

Gene Rambo
Aircraft Accident Investigator
Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: 03 December 2025

Subject: ERA26LA060

Contact: Pilot [REDACTED]

I spoke with the pilot by telephone this date. He stated that he and the aircraft owner, [REDACTED], had flown from North Palm Beach County airport (F45 - which is its home base) to Okeechobee airport for lunch. The pilot occupied the front seat and the owner was in the rear.

As he described the accident, they were landing to the north with a right-hand crosswind. Just before touchdown, a gust of wind abruptly lifted the right wing and he was unable to recover before the aircraft exited the left side of the runway and ran into the perimeter fence along the side of the runway causing substantial damage to the aircraft. He did not indicate that there were any mechanical difficulties with the aircraft. Neither occupant was injured.

The pilot stated that he had approximately 100 hours of tailwheel time, nearly all in the accident aircraft. He and the airplane owner share a hangar at F45 and share/own several aircraft together.