



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Michael Hicks
Air Safety Investigator
(GAA) General Aviation Accidents

March 19, 2015

NTSB Accident Number: GAA15CA008
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N170TW; Cessna 170A
Accident Location: Palmetto, FL
Accident Date: 121645MAR15
Subject: Private Certificate Pilot Robert F. Mueller

Per discussion, Mr. Mueller reported an accident involving his Cessna 170A on the taxiway of Runway 07/25, at Airpark Manatee (K48X) in Palmetto, FL 121445MAR15. Mr. Mueller attempted to hand prop his airplane. Failing to follow the appropriate approved checklist because his wife was expecting him, resulted in a full open throttle configuration during the start sequence. Despite briefing to the passenger who is not a rated pilot, to keep the toe brakes applied during the start sequence, upon turning the aircraft propeller, the passenger panicked and the aircraft started rolling toward the pilot whom jumped out of the path of the runaway airplane. Mr. Mueller grabbed a hold of the left wing strut as the airplane turned about in two circles.

Unable to hold on during the third circle the airplane made a straight path for an open hangar where the airplane consequently crashed into an open hangar and came to rest lodged between said hangar and a parked airplane. The pilot climbed into the airplane and shut the engine down. The passenger was supported by a four point restraint harness preventing any injury. Mr. Mueller identified there were no injuries yet substantial damage to the aircraft exists. The aircraft experienced intermittent ammeter readings during previous flights, which is why the pilot elected to hand prop the airplane.