



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Park Rapids, MN	Accident Number:	CEN10CA461
Date & Time:	08/02/2010, 1730 CDT	Registration:	N389HW
Aircraft:	Wing Kitfox II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (partial)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot noted a partial loss of engine power in the float-equipped airplane. His corrective actions did not restore full engine power and the airplane was unable to maintain altitude. He reduced engine power to flight idle and entered a rapid descent to a nearby lake. He noted that the engine continued to operate while in the flight idle position. Due to the size constraints of the lake, the landing was firm and that the airplane nosed over shortly after touchdown. The fuselage primary structure, left horizontal stabilizer, right float and support structure, and left wing spar were substantially damaged during the accident. A postaccident examination confirmed flight control continuity between the cockpit controls and the individual flight control surfaces. Fuel system continuity was established between the fuel control and carburetor. The examination did not reveal any evidence of a mechanical malfunction.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A partial loss of engine power for undetermined reasons and the pilot's failure to adequately flare during the water landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Engine (reciprocating) - Malfunction (Cause) Landing flare - Not attained/maintained (Cause) Wheel/ski/float - Capability exceeded
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Loss of engine power (partial) (Defining event)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-flare/touchdown	Hard landing Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	70, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	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 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	12/10/2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	09/09/2009
Flight Time:	14000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Total, this make and model), 6000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Wing	Registration:	N389HW
Model/Series:	Kitfox II	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	389
Landing Gear Type:	Float	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/01/2010, Conditional	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	1 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	152 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Bombardier Rotax
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	532
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPKD, 1445 ft msl	Observation Time:	1753 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	3 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	360°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	29° C / 19° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots, 260°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.86 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Park Rapids, MN	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Park Rapids, MN	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1700 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Petit Lake	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	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		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Andrew T Fox	Adopted Date:	05/11/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	Karl E Bitschenauer; Federal Aviation Administration - Minneapolis FSDO; Minneapolis, MN		
Publish Date:	05/11/2011		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=76861		

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