



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Meriden, Connecticut	Accident Number:	ERA13CA233
Date & Time:	May 7, 2013, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N418CM
Aircraft:	HUGHES CHARLES R ZODIAC 601XL	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he landed with a tailwind and that the airplane touched down farther down the runway than usual. When the pilot applied brakes to exit the runway onto the taxiway, the tires skidded, and the airplane pivoted to the left before coming to rest inverted. Postaccident examination revealed substantial damage to the left and right wings and to the vertical stabilizer. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical anomalies with the airplane. He further stated that he was fatigued, had “rushed” the landing approach, and had not taken time to properly evaluate the wind conditions prior to landing.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's decision to land with a tailwind and his failure to maintain aircraft control during landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Decision related to condition

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach	Miscellaneous/other
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Nose over/nose down
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	66, 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 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 1, 2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 12, 2012
Flight Time:	401 hours (Total, all aircraft), 84 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HUGHES CHARLES R	Registration:	N418CM
Model/Series:	ZODIAC 601XL	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental light sport (Special)	Serial Number:	6-6450
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 23, 2012 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	117 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Jabiru
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	3300A
Registered Owner:	HUGHES CHARLES R	Rated Power:	107 Horsepower
Operator:	HUGHES CHARLES R	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MMK,103 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	13:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4700 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots / 14 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24°C / 12°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Meriden, CT (MMK)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Meriden, CT (MMK)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Meriden Markham Municipal MMK	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	103 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3100 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	41.508609,-72.829444(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Diaz, Allison
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert McCauley; FAA/FSDO; Windsor Locks, CT
Original Publish Date:	July 29, 2013
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=86845

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