

ComancheZOOM Autopilots #4:

### **STC Group - Trio Pro Pilot - Autopilot for PA24/30/39 Comanche**

Thursday night, July 9, 2020, Mark Sullivan presented on the Trio Pro Pilot – Autopilot. This autopilot is now available to certificated aircraft, and the required steps for approval of the Piper Comanche all models, INCLUDING (in fact starting with) the twins, are underway.

Trio Pro Pilot comes to us from the experimental world, where there are over 3000 installations (including warbirds). As the newest entrant, it is expected to be the most cost-effective modern autopilot to purchase and install for the Comanche.

The leadership of the STC Group changed in 2019 when its founder initiated a new avionics venture, but the original core of the Company has continued working in close association with Trio Avionics, using an updated business model. This is similar to that of Garmin and Genesys, with a small twist. Instead of pre-orders, they use refundable deposits towards the R&D cost of the STC for that type. The depositors receive a “double the deposit” credit when the STC is approved by the FAA.

The initial STC work on the Comanche (a 1966 Twin Comanche) determined that the Comanche would need a capstan servo rather than the traditional servo arm then used by the Trio. In May of 2020 the new capstan servo developed by Trio Avionics was installed and is in testing. The rest of the twin and single Comanches, with their like stabilators, are to follow.

The potential safety dividend from adding autopilots to legacy fleet aircraft, which would continue to go unequipped if the only option is a \$20,000 (minimum) cost, is clear.

The STC Group states that the Trio typically takes 40 hours to install in a single engine Piper, and the kit for the Comanche is expected to be \$6,000 for a total install cost of approximately \$10K-\$11K.

Click on the link below and learn about Trio Pro Pilot capabilities and installation specifics. We are thrilled to complete this series of three upcoming autopilots for the Piper Comanche, by featuring an autopilot possibly as innovative and cost effective as the Comanche itself.

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2020-07-09/video.mp4>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2020-07-09/audio.m4a>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2020-07-09/chat.txt>

Pete Morse