



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Western Pacific Region

January 8, 2020

TAILWHEEL TO RUDDER LINK ROD EXAMINATION

WPR20LA025

This document contains 5 embedded photos.

A. ACCIDENT

Location: Heber City, Utah
Date: November 16, 2019
Aircraft: North American SNJ-4, N694US
NTSB Investigator-in-Charge: Joshua Cawthra

B. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

1.0 Tailwheel to Rudder Link Rod Examination

The rudder control horn side ball bearing was damaged, and upper and lower bearing housing shields were elongated and exhibited an inward bend along a portion of both shields, about 180° opposite of one another. The inner race was intact. The bearing balls were mostly separated from the bearing assembly.

The pilot reported that the bolt, castellated nut, and cotter pin were not located.

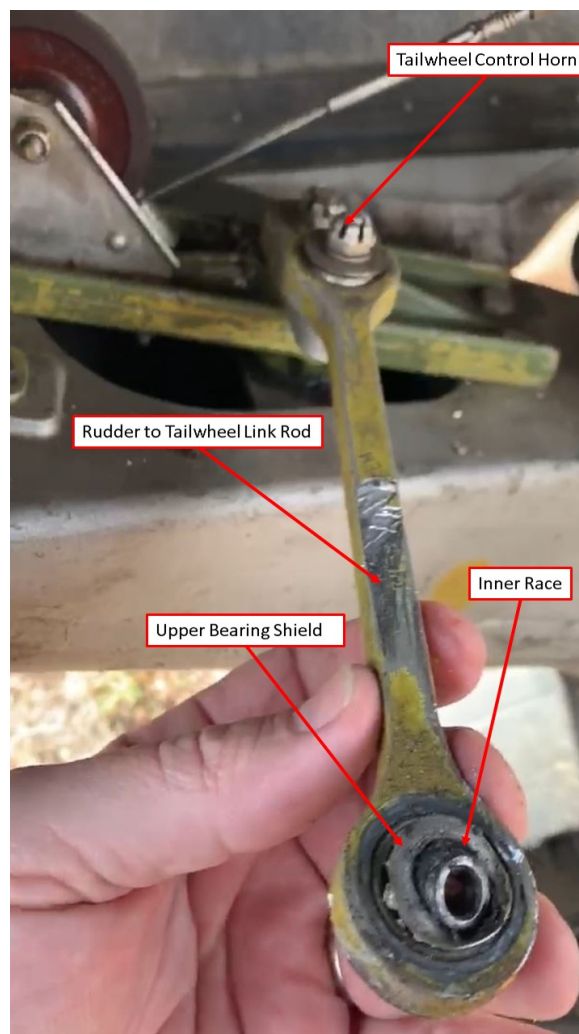


Figure 1: Excerpt from a video provided by the pilot, showing the tailwheel to rudder link rod and damage.

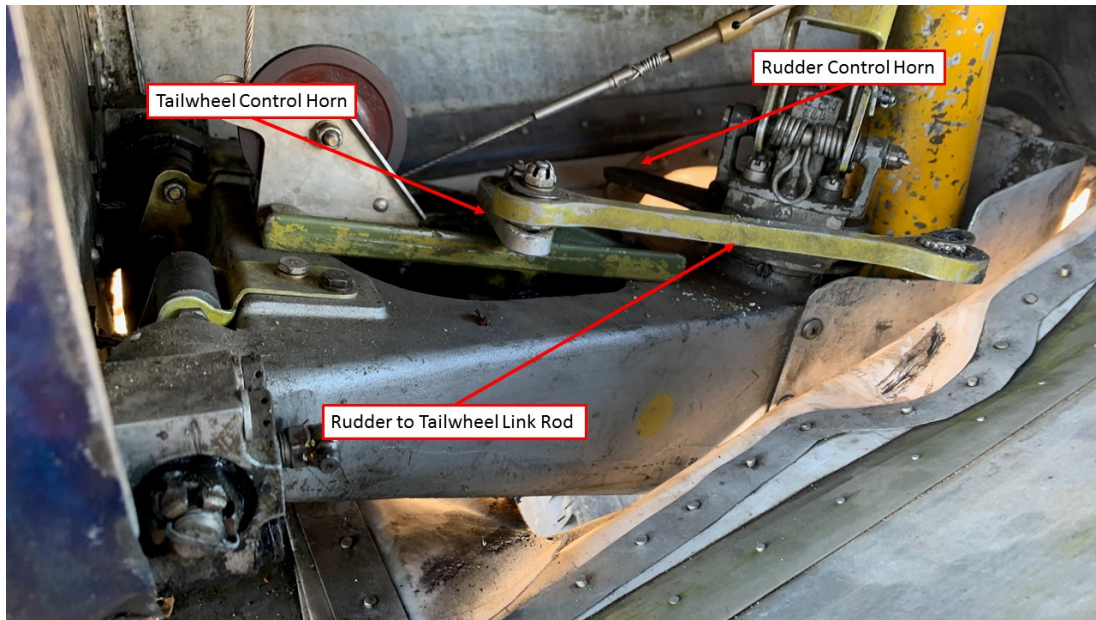


Figure 2: Photo provided by the pilot, showing the tailwheel to rudder link rod and damage.

