



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Western Pacific Region

March 30, 2022

TAILWHEEL EXAMINATION

WPR221A008

This document contains 1 embedded photo.

A. ACCIDENT

Location:	Garberville, California
Date:	October 4, 2021
Aircraft:	Piper, J3C-65, N3453K
NTSB Investigator-in-Charge:	Eric M. Gutierrez

B. PARTICIPANTS

Joshua Cawthra
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Federal Way, Washington

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Federal Way, Washington

C. SUMMARY

The examination of the tailwheel assembly revealed no evidence of any mechanical anomalies that would have precluded from normal operation.

D. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Tailwheel Examination

Examination of the tailwheel assembly revealed that, no visible damage was observed throughout the tailwheel. Both, left and right compression spring assemblies had been disconnected from the tailwheel steering arm. One spring and chain connector clip was not present, however, a braided portion of safety wire remained attached to steering arm, where the clip would normally be installed. The tailwheel rotated left and right and remained within the steering detents. When sufficient force was applied to the tailwheel both to the left and right directions, it would rotate past the detent and fully swivel. The tailwheel was disassembled and no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions was observed that would have precluded normal operation.

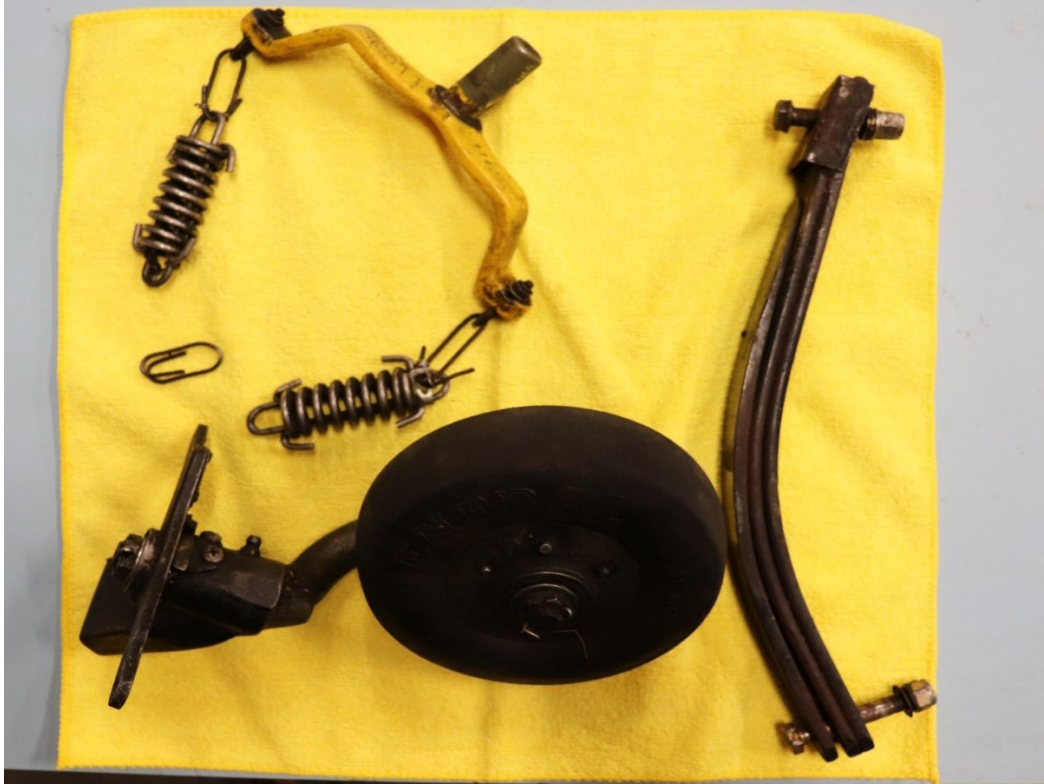


Figure 1: View of tailwheel assembly (photo courtesy of the NTSB)

Submitted by: Eric M. Gutierrez