

## **Question of existence of Northeast Comanche Tribe, Inc Bylaws**

I am Peter Morse. I became an International Comanche Society member (#16012) a short time after purchasing my first Comanche, a PA24-250 N6632P, in 2002. Per the ICS Bylaws at the time, I was placed as a member of the North East Tribe because of my residence in Connecticut.

Over the years I participated in activities of the Tribe, such as fly-ins, and saw a need for a means of sharing information among the members. To this end I created a sub-set on my personal website (QuietCornerBands.Org) for the Northeast Comanche Tribe, using the name defined in our 1992 Articles of Incorporation. I shared this a link to this site with the NE Tribe membership as listed in the ICS email list at the time.

Since its creation this site has grown to include a number of documents, photographs of Tribe activities, information, fly-in schedules, Officer contact information, and Comanche-specific operational and safety information. I also created a quarterly newsletter, the *Nor'easter*, which was distributed to the membership list by email and archived on the website.

I became involved in Northeast Tribe leadership, serving as an Officer in each position except Treasurer, and including a number of terms as Tribe Chief or President. In those years the existence of Tribe Bylaws was discussed at fly-in events. No one seemed to know if the Tribe ever adopted any Bylaws and any efforts to do so went nowhere.

Following the NE Tribe hosted 2012 ICS Convention in Baltimore MD, our Treasurer, Chris Jorheim, asked to be replaced after years of service. In going through a box of old Tribe papers he discovered a 5-page document entitled "International Comanche Society, Inc. Bylaws of the North East Tribe". This printed document had no indication of date of creation or authorship. Chris said that it was found near another page listing the Tribe officers for the year 1998. He scanned the document and sent the file to me. I named the file "1998 bylaws" for identification purposes only.

Over the years a small group of members began talking about creating Bylaws. We discussed Chris's found document and I decided to post it on the website as a model or starting point for this effort. This posting became confusing to various members who thought this was an official document, so I removed it from the website after a period of months. A poll of previous Tribe Chiefs confirmed that all were unaware of any Bylaws ever being approved by vote of the Tribe. Members from the time of the 1992 Tribe Articles of Incorporation in Kansas also recalled that there was a conscious decision at that time to not have Bylaws for the newly formed Northeast Comanche Tribe, Inc.

The source of the found "1998 Bylaws" is still unknown. They do seem to mirror the section on Tribes as found in the ICS Bylaws and may be a suggested format provided to the US Tribes when each became separate from the ICS in early 1992 for liability reasons, as requested by the ICS. The Northeast Comanche Tribe became

incorporated as an independent Kansas Corporation in September of 1992, and is therefore completely separate from the ICS.

Recently certain ICS members have claimed that the Northeast Tribe did in fact create and approve Tribe Bylaws, using the “1998 Bylaws” as proof. They have found reference to a proposed membership vote in Tribe emails, but no evidence of such vote ever being recorded. Those making these claims would have no firsthand knowledge of Tribe activity, either at the time of Incorporation (1992) or supposed adoption of their claimed Bylaws (1998?), as their ICS membership comes at a much later date. It should also be noted that the “1998 Bylaws” name an entirely different organization as a subsidiary to the ICS. This contravenes the 1992 ICS directive to separate the Tribes for liability protection.

Peter Morse  
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