



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Lynden, WA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR09CA002
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	10/02/2008, 1845 PDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N2146M
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER J3C-65	<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 stated that the tailwheel equipped airplane suddenly veered to the right during the landing roll. Despite his control inputs, the airplane continued to veer to the right, exited the runway, and impacted a hangar located adjacent to the runway. Examination of the airplane revealed that the fuselage and both wings were structurally damaged. The tailwheel spring retaining clip was found separated from the tailwheel assembly. No anomalies were noted with the flight control system.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The separation of the tailwheel spring retaining clip for unknown reasons, which resulted in the loss of directional control during the landing roll.

## Findings

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<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Attain/maintain not possible (Cause) Nose/tail landing gear - Failure (Cause)
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## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power) Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Runway excursion Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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### Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	34, 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 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	01/17/2006
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	09/12/2008
Flight Time:	233 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N2146M
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20931
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	C85
Registered Owner:	Scott Peterson	Rated Power:	85 hp
Operator:	John William Vanderhage	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	BLI, 170 ft msl	Observation Time:	1845 PDT
Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	180°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Temperature/Dew Point:	17° C / 12° C
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 3900 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 200°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.74 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lynden, WA (38W)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lynden, WA (38W)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1758 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Unknown

## Airport Information

Airport:	Lynden Airport (38W)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	106 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2425 ft / 40 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

## 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		

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Joshua Cawthra	Adopted Date:	11/05/2008
Additional Participating Persons:	Scott Peterson; Federal Aviation Administration; Renton, WA		
Publish Date:	11/05/2008		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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