

# Washington DC 2005 Convention Update

by Mark Smith

This month's update is not as stupendous as the last two, but I do want to address some rumors that I've heard about the convention. I believe, and have found, that the best thing to combat rumors is the bright light of truth.

The first comment that must be said is that the Washington DC Convention will be having alcoholic beverages. Beverages are planned both for the reception and for the banquet. The details have not been worked out, but it will definitely be available on a cash-bar basis.

The second statement that needs to be made is we do have plans for vendors. We will be offering slots for vendors during the reception/registration and during airport day. We cannot state who will be there as of yet (this article needs to be sent to the printer in May), but there are several who have expressed an interest.

Some of you may have heard about the Comanche 350-T, the Screaming Eagle. At the time of this writing, there's a good chance that it may show up. In addition, there's also a chance that the new composite, Ravin, from South Africa, or representatives from the company, may be showing up. There's been some interest in these aircraft so I hope that the interests of the vendors and the interests of the conventioners are served adequately. There are some other vendors who have expressed interest so far. They include Garmin, McCauley Propeller's, and Bruce's Custom covers. I apologize, if I've left off anyone on this list. Nothing is solidified right now, yet by the time you've read this article, I expect it to be more solid.



*The Capitol Building.*  
Mark Smith

On a different note, ICS has been working hard with issues that are near and dear to Comanche Owners: insurance. The board and other parties, will be using the convention as a medium for a discussion. Having an open meeting at this point would be counter-productive, but I fully expect a report by ICS of the results to be forthcoming sometime afterwards.

You'll see that the most recent registration forms now have a check box to indicate if the registrant is a pilot or not. This is so that we will know who should get a ASF Comanche Safety Review book. If you recall, we are offering these books as part of registration to all Comanche pilots registering for the convention.



*Next Flight Facilities at KHEF.*

*Mark Smith*

For those of you who have been following the convention comings and goings, we will be officially using the Next Flight FBO on the Manassas airport. You can learn a bit about this facility at our website at <http://www.ics2005dc.org/airport.php>. They're a first notch FBO and are willing to go that extra mile for us. They are giving us fuel discounts and lots of space. They are on the northeast side of the field and have many hangar and ramp spots available.

They are building a brand new black-glass-and-leather facility, but unfortunately it will not be available until after the convention.

Convention registrations are coming along. As of 14 days after the opening of registrations, a mere 136 days before the convention, and only 106 days before the closing of the hotel registrations, we're doing pretty good. We have 18 registrations, 24 raffle tickets, and 3 digital media purchases on the books. I expect by the time you're reading this, those numbers to be significantly higher.

At this time, I should mention again that you must register with the hotel separately. They will stop accepting registrations on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at our discounted rate and you may not be able to get a room at any rate. The convention staff has no control over this. Personally, I'm as big a procrastinator as the next Comanche pilot, but if you wait on this one, you may lose your opportunity to go to the convention. Not everybody needs or wants to go to the convention, but make it a conscious decision not an accident of timing.

Lastly, the area web-page <http://www.ics2005dc.org/area.php> now contains a near real time image of the Washington DC Mall. Just hit reload to see what the current conditions are. Come back and visit often to see new images of the Capitol.