

ComancheZOOM for Thursday, Nov 13, 2025

Topic: Too Much Air in the Tank - Understanding Fuel Starvation vs. Fuel Exhaustion

This ComancheZoom dives into one of the simplest yet most costly distinctions in flight safety: the difference between fuel exhaustion and fuel starvation. Both lead to engine failure, but for entirely different reasons. Exhaustion happens when there's simply no fuel left in the tanks, while starvation occurs when the fuel is there but can't reach the engine. The outcome is the same: silence up front. But the causes, prevention, and recovery techniques are very different.

We looked at real-world Comanche examples and practical checks that prevent both scenarios. From selector misalignment and fuel pump quirks to blocked lines and contaminated sumps, the goal is simple: make sure every drop you've paid for actually reaches the cylinders. If you've ever wondered how "too much air in the tank" ends flights early, this Zoom is one you won't want to miss.

This Zoom topic was approved for Wings Credit.

A lot of work has gone into this important Comanche specific topic, with fleet wide applications. Rosemarie would like to acknowledge two people who are deserving of recognition for their unwavering support behind the scenes:

- Tim Haley
Position FAAS Team Program Manager
Location Greensboro, NC 27409
Expertise GA Maintenance
Specialty(ies): Maintenance / Airworthiness
- Dan Kelly
Position FAAS Team Program Manager
Location Greensboro, NC 27409
Expertise Flight Instruction, Tailwheel Flying, with some seaplane experience.
Specialty Pilot / Operations

To see/hear the Nov 6 recordings, click on a link below:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-11-13/video.mp4>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-11-13/audio.mp4>

The Chat file contains questions and comments. To read them click on the link:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-11-13/chat.txt>

Pete Morse for the ComancheZOOM team