



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Ocklawaha, Florida	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA18CA517
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 25, 2018, 15:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N7618S
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Champion 7GCBC	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control on ground	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during landing, a wind gust from the right caused the airplane to weathervane. The airplane veered right off the runway, ground looped to the right, and the left wing and elevator impacted the ground.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and left elevator.

The pilot added that he was a "very experienced pilot, but very inexperienced with tailwheel operations."

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 landing.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Total experience w/ equipment - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing</b>	Other weather encounter
<b>Landing</b>	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
<b>Landing</b>	Runway excursion

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Flight engineer; Flight instructor; Private	<b>Age:</b>	52, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<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>	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	April 4, 2018
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	February 22, 2018
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 11300 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 11000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 110 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Champion	<b>Registration:</b>	N7618S
<b>Model/Series:</b>	7GCBC No Series	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1976	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Aerobatic; Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	923-76
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 13, 2018 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1650 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1773 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>	C91 installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-A2D
<b>Registered Owner:</b>		<b>Rated Power:</b>	150 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>	KVVG, 89 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	11 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	19:24 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	202°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>		<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 4200 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	11 knots / 20 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	None / None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	60°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.06 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	29°C / 23°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Ocklawaha, FL (FA38)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Ocklawaha, FL (FA38)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	WOODS AND LAKES AIRPARK FA38	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt;Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	100 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	03	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2900 ft / 97 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	29.123888,-81.887496(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Benhoff, Kathryn
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Albert Gomez; FAA; Orlando, FL
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	March 18, 2019
<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=98183">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98183</a>

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