



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Thomaston, Georgia	Accident Number:	ERA10CA339
Date & Time:	June 28, 2010, 19:00 Local	Registration:	N41242
Aircraft:	Piper J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, after touching down on runway 30 in the tailwheel-equipped airplane, he “felt a gust of wind hit the airplane from the left, which pushed the tail around to the right.” The pilot also stated that he was not able to correct for the situation quickly enough, and the airplane departed the left side of the runway. The left main wheel hit a runway light, turning the airplane until its right wing impacted a runway distance remaining sign. The airplane incurred substantial damage to its right wing. An aviation routine weather report for the airport, about the time of the accident, included winds from 240 degrees true at 10 knots, with clear skies and unrestricted visibility.

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 directional control during landing.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

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

Certificate:	Private	Age:	25, 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 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 1, 2005
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 11, 2009
Flight Time:	279 hours (Total, all aircraft), 111 hours (Total, this make and model), 114 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N41242
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	8006
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 3, 2010 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1170 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3408 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	A65-8F
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	OPN,798 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	19:00 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	240°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.9 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C / 24°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Vaughn, GA (8GA9)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Thomaston, GA (OPN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	18:40 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Thomaston-Upson County Airport OPN	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	798 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	30	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6350 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

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:	32.955001,-84.263885(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Monville, Timothy
Additional Participating Persons:	David Tull; FAA/ FSDO; Atlanta, GA
Original Publish Date:	December 20, 2010
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=76493

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