



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Reno, NV	Accident Number:	GAA19CA596
Date & Time:	09/11/2019, 1443 PDT	Registration:	N515JD
Aircraft:	Pitts S1	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Air Race/Show		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during landing, the biplane encountered a right crosswind, veered right off the runway, and ground looped. The biplane sustained substantial damage to the lower left wing and rudder. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the biplane 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 landing, which resulted in a runway excursion and a ground loop.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Runway excursion
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Center
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 2 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/17/2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	06/15/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 6718 hours (Total, all aircraft), 75 hours (Total, this make and model), 6210 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 27 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Pitts	Registration:	N515JD
Model/Series:	S1 S	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2016	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	RB2016
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/19/2019, Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	114.3 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	HIO-360-A
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KRTS, 5053 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2155 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	164°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.22 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20° C / -2° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Reno, NV (RTS)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Reno, NV (RTS)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0930 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Reno/Stead (RTS)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5050 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	08	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7608 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Straight-in

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
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	39.668056, -119.876389 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	03/17/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Aaron Southerland; FAA; Reno, NV		
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=100633		

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](#).