



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	St. Johns, Arizona	Accident Number:	GAA18CA298
Date & Time:	May 23, 2018, 13:30 Local	Registration:	N4207D
Aircraft:	GARCIA BENIGNO BABY ACE D	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, immediately after landing, the tailwheel-equipped airplane veered left and then right. Subsequently, he applied "heavy" brakes, and the airplane exited the right side of the runway and then nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right-wing lift strut.

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

The automated weather observation system located at the accident airport reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 280° at 10 knots, gusting to 19 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 3.

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 in gusting, quartering tailwind conditions.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
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:	July 13, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 30, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 900 hours (Total, all aircraft), 65 hours (Total, this make and model), 800 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 45 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GARCIA BENIGNO	Registration:	N4207D
Model/Series:	BABY ACE D UNDESIGNAT	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1983	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	346
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 19, 2018 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	602.1 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	A65
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	65 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:	KSJN, 5733 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	221°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots / 19 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	280°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.01 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / -8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Grants, NM (GNT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	St. Johns, AZ (SJN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	ST JOHNS INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK SJN	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5736 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	3	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3400 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

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:	34.519165,-109.377777(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Chris Kennedy; FAA; Scottsdale , AZ
Original Publish Date:	October 24, 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=97320

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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](#).