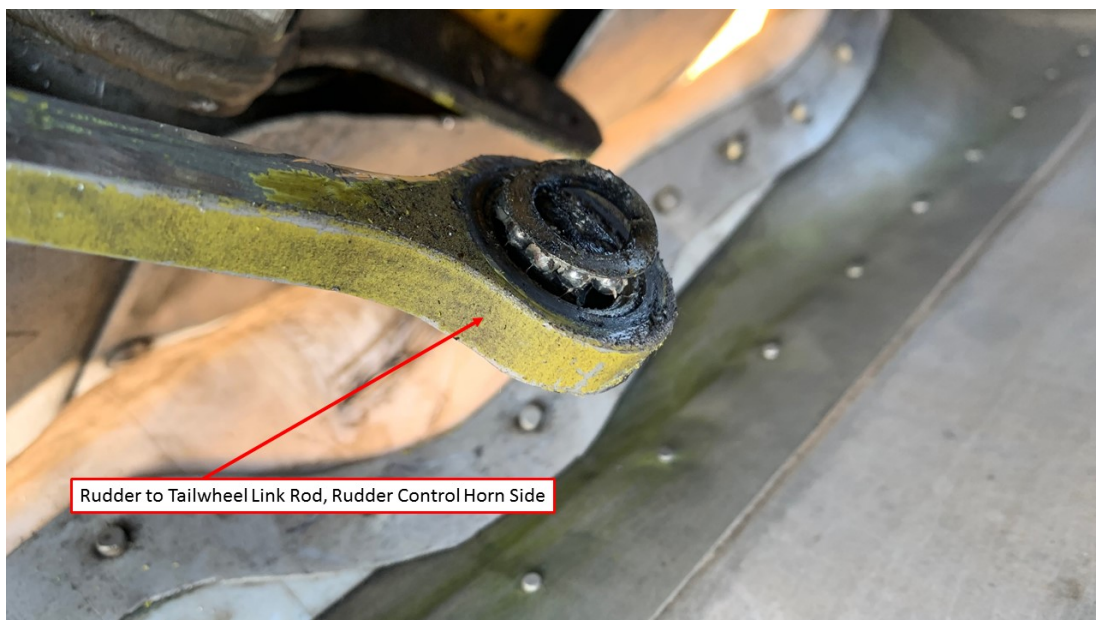


Figure 3: Photo provided by the pilot, showing the tailwheel to rudder link rod and damage.

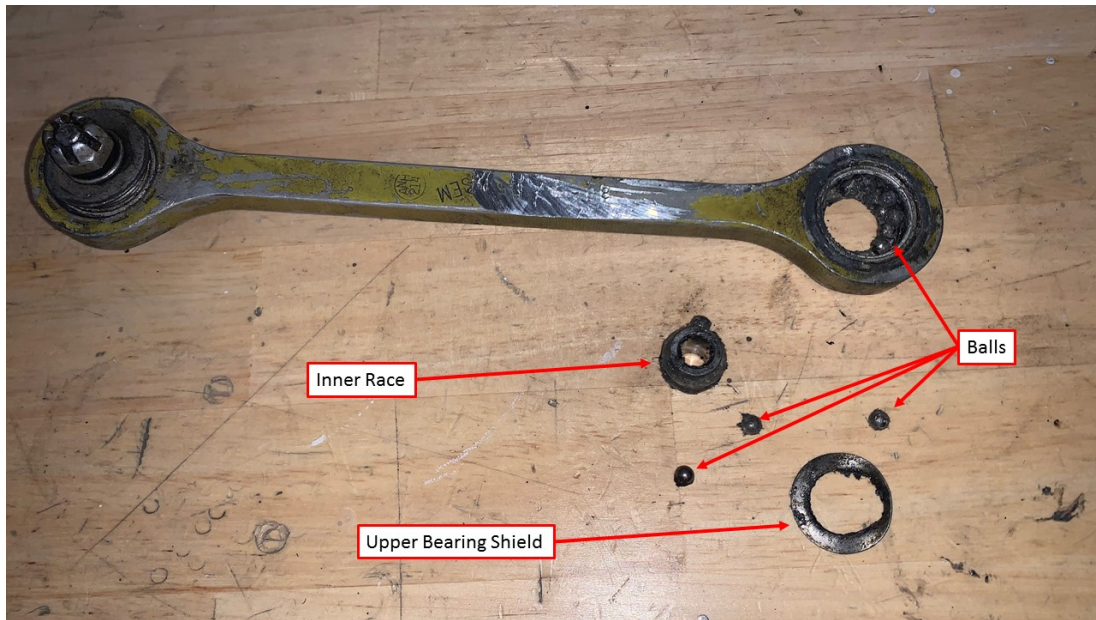


Figure 4: Tailwheel to rudder link rod.



Figure 5: Upper and lower bearing shields and inner race.

Submitted by: Joshua Cawthra