



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Sonoma, CA	Accident Number:	SEA08LA057A
Date & Time:	01/01/2008, 1430 PST	Registration:	N8037W
Aircraft:	Piper PA 28-180	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilots were attending a fly-in at the airport. One pilot in a low-wing airplane was landing, and the other pilot in a high-wing airplane was departing. The runup area for the landing runway is situated at the beginning of the runway so that following a runup, a pilot can depart straight from the runup area onto the runway. A witness said that the landing pilot had made radio transmissions around the traffic pattern, and then indicated that he was on final approach for landing. When the landing pilot was on short final, the departing pilot indicated that he was departing. The witness was flying above the airport and advised the departing pilot that an airplane was landing. The airplanes collided shortly thereafter. According to 14 CFR 91.113, Right-of-way rules: Except water operations, "Aircraft, while on final approach to land or while landing, have the right-of-way over other aircraft in flight or operating on the surface, except that they shall not take advantage of this rule to force an aircraft off the runway surface which has already landed and is attempting to make way for an aircraft on final approach."

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The departing pilot's inadequate visual lookout.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MIDAIR COLLISION
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT

Factual Information

On January 1, 2008, about 1430 Pacific standard time, a Piper PA 28-180 low-wing airplane, N8037W, and a Barnard/Stancil Glastar high-wing airplane, N15EX, collided in flight at the Sonoma County Airport (OQ3), Schellville/Sonoma, California. Both pilots were operating the airplanes under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 91. The private pilot of the Piper, the sole occupant, and the commercial pilot and one passenger of the Glastar, were not injured. The Piper sustained minor damage, and the Glastar sustained substantial damage. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for either flight. The pilots of both airplanes were attending a fly-in at the airport.

The Piper pilot reported that he entered the right downwind leg of the traffic pattern for runway 07 and announced his position. Then, he announced that he was turning right base for runway 07. As he turned onto the final approach leg, he announced his position and that he was landing on runway 07. He noticed an airplane about 100 feet from the runway, facing east (away from the pilot). As the pilot continued his descent, he heard the sound of an airplane engine. Within 1 to 2 seconds, he felt contact between his airplane and another airplane. He looked out of the right window and saw an airplane next to his, turning away and climbing. He noticed that the top portion of the other airplane's rudder sustained impact damage.

According to the Glastar pilot, he was waiting for an airplane to land on runway 25 so he was holding at the end of runway 07. When the airplane cleared the runway, the pilot announced his intentions to depart and began his takeoff roll. As the airplane became airborne, he heard someone transmit over the frequency that he had someone above him. The pilot looked up and saw the right main gear of an airplane about six feet above him. The pilot attempted to side slip to the right; however, the airplanes collided. The Glastar pilot continued to fly the airplane and did not have any rudder authority. He diverted to Napa County Airport because they had a larger runway available. The landing was made without further incident.

The Safety Board investigator interviewed a witness who was attending the fly in. The witness was the pilot of an airplane that was the second airplane in a flight of two. The lead airplane was just entering the right downwind for runway 07 and the witness was directly over the airport at midfield. He saw the Piper on downwind, base, and then on the final approach leg. As the Piper was on final, the Piper pilot made a broadcast that he was landing on runway 07. When the Piper was on short final, the witness heard another pilot say, "...rolling 07." The witness looked down and saw a Glastar rolling down the runway and the Piper nearly over the top of him. The witness transmitted to the Glastar pilot that there was an airplane landing on the runway. The airplanes then collided and the Glastar went to the right while climbing and the Piper landed uneventfully. After attempting to land at Schellville but not being able to due to a lack of rudder authority, the Glastar landed uneventfully at a nearby airport.

The witness stated that the runup area for runway 07 is situated at the beginning of runway 07. Following a runup, a pilot can depart straight from the run up area onto the runway. The witness further indicated that it is widely known that airplanes operating at the Antique Fly-In may not have radios and/or electrical systems so pilots must remain vigilant of other traffic in the area, especially during fly-in activities.

According to 14 CFR 91.113, Right-of-way rules: Except water operations, "Aircraft, while on final approach to land or while landing, have the right-of-way over other aircraft in flight or operating on the surface, except that they shall not take advantage of this rule to force an

aircraft off the runway surface which has already landed and is attempting to make way for an aircraft on final approach."

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	56, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	11/01/2007
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	07/01/2007
Flight Time:	705 hours (Total, all aircraft), 62 hours (Total, this make and model), 606 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Piper	Registration:	N8037W
Model/Series:	PA 28-180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28-2104
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/01/2007, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	75 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2865 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Textron Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A3A
Registered Owner:	Marshall White	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	Timothy Bennett	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	DVO, 2 ft msl	Observation Time:	1454 PST
Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	220°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	14° C / 0° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots, 80°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.19 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Petaluma, CA (O69)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Sonoma, CA (OQ3)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1400 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Schellville/Sonoma (OQ3)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	10 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	7	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2700 ft / 45 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kristi Dunks	Adopted Date:	04/30/2008
Additional Participating Persons:	Glenn Gathright; Federal Aviation Administration; Oakland, CA		
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/ .		

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