



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Spokane, Washington	Accident Number:	WPR11CA336
Date & Time:	July 16, 2011, 15:00 Local	Registration:	N3440
Aircraft:	STEARMAN AIRCRAFT C3-B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abnormal runway contact	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was involved in a biplane fly-in that was going on at the time of the accident. According to a Federal Aviation Administration inspector, witnesses observed the airplane in a left side-slip during landing. The airplane subsequently touched down in the side-slip on the left wheel. The pilot applied full right rudder to compensate, then right brake to straighten out the airplane; however, the left landing gear strut collapsed, and the airplane entered into a slow speed ground loop, substantially damaging the lower wing. The pilot stated there were no pre-impact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal flight.

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 on landing. Contributing to the accident was the touch down in a slide-slip.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Landing gear collapse

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	69, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 17, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 27, 2011
Flight Time:	24341 hours (Total, all aircraft), 118 hours (Total, this make and model), 24341 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	STEARMAN AIRCRAFT	Registration:	N3440
Model/Series:	C3-B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	104
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 26, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	8 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1188 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	W 670-6N
Registered Owner:	TOBIN LARRY F	Rated Power:	220 Horsepower
Operator:	TOBIN LARRY F	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSFF, 1957 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	6000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	126°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.77 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Spokane, WA (SFF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Spokane, WA (SFF)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Felts Field SFF	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1954 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	21L	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3059 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

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:	47.675556,-117.324996

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rich, Jefferey
Additional Participating Persons:	John Bianco; FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION; Spokane, WA
Original Publish Date:	October 6, 2011
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=81151

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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](#).