



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

June 7, 2018

Subject: ERA17LA217 Blairsville GA
Name: Lonnie Hill – Pilot

Mr. Hill was the pilot of the airplane in the accident referenced above. He was interviewed by telephone, and the following is a summary of the interview. .

According to the pilot, he completed a landing to runway 26, retracted the flaps, and applied takeoff power to complete a touch-and-go landing. The nose turned to the right, the pilot corrected with a left rudder application, but the airplane continued to the right. The pilot reduced engine power, aborted the takeoff, and applied left braking but the airplane continued to the right, departed the runway, and travelled through a "depression" before coming to rest. As the main landing gear dropped into the depression, the tail section struck the ground which substantially damaged the tail structure.

The airplane was configured with a castering nose landing gear and steering was accomplished by asymmetrical braking. The main landing gear was equipped with wheel pants, and according to the pilot, the tires could not be serviced with the wheel pants installed.

The pilot reported no deficiencies with the handling and performance of the airplane. The only mechanical malfunction/failure cited by the pilot was, "Right main tire lost all pressure."