

ComancheZOOM for Thursday, Feb 19, 2026

Topic: Urgent ComancheZOOM meeting

Unprecedented Gear Issue Trend (2023–2026)

In 2024-2026, roughly half of PA-24 incidents - and nearly all PA-30/39 incidents - involved gear collapse or gear-related failure.

This is occurring even as our overall fatal accident rate has fallen to record lows since 2022, following major safety efforts including:

Weekly ComancheZOOMs since March 2020 (now reaching over 1,300 aviators)
STC initiatives for safety-enhancing equipment
Safety-oriented group buys and owner education

These efforts work - with a repeatable 18-24 month lag between educational input and accident-rate response.

However, our current analysis shows that gear events are rising sharply, and that the causes are often a combination of:

- Pilot technique and decision-making
- Maintenance errors and knowledge gaps
- Persistent issues involving both gear and fuel

These are problems we must address together - owners, pilots, instructors, and maintainers. This will be an educational, prevention-focused discussion - no judgment, no blame - with the goal of keeping aircraft on the ground when they are not safe to fly

Meeting Agenda: What We Are Doing About It

As part of the safety mission of the new Comanche Type Club, this meeting is the beginning of a broader two-pronged response:

1) PPC — Pilot Proficiency Clinics (Monthly)

A new monthly branch of ComancheZOOMs will focus specifically on pilot skills, mechanical awareness, and operational prevention.

Next PPC: Thursday, 2/26/2026 featuring George Richmond (“Gear Gone Awry”), supported by David Schober (Instructor/Mechanic/DER/DAR).

2) MAC — Maintenance Assessment Clinics (In Person)

MAC Clinics are in-person Maintenance Assessment Clinics designed to measure and inspect key aircraft systems and provide owners with a prioritized repair and maintenance roadmap to take back to their home mechanics. These clinics will be held across the country, and both owners and mechanics are welcome.

To see/hear the Jan 29 recordings, click on a link below:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2026-02-19/video.mp4>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2026-02-19/audio.mp4>

Chat file as saved:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2026-02-19/chat.txt>

Pete Morse for the PPT team