



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MILLEDGEVILLE, GA	Accident Number:	ATL85LA001
Date & Time:	10/03/1984, 1000 EDT	Registration:	N38685
Aircraft:	PIPER J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PLT DEPARTED FOR THE INTENDED DESTINATION, BUT WAS UNABLE TO FIND THE ARPT DUE TO FOG. AFTER LANDING AT ANOTHER NEARBY ARPT, HE FOUND NO AV-GAS AVAILABLE. HE THEN ELECTED TO RETURN TO HIS ORIGINAL DESTINATION, BUT EXPERIENCED A TOTAL POWER LOSS DUE TO FUEL EXHAUSTION APRX 7 MI SHORT OF THE ARPT. A FORCED LANDING WAS MADE IN A PLOWED FIELD. DURING THE LANDING ROLL, THE NOSE GEAR WHEEL SANK IN SOFT SOIL & THE ACFT NOSED OVER. THE ELAPSED TIME FROM INITIAL TAKEOFF UNTIL THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED WAS 45 MIN. THE PLT ESTIMATED HIS FUEL REMAINING AT THE TIME OF INITIAL TAKEOFF TO BE 72 MINUTES.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
 3. (C) FUEL SUPPLY - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SOFT
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Occurrence #4: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/28/1983
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	431 hours (Total, all aircraft), 59 hours (Total, this make and model), 336 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N38685
Model/Series:	J3C-65 J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	7193
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/30/1983, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	14 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3600 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	A-65
Registered Owner:	WALTER A. CLAYTON	Rated Power:	65 hp
Operator:	WALTER A. CLAYTON	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SANDERSVILLE, GA (3J7)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	MILLEDGEVILLE, GA (MLJ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0945 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BALDWIN CITY	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	350 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	DENNIS D HENDERSON	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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](#).