



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Cornelia, Georgia	Accident Number:	GAA19CA088
Date & Time:	December 5, 2018, 15:35 Local	Registration:	N839AL
Aircraft:	Piper PA28	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Miscellaneous/other	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The flight instructor reported that, during a touch-and-go landing in crosswind conditions and with the student pilot on the controls, the airplane touched down on the runway centerline "but without perfect longitudinal (heading) alignment," and the airplane then veered left. The instructor took control of the airplane and added power to take off, but she did not retract any of the "partial" flaps. She maintained the "slightly" offset direction from the runway during the takeoff roll, and the airplane became airborne as it exited the left side of the runway. The left wing impacted trees and brush. Subsequently, the airplane came to rest at the bottom of a ravine.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing.

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

The airport's automated weather observation station reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 330° at 7 knots, gusting to 14 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 6.

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 the runway heading during an attempted takeoff in gusting crosswind conditions, which resulted in a collision with trees.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Instructor/check pilot
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	44,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 27, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 10, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 94 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40.5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3.7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	24,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 28, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 32 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10.6 hours (Total, this make and model), 8.3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0.5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N839AL
Model/Series:	PA28 181	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2000	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2843412
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 29, 2018 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6520.5 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-36A
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	Horizon Dreams Aviation	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KAJR,995 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	15:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	66°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	5 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots / 14 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	330°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	3°C / -6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Moderate - None - Haze		
Departure Point:	Cornelia, GA (AJR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Cornelia, GA (AJR)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	HABERSHAM COUNTY AJR	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1448 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	06	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5506 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and go;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:	34.499443,-83.55722(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Mark C Ricker; FAA; Atlanta, GA
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98740

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