

At 1043 on 26 FEB 22 I (Joshua Ymbras) was on short final for runway 01 at KSAV. I was instructed by ATC to discontinue approach and break off to the right for left downwind leg to land on runway 28. I increased power for climb back to pattern altitude and at 1045 I was instructed to perform a 360 degree turn to the right and announce when I was back on downwind for runway 28. As I flew my downwind leg I was extended on that leg toward downtown Savannah. At 1048 I was instructed to turn left base for 28 and coming out of that turn and approaching my turn onto final I lost engine power. Engine was still running, but very low RPM. Had no time to run checklists, as I was rapidly losing altitude, I determined the best landing spot was the river to avoid injury to myself, others and property. I delivered mayday radio call and committed to a water landing in the Savannah Back River. After gathering myself, stepped out onto the wing, called my instructor to inform them of the situation then noticing the rapid sinking of the aircraft, I swam to shore and escaped without injury. The Coast Guard picked me up with a basket from their helicopter and brought me back to Savannah airport.

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Joshua Ymbras

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