



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Valparaiso, IN	Accident Number:	CEN11LA614
Date & Time:	09/01/2011, 0815 CDT	Registration:	N83533
Aircraft:	AERONCA 7AC	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

During landing, the airplane exited the right side of the runway and struck a ditch, and the main landing gear collapsed. No defects were found with the airplane's brake system. Photographic evidence of skid marks showed that the tailwheel experienced shimmy during the landing, which continued to the side of the runway. Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed some play in the tailwheel assembly due to wear, which allowed the tailwheel to shimmy during the landing.

Flight Events

Landing-landing roll - Loss of control on ground
Landing-landing roll - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of directional control during landing. Contributing to the accident was the wear in the tailwheel assembly.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Landing gear system-Nose/tail landing gear-Not specified - F
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Directional control-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	27
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	2000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 1917 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 80 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AERONCA	Registration:	N83533
Model/Series:	7AC	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	A&C65 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	VPZ, 770 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable, Variable
Temperature:	22°C / 20°C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Greenville, MI (6D6)	Destination:	Valparaiso, IN (VPZ)

Airport Information

Airport:	Porter County Regional Airport (VPZ)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	09	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	7001 ft / 150 ft		

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John M Brannen	Adopted Date:	02/27/2013
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=81669		

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