

# The Nor'Easter

Newsletter of the North East Tribe of the International Comanche Society

Spring 2010  
March-April-May



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## Message From The Tribe Chief

Welcome to another edition of the Nor'Easter. We are well into spring now, and the ice and snow of this past winter is a fading memory. I have plenty of business to tell you about, so please read this message.

First, Tribe elections will be held at the August fly-in, and we need a slate of officers to vote on. If you have any nominations (and you can nominate yourself if you'd like) please contact me or your Assistant Tribe Chief, Pete Morse. No experience necessary.

Second, time is running short to sign up for the Northeast Tribe Fly-in on Nantucket Island. We have a great deal at the hotel, so this trip could be half the price of a visit on your own. You can complete the registration on-line if you want, or by mail or by phone. See the flyer in this newsletter.

Third, if you will be in the New Hampshire area on May 8<sup>th</sup>, look into the fly-in at Daniel Webster College, Nashua (KASH). They are hosting their 2010 Aviation Safety Expo, with seminars all day, vendors, food, and an informal gathering of Comanche flyers. Contact Pete Morse to RSVP, so he'll know to look for you.

Finally, the International Comanche Society Spring Board Meeting was held on April 11. There was a full day of business, but I'll hit the highlights:

1. Don't forget the International Convention is in San Diego this year, September 7-12. Register now so you don't miss out.
2. We expect to see an AD on the stabilator horn issue soon, but it won't be as onerous as was feared, thanks to a lot of work by ICS members, and Hans Neubert in particular. We have reports of 108 horn inspections completed so far, with 16 cracked horns found (all on singles.) For those with cracked horns, Piper has re-opened production on the horns, and will be selling them at a reasonable price.
3. There was much debate about how ICS can best provide type support to our members. There was a proposal to hire a dedicated person to be actively involved in any ADs, research alternate methods of compliance, organize approved data for 337, and work with parts suppliers to keep the parts we need flowing. The Society has done that so far with volunteer efforts, but the workload is going up and the pool of volunteers is getting smaller. I would really like to hear from members how you feel about this. Hiring a person will have a major impact on the ICS budget – it will mean either a large dues increase, or drastically cutting the Flyer magazine. Make your voice heard – change or status quo. Please let me know what you think.

I hope to see you at a Comanche fly-in soon, so stay safe and keep 'em flying!



Keith Johnson, Tribe Chief

## 2009-2010 ICS-NE Tribe Officer Contact Information

Tribe Chief:	Keith Johnson	keith.johnson @hughes.net	302-242-8201
Asst. Tribe Chief:	Pete Morse	pete.morse @rogerscorporation.com	860-928-3323
Treasurer:	Neal Pease	npease @penro.net	802-238-0006

## *Fly-In Report –Lancaster PA (KLNS)*

The Comanche Fly-in at Lancaster, PA, scheduled for February 13, was postponed to the 20<sup>th</sup>, because of ground conditions at all of our local airports. (Although Lancaster's runways, some taxiways and the West Ramp parking area were clear, most of those interested in coming were still unable to get out from their home base airports.) There were nine attendees, including a guest who is looking to upgrade from a Cessna 150 to a Comanche. Since two of us are based on the field (and these Comanche's remained in their hangars) that left a total of five Comanche's parked on the ramp.

Although a relatively small group, there was lots of discussion, on a wide variety of topics ranging from maintenance issues to operating and landing techniques, and fresh sites for coming fly-ins (stay tuned on this one). As always, Lancaster was a good fly-in, and Fiorentino's is a nice restaurant to stop in at, if you're ever in the area. There wasn't a formal presentation, but there's always something to learn from talking to other Comanche flyers. We hope to see you at the next fly-in.

Thanks to member Jerry Ehrhart, for setting us up with the restaurant, and for taking pictures and writing up the event. Volunteers like that keep the organization moving.





## *Fly-In Report - Williamsburg-Jamestown (KJGG)*

by Pete Morse – Asst. Tribe Chief

As always, Williamsburg-Jamestown airport made a nice destination for a day trip in April, with great food available on the field at Charley's. The airport has been privately owned by Larry and Jean Waltrip since 1970. On November 17, 2001, the Waltrips were inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame, the first couple to be so honored. Jeans daughter Michele has taken on the management of the airport after her mother's death in 2008.



Charley's certainly lived up to its reputation as the #1 airport restaurant for 2007 rated by 100dollarhamburger.com. Many folks enjoyed the day's special of crab cakes with all the trimmings, but my Carolina BBQ sandwich was great too.

In all, seven Comanches arrived, including one twin. Most were relatively local, but a couple of us "Northerners" made the trip to soak up the pleasant sunshine while watching the runway traffic. All in all, a nice relaxing spring day at the airport. Doesn't get much better!

Pete Morse



## *Three-Day Fly-In on Nantucket Island (KACK)*

by Pete Morse – Asst. Tribe Chief

ICS-NE will hold a 3-day fly-in on the second weekend of June, arriving Friday, June 11, and departing Sunday, June 13. This is the last 'tween seasons weekend on Nantucket and most shops will be opening for the summer. We have scheduled a number of activities as well as some planned free time to explore the shops and sights.

Members are encouraged to fly to the island, but be aware that morning fog is common, and low ceilings can happen locally at any time. Alternative arrivals are by [Cape Air](#) from Hyannis or by [the ferry](#) from Woods Hole.

