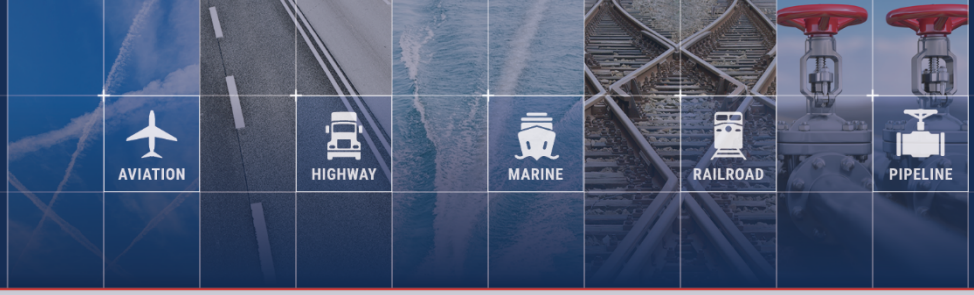

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Sunrise, Florida	**Accident Number:**	ERA09CA361
Date & Time:	June 21, 2009, 11:21 Local	**Registration:**	N824RS
Aircraft:	Hummelbird Hummelbird	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (partial)	**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot/builder of an experimental, amateur-built airplane was in cruise flight at 1,000 feet above ground level when the engine started running rough. The pilot stated that he was unable to maintain altitude, and performed an emergency off-field landing on a road. During the landing roll the tailwheel broke; the pilot then lost control of the airplane, which impacted a metal pole, resulting in damage to the right wing forward spar. According to the pilot, the airplane had 4.5 gallons of fuel on board at departure and flew for 25 minutes prior to the accident. During examination of the airplane, the pilot/builder did not note any mechanical anomalies. The airplane was equipped with a non-certificated, 37.5 horsepower Volkswagen engine.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A partial loss of engine power during cruise flight for an undetermined reason.

Findings

Environmental issues	Pole - Contributed to outcome
Not determined	(general) - Unknown/Not determined

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Loss of engine power (partial) (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Off-field or emergency landing

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	82,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	**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:**	July 3, 2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	November 4, 1999
Flight Time:	385 hours (Total, all aircraft), 169 hours (Total, this make and model), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Hummelbird	**Registration:**	N824RS
Model/Series:	Hummelbird	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	**Serial Number:**	304
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 1, 2009 Condition	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	525 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	169 Hrs at time of accident	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Volkswagon
ELT:	Not installed	**Engine Model/Series:**	
Registered Owner:	Ralph Squeglia	**Rated Power:**	38 Horsepower
Operator:	Ralph Squeglia	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FLL,9 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:01 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	140°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2200 ft AGL	**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/
Wind Direction:	320°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.89 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	33°C / 25°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Pompano Beach, FL (PMP)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Hollywood, FL (HWO)	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	11:05 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	

Airport Information

Airport:	Pompano Beach Airport PMP	**Runway Surface Type:**	
Airport Elevation:	19 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	
Runway Used:		**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:		**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	26.196666,-80.294998(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Alleyne, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	David M Avery; FAA/ FSDO; Miami, FL
Original Publish Date:	September 10, 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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=74093