



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Forest, Virginia	Accident Number:	GAA19CA089
Date & Time:	November 30, 2018, 16:30 Local	Registration:	N27838
Aircraft:	Piper J4	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The solo student pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during final approach to land, he realized the airplane was too high, so he performed a forward slip. During touchdown, the airplane bounced twice and veered right. The airplane ground looped to the right, exited the runway, and the right main landing gear struck a guard rail.

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

The student 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 student pilot's improper landing flare and subsequent failure to maintain directional control during landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student/instructed pilot
Aircraft	Landing flare - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Fence/fence post - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Abnormal runway contact
Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing	Runway excursion
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	17,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 6, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	17.5 hours (Total, all aircraft), 17.5 hours (Total, this make and model), 0.3 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 17.5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0.5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N27838
Model/Series:	J4 A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1940	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	4-1059
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 7, 2017 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	C-85
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	85 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLYH,938 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	21:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	64°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 6500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Forest, VA (W90)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Forest, VA (W90)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	NEW LONDON W90	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	842 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3164 ft / 40 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

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:	37.27111,-79.335556(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Kenny Bain; FAA; Richmond, VA
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=98748

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