



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Carlsbad, CA	Accident Number:	GAA16CA049
Date & Time:	11/14/2015, 1446 PST	Registration:	N9872
Aircraft:	CURTISS WRIGHT Travel Air	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Other Work Use - Sightseeing		

Analysis

According to the pilot of the tailwheel-equipped biplane, during the fourth landing roll of the day, the airplane "fish tailed" to the right and he was not able to maintain directional control. The airplane ground looped to the left on the runway, the right main landing gear collapsed and the lower right wing struck the ground. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the lower right wing and wing strut.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or anomalies prior to or during the flight that would have prevented normal operation.

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 during the landing roll, resulting in a ground-loop, and substantial damage to the right wing and wing strut.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Ground collision

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	68, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/07/2015
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/27/2015
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 4656 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1856 hours (Total, this make and model), 3700 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CURTISS WRIGHT	Registration:	N9872
Model/Series:	Travel Air B-4000	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	1059
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/01/2015, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3130 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1131 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	W670-6A
Registered Owner:	FUN FLIGHTS LLC	Rated Power:	250 hp
Operator:	FUN FLIGHTS LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CRQ, 330 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2253 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Light and Variable /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	Variable	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.89 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21° C / 4° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	CARLSBAD, CA (CRQ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Carlsbad, CA (CRQ)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1415 CST	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	MC CLELLAN-PALOMAR (CRQ)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	330 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	24	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4897 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.128333, -117.280000 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Report Date:	03/14/2016
Additional Participating Persons:	Cody Ingermansen; Federal Aviation Administration; San Diego, CA		
Publish Date:	04/17/2020		
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=92329		

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