



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Yucca Valley, California	Accident Number:	WPR09CA094
Date & Time:	January 16, 2009, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N90086
Aircraft:	JONES RODNEY V WITTMAN TA	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during the landing roll on the asphalt runway, the left rudder pedal separated and he was unable to maintain directional control. Subsequently, the airplane ground-looped and exited the right side of the runway. The fuselage and left wing were structurally damaged. The left rudder pedal was separated at its weld point. No further anomalies were noted with the flight control systems.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of directional control due to a weld joint failure of the left rudder pedal.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Attain/maintain not possible
Aircraft	Rudder control system - Failure

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power)
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	35,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 22, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 17, 2007
Flight Time:	299 hours (Total, all aircraft), 159 hours (Total, this make and model), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	JONES RODNEY V	Registration:	N90086
Model/Series:	WITTMAN TA	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	001
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
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-E2A
Registered Owner:	WILLIAMS JERRY M	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	WILLIAMS JERRY M	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	NXP,2051 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	50°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.35 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / -7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Hanford, CA (HJO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Yucca Valley, CA (L22)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:20 Local	Type of Airspace:	Unknown

Airport Information

Airport:	Yucca Valley Airport L22	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	3224 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	24	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4363 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.149715,-116.409156(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Struhsaker, James
Additional Participating Persons:	Jon H Weston; Federal Aviation Administration; Riverside, CA
Original Publish Date:	May 6, 2009
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=73256

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