



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Maysville, NC	Accident Number:	ERA11CA174
Date & Time:	03/02/2011, 1430 EST	Registration:	N23249
Aircraft:	PIPER J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot-in-command (PIC) of the tailwheel airplane stated that he was flying from his private airstrip, with a friend who was also a pilot. The friend did not have much experience in tailwheel airplanes and had not flown the airplane from the airstrip. The PIC completed two takeoffs and landings uneventfully, and then let his friend perform the third takeoff. During the takeoff roll, as the tailwheel lifted, the airplane yawed to the left. The PIC then took authority of the controls and attempted to correct the yaw. The airplane traveled off the left side of the runway and impacted trees, resulting in substantial damage to the fuselage and left wing. The PIC reported no preimpact mechanical anomalies with the airplane and added that the wind was light and variable at the time. The PIC stated that he should have taken control of the airplane sooner.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot-rated passenger's loss of directional control during takeoff and the pilot's delayed remedial action, which resulted in a runway excursion and collision with trees.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private; Sport Pilot	Age:	68, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport Pilot	Last Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	02/06/2011
Flight Time:	2000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1825 hours (Total, this make and model), 1900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Other Flight Crew Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	04/14/2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1287 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N23249
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	3015
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/26/2010, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	16 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3717 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	A65
Registered Owner:	Tommy R McFalls	Rated Power:	65 hp
Operator:	Tommy R McFalls	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	EWN, 18 ft msl	Observation Time:	1454 EST
Distance from Accident Site:	12 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	60°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C / -3°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots, 270°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.19 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Maysville, NC (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Maysville, NC (NONE)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1430 EST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Private Airstrip (NONE)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	30 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	09	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1000 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Robert J Gretz	Adopted Date:	06/08/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	Rex Smith; FAA/FSDO; Greensboro, NC		
Publish Date:	06/08/2011		
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=78478		

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