

November 17, 2022, ComancheZOOM

**Tonight's Topic: First, Fly the Plane – part 2** with Bill Jackson and others

- Fuel Contamination and Dealing with the Unexpected
- Lobsters in the cockpit. Accident prevention.

Fuel Contamination

How about a dual engine out in a meticulously maintained PA30 Twin Comanche?

Fuel contamination at the San Diego ICS Convention turned out to affect almost 1/3 of the 125 Comanches on the field at the time, and potentially the several hundred people they carried.

Bill happened to take off early to help out an attendee. Bill's dual engine loss involved losing the first engine with a bang, and shortly after landing, the second engine with a smaller bang. Bill's excellent flying skills allowed him to safely land and discover the problem prior to anyone else taking off, which almost certainly saved many lives and Comanches. This discussion of the flight, the recovery, the black tarry gunk from the fuel contamination, and the resulting swallowed valve and dead cylinder, will enhance understanding of what can happen and why looking for water is not enough. It also illuminates the magical sense a pilot gains with an airplane he or she knows well.

The big lesson Bill wants us to remember is to always check for Contamination - not just water, but stuff - in fuel. An extensive discussion followed on possible reasons the airport fuel supply became contaminated, what was the result of the contamination in the aircraft fuel system, and how to check your fuel to detect problems.

Lobsters in the Cockpit

You haven't lived until you have declared an emergency to NY Approach with a dozen angry lobsters in pursuit.

Bill Jackson was aloft in dirty IFR in NYC airspace (Dirty meaning IMC, dark, raining, and with NY approach barking rapid-fire instructions) in his PA30 Twin Comanche. He was carrying a bag of a dozen lobsters down to Gaithersburg when they suddenly got loose. And they were mad lobsters! Find out how our hero battled a dozen crusty crustaceans in the soup and survived, and what kind of paperwork you fill out when you declare that kind of emergency.

To hear/see the recordings click on a link from the list below.

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2022-11-17/video.mp4>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2022-11-17/audio.m4a>

To read the extensive Chat text click on this link.

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2022-09-20/chat.txt>

Pete Morse for the ComancheZOOM team