

**INCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Piper PA-32R-301 Saratoga SP, G-ELLA	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Lycoming IO-540-K1G5 piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1996 (Serial no: 3246050)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	10 January 2018 at 1330 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	In flight, near the Compton VOR	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Training	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Damage to the forward baggage bay door	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	68 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	11,600 hours (of which over 200 were on type) Last 90 days - 80 hours Last 28 days - 17 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and additional enquiries made by the AAIB	

Prior to undertaking a training flight with an instructor, the owner completed a pre-flight inspection. As part of this, he took off the aircraft's cover and stored it in the forward baggage bay but, during the flight after practising a stall, the baggage bay door opened unexpectedly. The cover was sucked out of the baggage bay and struck the wing before detaching from the airframe. The baggage bay door remained open in the slipstream, with no control difficulties experienced by the crew, as they returned to White Waltham airfield where the aircraft landed safely.

The instructor believes that the baggage bay door was not properly secured during the pre-flight inspection. Other than to the baggage bay door, no other damage was noted, and the aircraft was returned to service once it had been repaired.