



Jason Aguilera
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Aviation Safety - Central Region

Subject: CEN23LA188

Contact: FAA Inspectors Jolynn Davila and Gary Watson

FAA Inspectors Jolynn Davila and Gary Watson responded to the accident site and assisted in the loss of engine power investigation on N5550J. On May 24, 2023, the following observations were provided:

- The engine had 173 hours since overhaul.
- It had compression on all four cylinders, so valve train is intact.
- A review of the overhaul records indicated a very good build.
- The carburetor was overhauled and looks fine.
- The bowl drain was removed and found the correct amount of good fuel.

On August 4, 2023, the following observations were provided:

- The engine was disassembled on July 21 by the flight school mechanic under the auspices of the Federal Aviation Administration.
- Of note was the failure of a Part Number LW-15014 rocker arm. There are a total of five cracks in this rocker arm. Three radiating from the push rod socket and two at one pivot point on the rocker arm. It appears that the push rod socket failed due to stress risers around the circumference of the socket. This rocker arm is made from stamped metal, not cast, like found on Continental engines.

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