We will be staying at the [Nantucket Inn](#), located across the street from the airport. Please make your own reservations at 508-228-6900. The ICS-NE group rate (code **104**) of \$170 per night will be available until May 11. The Inn provides breakfast each day. For those who may wish, extended stays may be available at the same rate. Reservations need to be made by May 11, and may be cancelled up to one week ahead (June 4).

Planned activities include Friday dinner at [AK Diamonds](#) and Saturday dinner at [Arno's](#), a guided island tour, a group visit to the [Nantucket Whaling Museum](#) and free time to stroll and shop in town. Everyone will receive an unlimited bus pass for exploring the beauties of Nantucket on his or her own. Much more information about the island can be found on the [Nantucket.Net](#) web site.

On Saturday afternoon we will hold a workshop on basic formation flight conducted by a local CFII. Non-pilots will have an opportunity to explore the town. On Sunday morning we will use our training in a formation departure, flight and arrival at Plymouth MA (PYM), in much the same style as the yearly Comanche arrival at Oshkosh.

For questions contact Pete Morse at the email or cell phone below. Please use this link for [online pre-registration](#) for the fly-in. More detailed information will be sent to the email address you provide. Checks for the fly-in activities fee of \$180 / person should be sent to Pete Morse at the address below. Please write "ACK fly-in" on the comment line.

Come and join us on the Grey Lady!

Pete Morse, 104 Woodside St., Putnam CT 06260

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## ***Comanche Safety Spotlight: Nashua 2010 Safety EXPO Fly-In***

**Nashua, NH (KASH) - May 8, 2010. 7:00 to 5:00**

We welcome ICS-NE members to the 2010 Safety Expo at Nashua NH on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a premier collection of safety presentations and aviation resources held each year at Daniel Webster College, adjacent to the airport. On arrival at ASH contact ground control on 121.8 and ask for Expo Parking, then upon entering the parking ramp near the tower contact GFW Aeroservices on 122.85 for parking instructions, or follow flagmen.



Pre-register for the Expo on line at [FAA.Gov/News/conferences\\_events/Aviation\\_Expo](http://FAA.Gov/News/conferences_events/Aviation_Expo).

Once you have checked in at the FBO, follow the EXPO signs for the short walk to the campus Eaton Richmond Center. Sign in and pick up your registration packet after 7:30 AM in the upper level lobby.

Numerous vendor exhibits will be in the upper and lower levels of the Center, with refreshments on the upper level. The opening session takes place in the auditorium on the lower level at 9:00 AM. The various sessions are held in the Center and in the classroom building to the left of the College Center. Lunch is served in the College Center.

ICS-NE members will meet for an informal lunch in the College Center from 12:20 to 1:20 (session 3), using the Faculty dining area. Participation in EXPO is strongly encouraged and strictly up to you. Just remember to keep Session 3 free for lunch.

For the early birds, the Midfield Cafe (next to the FBO) opens at 7am for breakfast.

See you in Nashua!

Pete Morse, Assistant NE Tribe Chief

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### ***Proposed NE Tribe Fly-Ins 2009-2010***

December 12	Luncheon	Sussex Co - Georgetown, DE (KGED)
February 13	Luncheon	Lancaster, PA (KLNS)
April 10	Luncheon	?? [Williamsburg – Jamestown, VA (KJGG)]
May ??	Safety Expo/ Lunch	Daniel Webster College, Nashua, NH (KASH)
June 11-13	2-3 Day Event	Nantucket, MA (KACK)
July 10	Luncheon	Parlin Field – Newport, NH (2B3)
August 14	Luncheon	<b>Sky Manor Airport – Pittstown, NJ (N40)</b>
September 18	Luncheon	<b>Hagerstown MD (KHGR) Maintenance Fly-in</b>
October 9	Luncheon	Eastern WV Reg - Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)

All Fly-Ins are on Saturday, with Sunday as a rain date. Email notices will be sent two weeks in advance.

Watch your emails for any changes in scheduled dates or locations.

***“Build a road one mile long and it will get you one mile.  
Build a runway one mile long and it will get you the world.”***

## *Technical Questions*

If you have any technical question contact Dave Gitelman, NE Tribe Technical Director.  
Contact Information: H:585-381-4785, C:585-317-8446. No calls before 9:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.

## *Comanche Secrets* – Keith Johnson

We all have operational secrets, or things that we don't think to talk about even if they aren't very secret, about how we fly our Comanche's, and I thought I would share one of mine – weight and balance. It's a simple concept that we all learn before we get our license, but we don't think about it much after that.

The Comanche, especially when lightly loaded, naturally has a center of gravity near the forward limit. That makes for mild stalls, pitch stability, and little danger of ever pushing the CG past the aft limit – all good things. It also costs airspeed, and adds to the tendency to drop in on landing. Loading the plane to move the CG farther aft (within the POH limits) will give you a little speed, but it will also make those greased-on landings easier to achieve. That means always loading luggage in the luggage compartment, instead of throwing it in the back seat. Also, when I'm flying light, I often put 30 to 50 pounds of ballast in the luggage compartment.

Check your weight and balance some time (like before every flight), and see how close to the limit you are flying. Then move that CG closer to the center of the range and try the difference. You may be pleasantly surprised.

## *Member Spotlight*

Lee Hussey, an ICS-NE Tribe member from Virginia, has won "Grand Champion Custom Contemporary" at Sun n' Fun for his outstanding and beautiful Comanche 400. He also won at the Convention in Dayton last Fall with the 400. This picture of his plane was in the December *Comanche Flyer* with the other Flagship Contest winners. Lee owns both a 250 and 400 Comanche.

Congratulations Lee!

Dick Kusyck

