

# 2005 Convention Update

by Mark Smith  
Convention Chairman



The Washington DC 2005 ICS Convention is under full swing now. More and more people are getting interested and activity is really starting to buzz. Who would have guessed it could be so much work!

Hopefully, you'll be looking the registration sheet published right next to this article. It doesn't look like much, but a lot was put into it!

There may be plenty of questions that go along with it as well. I'm hoping that this quick article will serve to either help you with your questions or serve as a way for you find out how to get your questions answered.

First off, check out <http://www.ics2005dc.org/>. It's not the snazziest web page on the block, but it does include schedules, events, and other useful information. That may answer all your questions immediately. If you find that it's not answering your questions, make sure you let our team of expert web-masters know. It could very well be an oversight. After the customary sacking of the errant employee, we will fix the web page to reflect the new information.

The convention has been designed from the start as a low key inexpensive convention. Our extensive team of marketing analysts have determined that Comanche owners want more for less. They want to be able to fly into a convention at dirt cheap rates and pay for exactly the functions they want to attend and nothing else.

The first thing we did is that the hotel is completely covered by your own reservation. We have guaranteed a block of rooms, but they will be removed on August 27, 2005. This is out the control of the convention committee. If you register after August 27, 2005 you may not get a room and if you do, it may not be at the negotiated price of \$99. Re-reading that statement again, I think I need to be reemphasize in bold.

**You will lose your room if you register after Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005.**

I'm not sure if I can put that any plainer. That's August, the month before the convention which is September 28<sup>th</sup>. You have 30 (thirty) days.

There has also been a constant buzzing about type specific information. Apparently, Comanche owners are also interested in information that keeps their aircraft flying. We listened. We have included a Larry Larkin seminar as well as a hands-on Maintenance Seminar. We have included them at no extra charge. I should also add that the CFF has ponied up for the charges that we would have covered out of your registration fee. They were very happy to help and were responsive to my single email request asking for it.

As an aside, please feel free to show up for the CFF meeting. It will be open to the public Thursday morning 09/29 at 08:00. It's available for anyone who wants to know more about the CFF.

Another seminar that was added was also specifically asked for. It's the Pinch Hitter course. Evidently, there are many pilots who fly with companions who are non-pilots themselves. This course is also being offered free of charge to attendees.

The schedule for the seminars are as follows:

Maintenance Seminar	Saturday	10/01/2005	11:00 – 15:00
Pinch Hitter Course	Friday	09/30/2005	08:00 – 10:00
Larry Larkin	Friday	09/30/2005	08:00 – 10:00

As a rule, we tried (and succeeded) in making sure nobody has to decide between two very cool events; our mantra in our hourly meetings was, “no doubling up of events.” If your a quick one you'll instantly see that I'm lying in this particular case. Notice that there are indeed, two courses being offered at the same time. If you notice, the audience for each are considerably different so we figured it would be okay in this one case.

As long as we're talking about okay things... It's okay to arrive early. The actual convention starts on Wednesday, September 9/28 with, oddly enough, arrival day. We understand that there are still some Comanche owners that still work for a living and as such, they like to plan ahead their sick days as far into the future as they can. For those people, Tuesday is the day to show up. We will be having a very small reception. Come and enjoy. Hopefully, your disease would have abated on the flight to Washington DC.

For anyone flying in, make sure you understand and live the ADIZ requirements. It's not hard, but it does need to be followed. Transportation and light refreshments will be supplied as part of your registration.



If you have an interest in the goings-on of the Board, make sure you arrive early enough to participate. That means you need to be ready to sit and listen by 3pm on arrival day. Don't worry, the meeting is being held at the airport care of the Jet Services FBO. Stop by and thank Candy. She's been real nice to work with.

The reception follows shortly thereafter. It will be held at the hotel and the best refreshments that money can buy, or money that we had, will be spent so that you can enjoy your first day in the nations capitol.

