



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	Soldotna, AK	Accident Number:	ANC03LA016
Date & Time:	12/01/2002, 1200 AST	Registration:	N270JS
Aircraft:	Piper J5A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On December 1, 2002, about 1200 Alaska standard time, a Piper J5A airplane, N270JS, sustained substantial damage when the main landing gear collapsed during an emergency landing following a loss of engine power at the Soldotna Airport, Soldotna, Alaska. The airplane was being operated as a visual flight rules (VFR) personal flight under Title 14, CFR Part 91, at the time of the accident. The solo commercial pilot was not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed.

During a telephone conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator-in-charge (IIC) on December 9, the pilot said he had taken off on runway 07, and started a right climbing turn, when the engine lost power. The pilot said he applied carburetor heat, and checked the position of the fuel tank selector, but he could not restart the engine. He said he was about 200 feet above ground level, and turned toward the runway. He said the airplane landed hard on the runway, the left main landing gear collapsed, and the left wing struck the runway. The pilot said there were no known mechanical anomalies with the airplane prior to the accident, however, he said the mechanic who recovered the airplane removed more than a pint of water from the right wing fuel sump. The pilot said he fueled the airplane with 87-octane auto gas from 5-gallon cans prior to the flight, and stated he should have strained the fuel through a water trap filter.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	47, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/05/2001
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	09/05/2001
Flight Time:	1180 hours (Total, all aircraft), 500 hours (Total, this make and model), 1120 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N270JS
Model/Series:	J5A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5-18
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/11/2002, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1450 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2000 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-290D
Registered Owner:	James R. Babcock	Rated Power:	125 hp
Operator:	James R. Babcock	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PASX, 100 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1235 ADT	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 100 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.11 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-1° C / -1° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Soldotna, AK (SXQ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1200 AST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Soldotna (SXQ)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	108 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Ice
Runway Used:	07	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 130 ft	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:	60.476111, -151.032500

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Lawrence R Lewis
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael T Zarr; FAA Anchorage, FSDO-03; Anchorage, AK
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/ .