

Investigator: Gene Rambo
Title: Aviation Accident Investigator
Division: OAS, Eastern Region

Date: 9 June 2026

Subject: ERA26LA212. Pilot Interview

Contact: [REDACTED]

I spoke with the pilot by telephone on this date. He stated that he and a friend had flown up from S. Albany to Jaffree for lunch. He had flown in there three times before. They were landing on runway 34 and just before touchdown the airplane veered left. The main wheels touched down off of side of the runway but not the nose gear. He applied full power for a go-around but the airplane was not accelerating or climbing. He felt something under the airplane he described as a "rotating, whirring vibration" that he believed was holding the airplane back. He described the airplanes as "slamming into the ground" and flipping over.

The pilot is the builder of the experimental-amateur built airplane. It was completed at the end of 2024. He has flown the airplane 91.7 hours not counting the accident flight. He has about 200 hours total time, and underwent several hours of transition training in the same make and model airplane before flying his own.

The pilot stated that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.