



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Adrian, TX	Accident Number:	CEN14CA157
Date & Time:	03/01/2014, 1330 CST	Registration:	N85372
Aircraft:	AERONCA 7AC	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported he planned on making a wheel landing at a higher than normal airspeed due to the anticipated strong surface wind. The pilot reported that during the landing roll, after the tailwheel settled to the ground, he noticed that the wind velocity was less than he anticipated and that his ground speed was "pretty fast." According to the pilot, due to the increased groundspeed, the wings were still producing some lift and although the gear remained on the runway, the full weight of the airplane was not on the landing gear. The pilot stated the airplane swerved to the right and he was able to regain directional control. The airplane then swerved to the left and the pilot was not able to regain directional control which resulted in a ground loop. The tailwheel traveled into the grass alongside the runway, and the right wing and right stabilizer contacted the ground. The pilot was able to taxi the airplane back onto the runway, however; he stated it would not taxi straight. The pilot reported there were no mechanical malfunctions of the airplane prior to the accident. A postaccident examination revealed the airplane sustained substantial damage to the aft fuselage.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain directional control of the airplane during the landing roll which resulted in the airplane ground looping.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

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

Certificate:	Private	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
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:	09/20/2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/11/2013
Flight Time:	301.3 hours (Total, all aircraft), 48.6 hours (Total, this make and model), 193.7 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 5.2 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5.2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AERONCA	Registration:	N85372
Model/Series:	7AC NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	7AC4112
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3108 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	A65-8
Registered Owner:	COEN BRADY DBA	Rated Power:	65 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	HRX, 3788 ft msl	Observation Time:	1335 CST
Distance from Accident Site:	46 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	140°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	26° C / -5° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:		Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.83 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Dalhart, TX (DHT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Clovis, TX (CVN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1215 CST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Coleman Cattle Ranch (PVT)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	3820 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	04	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3500 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Pamela S Sullivan	Adopted Date:	04/23/2014
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:	07/07/2015		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=88908		

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