



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Boulder, CO	Accident Number:	GAA19CA572
Date & Time:	09/23/2019, 1420 MDT	Registration:	N4785F
Aircraft:	Piper PA18	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he conducted a normal three-point landing. During the landing roll, the airplane ground looped to the left, and the left wing struck the ground. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing spar and the rudder. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 maintain directional control during the landing roll, which resulted in a ground loop.

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)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	57, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/06/2019
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/16/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 20403 hours (Total, all aircraft), 24 hours (Total, this make and model), 6169 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 58 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0.5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4785F
Model/Series:	PA18 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1962	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-7906
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/07/2019, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	15624.7 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A3A
Registered Owner:	Soaring Society Of Boulder Inc	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	Soaring Society Of Boulder Inc	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KBDU, 5289 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2012 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	133°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.08 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / -2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Boulder, CO (BDU)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Boulder, CO (BDU)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1338 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Boulder Muni (BDU)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5288 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	08	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4100 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

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:	40.039444, -105.226111 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Report Date:	03/17/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Nance; FAA; Denver, CO		
Publish Date:	03/17/2020		
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=100336		

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](#).