



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	De Kalb, IL	Accident Number:	CEN15CA223
Date & Time:	05/03/2015, 1115 CDT	Registration:	N98656
Aircraft:	PIPER J3C-65	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.

Flight Events

Taxi - Ground collision

Probable Cause

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-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Aircraft capability-Braking capability-Capability exceeded - F
Personnel issues-Physical-Sensory ability/limitation-Visual function-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Experience/qualifications-Total experience w/ equipment-Pilot - F
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Variable wind-Ability to respond/compensate - F

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	59
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Joseph A. Begany	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	C-65-8F
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KDKB, 914 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7500 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots, 210°
Temperature:	15°C / 13°C	Visibility	5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MONROE, WI (KEFT)	Destination:	De Kalb, IL (KDKB)

Airport Information

Airport:	De Kalb Taylor Municipal (KDKB)	Runway Surface Type:	N/A
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Arnold W Scott	Adopted 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		

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