



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	De Kalb, IL	Accident Number:	CEN15CA223
Date & Time:	05/03/2015, 1115 CDT	Registration:	N98656
Aircraft:	PIPER J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Ground collision	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot, who was in the rear tandem seat of the tailwheel airplane, had just landed and was taxiing to the fuel pumps to refuel. He did not see the parked Beech A36 over the nose of his airplane and collided with the right wing of N4678A. The pilot said the accident could have been prevented if he had followed the taxi line on the tarmac. He also blamed his "less than effective brakes" that didn't help as he tried to control the airplane in the wind. This caused his attention to be diverted and he lost sight of the surrounding obstructions. The pilot had logged a total of 82 flight hours, of which 13 hours were in the accident airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of positional awareness while taxiing, resulting in a collision with a parked and unoccupied airplane. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's difficulty seeing over the nose of the airplane, his preoccupation with trying to control the airplane in the wind, and his minimal experience in the airplane.

Findings

Aircraft	Braking capability - Capability exceeded (Factor)
Personnel issues	Visual function - Pilot (Cause) Total experience w/ equipment - Pilot (Factor)
Environmental issues	Variable wind - Ability to respond/compensate (Factor)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi	Ground collision (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	59
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport Pilot	Last Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	05/18/2014
Flight Time:	82 hours (Total, all aircraft), 13 hours (Total, this make and model), 45 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N98656
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18877
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/28/2015, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	13 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1862 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	C-65-8F
Registered Owner:	Joseph A. Begany	Rated Power:	65 hp
Operator:	Joseph A. Begany	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KDKB, 914 ft msl	Observation Time:	1115 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 3900 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	15°C / 13°C
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7500 ft agl	Visibility	5 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots, 210°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.99 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MONROE, WI (KEFT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	De Kalb, IL (KDKB)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0950 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	De Kalb Taylor Municipal (KDKB)	Runway Surface Type:	N/A
Airport Elevation:	914 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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):	Arnold W Scott	Adopted Date:	06/01/2015
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:	06/01/2015		
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=91141		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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