



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Everett, Washington	Accident Number:	WPR13CA327
Date & Time:	July 12, 2013, 12:20 Local	Registration:	N6101H
Aircraft:	STEARMAN AIRCRAFT C3-B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that while en route, the airplane's engine began to make an abnormal noise and was running rough. He opted to make a precautionary landing at a nearby airport. The touchdown for the wheel-landing was normal and as the tailwheel settled onto the runway surface, the pilot held aft pressure on the control stick. During the landing roll, the airplane veered to the left and, despite the pilot's efforts to regain directional control with right rudder application, the airplane ground looped. The right main landing gear collapsed and the airplane incurred substantial damage to the interconnect strut.

The pilot initially reported no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation, aside from the rough running engine. Later he submitted a statement that indicated he thought there was a possible failure of the landing gear. A postaccident examination of the landing gear revealed no evidence of mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

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, which resulted in a ground loop.

Findings

Personnel issues

Aircraft control - Pilot

Aircraft

Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Loss of engine power (partial)
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 20, 2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 18, 2013
Flight Time:	2440 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 2200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	STEARMAN AIRCRAFT	Registration:	N6101H
Model/Series:	C3-B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	135
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 13, 2013 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	WRIGHT
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	J-5
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	220 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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Ephrata, WA (EPH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Arlington, WA (AWO)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Snohomish County - Paine Field PAE	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	610 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	34L	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	9010 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Precautionary 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:	47.906944,-122.281387(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Keliher, Zoe
Additional Participating Persons:	Dale Watkins; Federal Aviation Administration; Seattle, WA
Original Publish Date:	December 19, 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=87479

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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](#).