



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|                                |                                      |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | East Sound, WA                       | <b>Accident Number:</b> | GAA18CA441  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 06/16/2018, 1730 PDT                 | <b>Registration:</b>    | N11YB       |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Piper PA                             | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Loss of control on ground            | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 2 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                         |             |

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## Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during a left-wing-low (sideslip) landing and before touchdown, he leveled the wings, and the airplane bounced. He then increased the throttle slightly and adjusted the pitch to cushion the subsequent bounce, but the airplane veered right, exited the runway to the right, and ground looped.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing.

The pilot 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, 5 minutes after the accident, the wind was from 310° at 6 knots, gusting to 12 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 34.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's improper landing flare, which resulted in a bounced landing and his subsequent failure to maintain directional control in a gusting, left quartering headwind.

## Findings

|                             |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aircraft</b>             | Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)<br>Landing flare - Not attained/maintained (Cause) |
| <b>Personnel issues</b>     | Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)                                                                         |
| <b>Environmental issues</b> | Gusts - Effect on operation                                                                              |

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                      |                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Landing-landing roll | Abnormal runway contact<br>Attempted remediation/recovery<br>Loss of control on ground (Defining event)<br>Runway excursion |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Pilot Information

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                   |            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Certificate:              | Private                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Age:                              | 59, Male   |
| Airplane Rating(s):       | Single-engine Land                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Seat Occupied:                    | Left       |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Restraint Used:                   |            |
| 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:            | 06/14/2018 |
| Occupational Pilot:       | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | 12/04/2016 |
| Flight Time:              | (Estimated) 255 hours (Total, all aircraft), 221 hours (Total, this make and model), 166 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |                                   |            |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                               |                                |                                |                 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make:                | Piper                          | Registration:                  | N11YB           |
| Model/Series:                 | PA 20                          | Aircraft Category:             | Airplane        |
| Year of Manufacture:          | 1950                           | Amateur Built:                 | No              |
| Airworthiness Certificate:    | Normal                         | Serial Number:                 | 20-83           |
| Landing Gear Type:            | Tailwheel                      | Seats:                         | 4               |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 07/13/2017, Annual             | Certified Max Gross Wt.:       | 1799 lbs        |
| Time Since Last Inspection:   |                                | Engines:                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time:          | 2191 Hours at time of accident | Engine Manufacturer:           | Lycoming        |
| ELT:                          | Installed, not activated       | Engine Model/Series:           | O-320           |
| Registered Owner:             | On file                        | Rated Power:                   | 150 hp          |
| Operator:                     | On file                        | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|                                  |                                  |                                      |                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site:     | Visual Conditions                | Condition of Light:                  | Day              |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KORS, 31 ft msl                  | Distance from Accident Site:         | 0 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time:                | 0035 UTC                         | Direction from Accident Site:        | 221°             |
| Lowest Cloud Condition:          | Clear                            | Visibility                           | 10 Miles         |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | None                             | Visibility (RVR):                    |                  |
| Wind Speed/Gusts:                | 6 knots / 12 knots               | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:     | None / None      |
| Wind Direction:                  | 310°                             | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | N/A / N/A        |
| Altimeter Setting:               | 29.93 inches Hg                  | Temperature/Dew Point:               | 22° C / 10° C    |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                                      |                  |
| Departure Point:                 | East Sound, WA (ORS)             | Type of Flight Plan Filed:           | None             |
| Destination:                     | Eastsound, WA (ORS)              | Type of Clearance:                   | None             |
| Departure Time:                  | 1715 PDT                         | Type of Airspace:                    | Class G          |

## Airport Information

|                      |                    |                           |                        |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Airport:             | ORCAS ISLAND (ORS) | Runway Surface Type:      | Asphalt                |
| Airport Elevation:   | 34 ft              | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry                    |
| Runway Used:         | 34                 | IFR Approach:             | None                   |
| Runway Length/Width: | 2901 ft / 60 ft    | VFR Approach/Landing:     | Full Stop; Straight-in |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                     |        |                      |                              |
|---------------------|--------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Crew Injuries:      | 1 None | Aircraft Damage:     | Substantial                  |
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Fire:       | None                         |
| Ground Injuries:    | N/A    | Aircraft Explosion:  | None                         |
| Total Injuries:     | 2 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 48.708333, -122.910556 (est) |

## Administrative Information

|                                   |                                                                                                                                 |              |            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC):     | Eleazar Nepomuceno                                                                                                              | Report Date: | 09/26/2019 |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Rod Ziegler; FAA; Des Moines, WA, WA                                                                                            |              |            |
| Publish Date:                     | 09/26/2019                                                                                                                      |              |            |
| Note:                             | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.                             |              |            |
| Investigation Docket:             | <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=97884">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=97884</a> |              |            |

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