



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	St. Augustine, FL	Accident Number:	GAA16CA502
Date & Time:	08/24/2016, 1500 EDT	Registration:	N481SL
Aircraft:	ARION SKYS OPEN SPORT AVIATION LIGHTNING	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot of the experimental light-sport airplane, following a personal flight, he made a straight-in approach to runway 13. He recalled that the tower reported the wind as 070° at 12 knots. During the approach, the airplane encountered "convective turbulence," but he established a stabilized approach over the runway centerline. He remarked that, about 5 ft above the runway, the airplane encountered what he estimated to be a 20-knot or greater wind gust. He reported that the airplane ballooned and touched down on the nosewheel, the propeller struck the ground, and he used differential braking to stop the airplane on the runway. The nose landing gear separated from the airplane, and the engine mounts and the spar box sustained substantial damage.

The METAR at the accident airport indicated that, at the time of the accident, the wind was 040° true at 12 knots. There were no METARs throughout the day at the accident airport that indicated wind gusts.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or anomalies with the airframe or engine that would have prevented normal operation.

Flight Events

Landing-flare/touchdown - Other weather encounter
Landing-flare/touchdown - Nose over/nose down

Probable Cause

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

The pilot's improper landing flare, which resulted in a hard landing.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Landing flare-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Use of available resources-Pilot

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	70
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 402 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9 hours (Total, this make and model), 300 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	ARION SKYS OPEN SPORT AVIATION	Registration:	N481SL
Model/Series:	LIGHTNING	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	JABIRU
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	3300
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSGJ, 10 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots / , 40°
Temperature:	31° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Shelbyville, TN (SYI)	Destination:	St. Augustine, FL (SGJ)

Airport Information

Airport:	NORTHEAST FLORIDA RGNL (SGJ)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	13	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	8002 ft / 150 ft		

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
Latitude, Longitude:	29.959167, -81.339722 (est)		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Adopted Date:	04/10/2017
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=94062		

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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