



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Marshfield, Massachusetts	Accident Number:	GAA15CA273
Date & Time:	September 19, 2015, 16:00 Local	Registration:	N6932K
Aircraft:	Piper PA 20	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that on final approach, he realized he was above the normal glide path and performed a forward slip to lose altitude. At the conclusion of the slip, the airplane had a higher than normal approach airspeed. The pilot planned to make a wheel landing and when the airplane touched down, it landed hard, and bounced twice. The pilot then decided to alter his landing to a three point landing after the bounce. At touchdown the airplane "fishtailed" and started to veer left. The pilot was unable to correct the veer with control inputs, the airplane continued off the runway to the left and ground looped. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing, elevator, horizontal stabilizer, and fuselage.

The pilot reported no preimpact 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 loss of directional control during the landing roll, which resulted in a ground loop and impact with terrain.

Findings

Personnel issues

Aircraft control - Pilot

Aircraft

Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact
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:	58
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
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:	October 9, 2013
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 18, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 858 hours (Total, all aircraft), 363 hours (Total, this make and model), 788 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N6932K
Model/Series:	PA 20	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1950	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20-36
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 1, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2346 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-290-D
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	125 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:	KGHG, 11 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	57°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 3900 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.9 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 20°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	MARSHFIELD, MA (GHG)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	MARSHFIELD, MA (GHG)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	MARSHFIELD MUNI - GEORGE HARLO GHG	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	8 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	06	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3900 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

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:	42.096942,-70.674163(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Bigelow, Bradley
Additional Participating Persons:	Richard D Fulton; Federal Aviation Administration; Burlington, MA
Original Publish Date:	October 8, 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=92045

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