



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Greensboro, North Carolina	Accident Number:	GAA15CA017
Date & Time:	March 18, 2015, 10:00 Local	Registration:	N43MT
Aircraft:	AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT 7GCAA	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he was practicing touch-and-go landings. On his third landing he encountered what he believed was wind variable at 350 degrees to 040 degrees about 15 feet above the ground which lifted the airplane's left wing upward, the tail wheel struck a marker cone while on the final approach. Subsequently the right wing came in contact with the ground which resulted in damage to the right wing spar and right aileron.

The pilot reported there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine 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/pitch control during final approach, resulting in a collision with terrain.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Variable wind - Effect on operation
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Sign/marker - Contributed to outcome
Aircraft	Pitch control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-VFR pattern final	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing	Loss of control on ground

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-point
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:	February 23, 2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 31, 2013
Flight Time:	498 hours (Total, all aircraft), 320 hours (Total, this make and model), 430 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Pilot-rated passenger Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	67
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 19, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 2500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 2400 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT	Registration:	N43MT
Model/Series:	7GCAA NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1997	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Aerobatic; Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	402-98
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 17, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	50 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1420.6 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-B2B
Registered Owner:	ECHO TANGO LLC	Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	ECHO TANGO LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KGSO,886 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	236°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ Terrain-Induced
Wind Direction:	40°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ Light
Altimeter Setting:	30.2 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	7°C / -7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Greensboro, NC (W88)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Greensboro, NC (W88)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	AIR HARBOR W88	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt;Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	822 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	09	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2460 ft / 65 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;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:	36.171665,-79.805

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Vanover, Jackie
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael W Harville; FAA Greensboro FSDO; Greensboro, NC
Original Publish Date:	June 1, 2015
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=90917

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