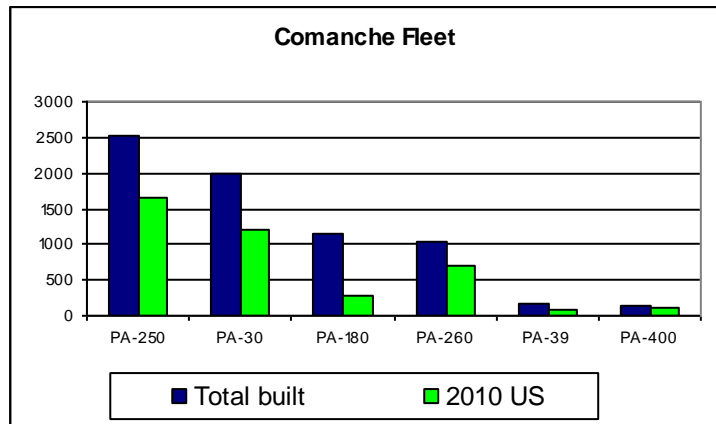


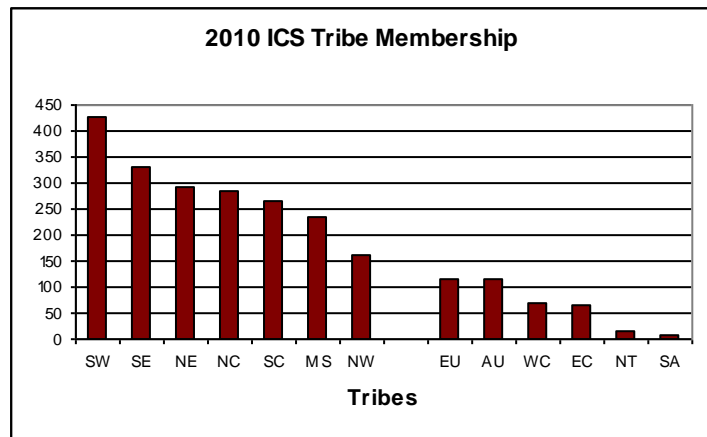
Where have all the Comanches gone?

Pete Morse – NE Tribe Chief

The Marketing Committee Report submitted at the San Diego Convention by Dick Kuszyk brings to light some interesting information about the fate of the worldwide Comanche fleet. Of the 7010 aircraft manufactured in Lock Haven PA between 1957 and 1972, 4039, or 58%, are still registered in the United States. Add to this the Comanches in other parts of the world and the total still in use reaches nearly two-thirds of the original fleet. Not bad when the “youngest” is approaching half a century old! This is a real tribute to the quality of the aircraft produced by Piper, and to the loving care of the various owners through the years.



Comanches are found all over the world today. A quick look at the International Comanche Society membership by tribes shows this. The majority of members are in the United States, but there is also good representation by tribes in Europe, Australia, Canada and South Africa. But while the numbers in the United States are impressive, they only represent 50% of the currently US registered Comanches. This leaves room for significant growth in our membership when all the other US owners are brought into the ICS fold.



What can each of us do? When you see another Comanche on the ramp, don't just wave casually to the pilot – go over and introduce yourself, look the aircraft over, check out the panel, and invite the pilot to the next Comanche fly-in. If the pilot says, “What fly-in?” then explain ICS to him and be sure he has the web address or contact information to find out what membership can mean to him.

You remember the old saying about safety in numbers? Or that many hands make light work? We each value our joy of traveling about in our Comanches, and in the widening of the eyes when we tell people about the qualities of our birds. The more owners that are actively involved in ICS, the stronger our type club becomes, and the more resources we have to meet the continued challenges of maintaining and flying our classic Comanches.