



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Columbus, NC	Accident Number:	ERA15LA051
Date & Time:	11/13/2014, 1030 EST	Registration:	N524MB
Aircraft:	BELL BILL KITFOX 6	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private pilot initially reported that, while landing his tailwheel-equipped, experimental, amateur-built airplane on the private 1,500-ft-long turf runway, he experienced a loss of directional control without any mechanical malfunctions. The airplane ground looped and came to rest inverted, which resulted in substantial damage to the left wing. The pilot later stated that the left main wheel axle had separated from the landing gear leg, which precipitated the loss of control. The airplane was not examined after the accident, and review of maintenance logbooks did not reveal any entries pertaining to work performed on the landing gear in the previous year. Because no further examination of the airplane was performed, the reason for the loss of directional control during landing could not be determined based on the available information.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

A loss of directional control during landing for reasons that could not be determined based on the available information.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Not determined	Not determined - Unknown/Not determined (Cause)

Factual Information

On November 13, 2014, about 1030 eastern standard time, an experimental amateur-built Kitfox 6, N524MB, was substantially damaged following a loss of control during landing at Wheat Field Airport (56NC), Columbus, North Carolina. The private pilot was not injured. The airplane was owned by the pilot and operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the flight, which departed Rutherford County Airport Marchman Field (FQD), Rutherfordton, North Carolina, about 1015.

The pilot stated that he departed 56NC for a pleasure flight and stopped at FQD for fuel before returning to 56NC. He initially reported to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector that, while landing on the private, 1,500-foot long turf runway, he experienced a loss of directional control. The airplane ground looped and came to rest inverted, resulting in substantial damage to the left wing. The pilot stated that he did not experience any mechanical malfunctions with the airplane; however, he later reported that the loss of control was due to the left main landing gear axle separating from the gear leg during landing.

The pilot held a private pilot certificate with a rating for airplane single engine land. His most recent FAA third class medical certificate was issued in August 2013. He reported 254 total hours of flight experience, of which 39 hours were in the accident airplane make and model.

The amateur-built, tailwheel-equipped airplane was manufactured in May 2006, and was powered by a Continental IO-240, 125 horsepower reciprocating engine. Its most recent annual inspection was completed September 19, 2014, at a total time of 224.9 hours. At the time of the accident, the airplane had accumulated about 235 total hours in service. Review of maintenance logbooks did not reveal any entries pertaining to work performed on the landing gear in the previous year. No postaccident examination of the airplane and left main landing gear was performed.

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Nose over/nose down
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 FAA Medical Exam:	08/21/2013
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/22/2013
Flight Time:	254 hours (Total, all aircraft), 39 hours (Total, this make and model), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BELL BILL	Registration:	N524MB
Model/Series:	KITFOX 6	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2006	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	S60005-008
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/19/2014, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	10 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	235 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	C91A installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-240 SER
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	125 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KFQD, 1078 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	14 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1555 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	20°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 3700 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	15° C / 5° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Rutherfordton, NC (FQD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Columbus, NC (56NC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1015 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Wheat Field Airport (56NC)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	980 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1500 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

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	Latitude, Longitude:	35.206667, -82.031944 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Allison N Diaz	Report Date:	04/13/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Rene Gonzalez; FAA/FSDO; Charlotte, NC		
Publish Date:	04/13/2020		
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=90386		

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