



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Rio Vista, California	Accident Number:	GAA19CA075
Date & Time:	November 26, 2018, 12:30 Local	Registration:	N1916Z
Aircraft:	Darren M. Vinelli Sopwith PUP	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during landing, the airplane encountered a variable crosswind gust, and the left wing lifted. He was able to keep the airplane on the runway and established a landing roll. The ground speed was about 20 mph, and the airplane encountered another wind gust. The airplane weather-vaned to the left, exited the left side of the runway, rolled into mud, and nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the rudder.

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

The pilot reported that the wind at the time of the accident was variable at 5 knots, gusting to 8 knots. A METAR at the nearest airport about 12 miles west of the accident site reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 020° at 6 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 25.

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 the landing roll in gusting tailwind conditions.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Wet/muddy terrain - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Other weather encounter
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Center
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:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 7, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	November 21, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 535 hours (Total, all aircraft), 79 hours (Total, this make and model), 459 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Darren M. Vinelli	Registration:	N1916Z
Model/Series:	Sopwith PUP	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2017	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	001
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 28, 2018 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	78 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-290G
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	125 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:	KSUU, 62 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	12 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:58 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	292°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	20°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.14 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	17°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Rio Vista, CA (O88)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Rio Vista, CA (O88)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Rio Vista Muni 088	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	22 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4199 ft / 75 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:	38.193332,-121.703613(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	CRAIG S MILLER; FAA; SACRAMENTO, CA
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=98685

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