



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Carson City, Nevada	Accident Number:	GAA18CA123
Date & Time:	February 11, 2018, 12:40 Local	Registration:	N76478
Aircraft:	OLIVER LAWRENCE R KITFOX IV 1200	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The pilot receiving instruction in the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that he taxied to a runway for takeoff and then realized that the wind favored the opposite runway. He taxied to the opposite runway, performed a run-up, and discussed the takeoff and traffic pattern procedures with the flight instructor. After takeoff and completing a circuit in the pattern, while on final approach in gusting wind conditions, the flight instructor took the flight controls to correct the airplane's alignment with the runway. The pilot receiving instruction added that the flight instructor corrected the alignment and landed the airplane. After landing, a wind gust pushed the airplane to the right, and the airplane exited the runway and impacted sagebrush.

The flight instructor reported that, before the flight, he told the pilot receiving instruction that it was "not a flying day" and suggested practicing wind correction during taxi. He added that they decided to taxi down the runway to the first turnoff, but the pilot receiving instruction applied takeoff power and, he did not know why. He added that the airplane became airborne and that he took control during final, landing, and the landing roll but was not able to maintain directional control. He applied full power to go around but "chose to wheel land in the small sagebrush" instead.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage.

The pilot receiving instruction reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The automated weather observation station located on the airport reported that, about 5 minutes before the accident, the wind was from 210° at 9 knots, gusting to 26 knots. The airplane landed on runway 27.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The flight instructor's failure to maintain directional control during the landing roll and lateral control during the go-around in gusting crosswind conditions. Contributing to the accident was the lack of communication between the flight instructor and the pilot receiving instruction.

Findings

Aircraft	Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Instructor/check pilot
Personnel issues	Lack of communication - Flight crew
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Other weather encounter
Landing	Loss of control on ground
Landing	Runway excursion
Approach-VFR go-around	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Approach-VFR go-around	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	37, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 28, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 200 hours (Total, all aircraft), 143 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	77, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 14, 2016
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	OLIVER LAWRENCE R	Registration:	N76478
Model/Series:	KITFOX IV 1200 IV	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1995	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental light sport (Special)	Serial Number:	DCU021
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 17, 2018 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1826.6 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	912UL
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	80 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:	KCXP,4699 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	186°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots / 26 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.75 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / -10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Carson City, NV (CXP)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Carson City, NV (CXP)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CARSON CXP	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	4704 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6101 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	39.192222,-119.731666(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Lee A Oscar; FAA; Reno, NV
Original Publish Date:	May 14, 2018
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=96728

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