



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Hilton Head, SC	Accident Number:	GAA19CA294
Date & Time:	05/28/2019, 1400 EDT	Registration:	N998LS
Aircraft:	RATHEON AIRCRAFT COMPANY A36	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing gear not configured	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during an instrument flight rules approach, he failed to extend the landing gear, and the airplane landed on the runway with the landing gear retracted. The pilot added that the accident could have been prevented by "paying much closer attention to the checklists." The airplane sustained substantial damage to the lower fuselage. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded 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 extend the landing gear before landing. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's failure to complete the before landing checklist.

Findings

Aircraft	Gear extension and retract sys - Not used/operated (Cause)
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot (Cause) Use of checklist - Pilot (Factor)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Landing gear not configured (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	53, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/26/2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	03/31/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 350 hours (Total, this make and model), 500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	RATHEON AIRCRAFT COMPANY	Registration:	N998LS
Model/Series:	A36	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1998	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	Serial Number:	E-3204
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/05/2019, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3651 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2083.4 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550
Registered Owner:	F & S Aviation Llc	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	F & S Aviation Llc	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KHXD, 24 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1750 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	196°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 7000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	100°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.94 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	35°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Asheville, NC (AVL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Hilton Head, SC (HXD)	Type of Clearance:	Cruise; IFR; Traffic Advisory
Departure Time:	1230 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	Hilton Head (HXD)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	19 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	03	IFR Approach:	Visual
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	32.224444, -80.697500 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Report Date:	04/13/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	William Thompson; FAA; Columbia, SC		
Publish Date:	04/13/2020		
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=99518		

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.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).