



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Winter Haven, Florida	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA16CA053
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	November 13, 2015, 10:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N688KA
<b>Aircraft:</b>	SWEENEY TIMOTHY J RANS S6-ES	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Abnormal runway contact	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that during an intentional landing on the grass parallel to an asphalt runway, he touched down fast and bounced "slightly." He then became distracted when another pilot reported over the radio that a coyote was crossing the runway. Subsequently, he "let the nose wheel down too early and too quickly." The nose gear collapsed and the airplane nosed over. The vertical stabilizer was substantially damaged.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane 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 improper landing flare, which resulted in a nose gear collapse and nose over.

### Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Landing flare - Incorrect use/operation

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b>	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)
<b>Landing-landing roll</b>	Nose over/nose down
<b>Landing-landing roll</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	62, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	3-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Sport pilot None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	June 6, 2015
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1662 hours (Total, all aircraft), 765 hours (Total, this make and model), 1473 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 19 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	SWEENEY TIMOTHY J	<b>Registration:</b>	N688KA
<b>Model/Series:</b>	RANS S6-ES	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2009	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special); Special flight (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	05081884-ES
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	July 10, 2015 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1320 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	875.1 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Rotax
<b>ELT:</b>	C91A installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	912UL
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	80 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KGIF, 145 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	0 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	0°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>		<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 7000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	7 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	350°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.07 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	24°C / 21°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	ORLANDO, FL (ISM)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Winter Haven, FL (GIF)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	10:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	WINTER HAVEN'S GILBERT GIF	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	145 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>		<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	28.062778,-81.751945(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Gerhardt, Adam
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Theodore Rodriguez; Orlando FSDO (FAA); Orlando, FL
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	January 15, 2016
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=92339">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=92339</a>

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