



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Clarksville, Virginia	Accident Number:	GAA16CA167
Date & Time:	March 29, 2016, 10:50 Local	Registration:	N601BZ
Aircraft:	SEWELL WILLIAM K ZODIAC 601	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during takeoff the airplane began to drift to the left immediately after rotation. The pilot further reported that he applied right aileron, but the drift continued and the airplane's left main landing gear struck a tree within a tree line about 100 feet to the left of the runway. After the impact, the airplane sank further into the trees and came to rest slightly nose high and left wing down.

The fuselage, both wings, and horizontal stabilizer were substantially damaged.

The pilot did not report any 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 failure to maintain directional control during takeoff, which resulted in the airplane drifting to the left of the runway and impacting trees.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	58, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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:	September 26, 2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 15, 2015
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 474 hours (Total, all aircraft), 265 hours (Total, this make and model), 365 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	SEWELL WILLIAM K	Registration:	N601BZ
Model/Series:	ZODIAC 601 XL	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2007	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental light sport (Special)	Serial Number:	6-4930
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 13, 2015 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	264.6 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	JABIRU
ELT:	C91A installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	3300A
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	120 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:	KW63,419 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.15 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 0°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Clarksville, VA (W63)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Clarksville, VA (W63)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	LAKE COUNTRY REGIONAL W63	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	419 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	04	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4488 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	36.593887,-78.560836(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gerhardt, Adam
Additional Participating Persons:	Nikolas B Kubli; Richmond FSDO (FAA); Richmond, VA
Original Publish Date:	May 3, 2016
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=92914

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