwheel assembly. No anomalies were noted with the flight control system.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The separation of the tailwheel spring retaining clip for unknown reasons, which resulted in the loss of directional control during the landing roll.

Findings

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|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Aircraft | Directional control - Attain/maintain not possible |
| Aircraft | Nose/tail landing gear - Failure |

Factual Information

History of Flight

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Landing-landing roll | Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power) |
| Landing-landing roll | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) |
| Landing-landing roll | Runway excursion |
| Landing-landing roll | Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) |

Pilot Information

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|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 34, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine land | Seat Occupied: | Rear |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 3 With waivers/limitations | Last FAA Medical Exam: | January 17, 2006 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | September 12, 2008 |
| Flight Time: | 233 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Piper | Registration: | N2146M |
| Model/Series: | J3C-65 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 20931 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tailwheel | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 1220 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | | Engine Manufacturer: | Continental |
| ELT: | Not installed | Engine Model/Series: | C85 |
| Registered Owner: | Scott Peterson | Rated Power: | 85 Horsepower |
| Operator: | John William Vanderhage | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual (VMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | BLI,170 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 10 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 18:45 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | 180° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | | Visibility | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | Overcast / 3900 ft AGL | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 5 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 200° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 29.73 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 17°C / 12°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Lynden, WA (38W) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Lynden, WA (38W) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 17:58 Local | Type of Airspace: | Unknown |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Airport: | Lynden Airport 38W | Runway Surface Type: | Asphalt |
| Airport Elevation: | 106 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 25 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 2425 ft / 40 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Traffic pattern |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 2 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 48.955833,-122.458053(est) |

Administrative Information

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|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Cawthra, Joshua |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Scott Peterson; Federal Aviation Administration; Renton, WA |
| Original Publish Date: | November 5, 2008 |
| 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=69224 |

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