



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Abingdon, Virginia	Accident Number:	ERA12CA288
Date & Time:	April 17, 2012, 11:55 Local	Registration:	N180BA
Aircraft:	Cessna 180J	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 he made a visual approach for landing at his destination airport. He flared the airplane, and it touched down on the runway. The airplane started to veer to the left as he began to apply brakes. He attempted to apply right rudder, but the rudder would not move because his passenger had inadvertently stretched his legs out and blocked the rudder pedals. The airplane continued off the left side of the runway and collided with a ditch. The airplane sustained structural damage to the left wing and the fuselage. The pilot stated that he did not experience any preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operations.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The passenger’s inadvertent blockage of the rudder pedals, which resulted in the pilot’s inability to maintain directional control during the landing roll.

Findings

Aircraft	Rudder control system - Unintentional use/operation
Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Passenger

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:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 12, 2011
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 11, 2011
Flight Time:	3375 hours (Total, all aircraft), 960 hours (Total, this make and model), 3375 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N180BA
Model/Series:	180J	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18052419
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 24, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	22 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4495 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520 E
Registered Owner:	SANFORD WILLIAM W	Rated Power:	265 Horsepower
Operator:	SANFORD WILLIAM W	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	VJI,2087 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	11:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.27 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / 8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Orange, VA (OMH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Abingdon, VA (VJI)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	10:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Virginia Highlands Airport VJI	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	2087 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	06	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4471 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic pattern

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:	36.686943,-82.033058(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Smith, Carrol
Additional Participating Persons:	John Riggs; FAA Charleston FSDO; Charleston, WV
Original Publish Date:	September 13, 2012
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=83408

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