Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Arcadia, Florida	**Accident Number:**	GAA15CA186
Date & Time:	July 4, 2015, 11:00 Local	**Registration:**	N3274U
Aircraft:	Piper J3C	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Runway excursion	**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during the landing roll the airplane veered to the right and departed the runway. He stated that he over-corrected for the excursion and the airplane veered back to the left crossing the runway, and impacted a ditch. The airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings and the empennage.

The pilot reported that there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 the landing, which resulted in a runway excursion and collision with terrain.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing-landing roll	Ground collision

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	60
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	None None	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	February 14, 2015
Flight Time:	172 hours (Total, all aircraft), 27 hours (Total, this make and model), 135 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	**Registration:**	N3274U
Model/Series:	J3C 65	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1941	**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	**Serial Number:**	6735
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 1, 2014 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	35 Hrs as of last inspection	**Engine Manufacturer:**	CONT MOTOR
ELT:		**Engine Model/Series:**	C-85-8F
Registered Owner:	George A. Pertuit	**Rated Power:**	85 Horsepower
Operator:	George A. Pertuit	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PGD,25 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	19 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:53 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/ None
Wind Direction:		**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.13 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	30°C / 24°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Punta Gorda, FL (PGD)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Arcadia, FL (X06)	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	10:15 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	ARCADIA MUNI X06	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	63 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	06	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	3700 ft / 75 ft	**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Touch and go;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	27.195554,-81.837219(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Blake; Federal Aviation Administration; Tampa, FL
Original Publish Date:	September 30, 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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=91569

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