



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Franklin, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	GAA17CA552
Date & Time:	September 21, 2017, 14:10 Local	Registration:	N40WH
Aircraft:	HENCKEN WILLIAM PIETENPOL AIR CAMPER	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing gear collapse	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the takeoff roll, the experimental tailwheel-equipped airplane's left wing dropped. The pilot corrected with right aileron input and back pressure on the control yoke. However, the airplane veered off the runway, bounced, and then impacted the runway in a right-wing-low attitude. Subsequently, the airplane nosed over.

Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed that the weld that connects the left main landing gear and the axle had failed.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing and empennage.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The failure of the weld that connects the left main landing gear and the axle during the takeoff roll.

Findings

Aircraft	Main gear strut/axle/truck - Failure
Aircraft	Directional control - Not specified

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Landing gear collapse (Defining event)
Takeoff	Loss of control on ground
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport pilot Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 11, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 15, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 313 hours (Total, all aircraft), 12 hours (Total, this make and model), 231 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HENCKEN WILLIAM	Registration:	N40WH
Model/Series:	PIETENPOL AIR CAMPER NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1986	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental light sport (Special)	Serial Number:	40
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 2017 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1325 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	106.7 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Chevrolet
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	Corvair
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	100 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:	KFKL, 1539 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	316°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	20°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.13 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 16°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Franklin, PA (FKL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Franklin, PA (FKL)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	14:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	VENANGO RGNL FKL	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1540 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	21	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5200 ft / 150 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:	41.377777,-79.860275(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Vanover, Jackie
Additional Participating Persons:	Bradley McCauley; FAA; Pittsburgh, PA
Original Publish Date:	April 23, 2018
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=96086

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).