

ComancheZOOM for Thursday, Sept 11, 2025

Topic: Aircraft Electrical Issues - Alternators

This Zoom is a preliminary coverage of the topic. Several attendees told of their experiences with alternator problems, whether on the ramp or in the air – what the symptoms were, how their flight was affected, and what the resolution was.

We are increasingly dependent on our alternators (and generators) to run our old electric instruments, our glass panels, our landing gear motors, as well as our iPads and so on. Therefore, the health of our charging system becomes increasingly critical to safety of flight.

This Today's Zoom is about why some airplanes seem to chew through batteries, leaving pilots and families stranded. We will talk about the interaction between the voltage regulator and battery longevity. This useful little guy can strand you on a strange ramp, damage your electronics, and certainly chew battery sized holes in your pocket. It may also get unfairly blamed! If you are a MECHANIC, your instructors may barely have touched on this in mechanic school, yet many customers are more dependent on electrical systems, particularly as they go more and more to glass panels and e-mags.

Greg Broburg, an EE, circuit designer, and radio tech, has put together a detailed dive into the electrical and charging system. We are working on translating his deep knowledge of history and theory into accessible chunks that can be submitted for SPANS credit, and peeling those off one at a time.

Attendees were asked to bring their experiences with aircraft electrical problems to the Zoom. Greg will then comment on each and postulate means of dealing with them. He will also talk about oil evaporation in alternators and generators, and proactive vs reactive preventative maintenance on life critical items.

Their stories of electrical power problems (alternator, generator, battery, or regulator) and how it affected your aircraft performance were posted in the Chat menu. Many were covered, and the rest will be reviewed in next weeks Zoom.

To see/hear the Sept 11 recordings, click on a link below:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-09-11/video.mp4>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-09-11/audio.mp4>

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

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-09-11/chat.txt>

Pete Morse for the ComancheZOOM team