The next day will be an exciting one. Well, we already talked about the CFF meeting. Don't worry, there's more. After that meeting is finished, we will all get in a couple of big buses and drive off to downtown DC. We will be going to what is referred to as the mall. Leave your credit card in your wallet though, it's all museum's, monuments, and one huge lawn and they're all free. You may ask yourself, if they're all free why are you paying to go there? The answer is simple, moving a bus load of people costs real money. In addition, we're providing lunch so that you can avoid eating at a pretzel stand.



While there, you are free to wander about and investigate all the sights and wonders. There is a carousel, the Smithsonian Castle, the Air and Space Museum, The National Archives, The Museum of Natural History, The Washington Monument, The Lincoln Memorial, The Jefferson Memorial, The Vietnam Memorial, The Korean War Monument, and not to mention, the White House, and the Capitol Building, to name a few.

Afterwards, you and your tribe will get together for a palatable delight at the Washington Harbour in downtown Georgetown. These restaurants are written up all the time in

magazines as far as you know. Their food selections and presentation fall into the very fine category. Your dinner will not be paid for by the convention funds, but that's okay because the average entree costs between \$15 and \$30. The Potomac River reflects the lights of the Kennedy Center for the performing arts making for a nice ambiance. Trust me, I know about ambiance.

In any case, make sure your tribe chief picks out a nice restaurant there. The restaurants know we're coming so they'll each be prepared for groups of 30 or more. Each tribe chief will be responsible for setting up the wishes of their electorate for this day. They'll need to figure out their needs and then call it into the restaurant that day or the evening before. My hands are washed of it. Personally, Sequoia sounds like the nicest place. Last time I was there, I ate at Bangkok Joes, but I don't think you can go wrong at any of the restaurants there.

If you want descriptions and pictures of any of these restaurants check out our web page:

<http://www.ics2005dc.org/events.php#dc-dinner>

At the end of the day, don't miss the bus home because there's more to do the next day. Technically, we already talked about the Friday morning classes so it won't be mentioned again. Immediately after the seminars, there is a field trip to the Udvar-Hazy Smithsonian Annex. As with all the Smithsonian museum's this one is free. Of course, this one has a twist, the museum is free, but parking is quite pricey. Take the convention bus and avoid all paying those parking fees when you can pay our bus transportation fees instead. In addition, we will be provided a beautiful box lunch for your dining pleasure.

As an added bonus, the first 50 people who sign up will get a free guided tour of the place. This tour isn't necessary, but it certainly adds a nice flavor to the environment. Go to the web page for more links and pictures of the facility. It's essentially one huge hangar filled with an eclectic heap of aircraft. It's probably the only building in the world where you can find an SR71, a NASA



Space Shuttle, the Enola Gay, and a Concorde. If you don't know what all four of these special aircraft are, your homework is to learn about them before you arrive.

At the completion of this event, you will be bused back to the hotel where a self guided dining experience will be had. We will provide some amount of transportation to local restaurants or you will be able to walk to any number of nearby restaurants.

The next day will be starting with the General Member meeting. You'll want to see this. As far as you know we've placed \$100,000 in cash in an envelope under one of the seats. If I get there first, you probably won't see me for the rest of the convention.

Assuming you don't find the cash, next stop is the airport. Everyone can see each others aircraft and get a good chance to talk and swap hangar stories. A box lunch will be provided. For those of you who signed up for it, you will participate in a maintenance seminar.

I know it's hard to believe, but at one point people will be bored at the airport and we will return to the hotels. The first event at the hotel will be the New Board Meeting. All members are invited.

As if that was just a warm-up for the real event, the Banquet is next. Get dressed in your shiny best and come on down. The actual dinner selection hasn't been made yet, but it's bound to be good. The committee just likes to eat too much to pick inadequate food, and my committee I mean me.

The last day has finally come as you knew it would. Departure day is filled with good-byes and run-ups. We take you to the airport and make sure you get off the ground safely. The rest is up to you.

Stay tuned to the Flyer for more information. Contact the web page for more information. If you have a specific question, I will be happy to field it at [mark@winksmith.com](mailto:mark@winksmith.com).