

Australian Air-Ferry

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March 2006 Newsletter

The Commanche and Bonanza seem unlikely traveling companions.

But in the American winter of 2006 these two aircraft departed Santa Barbara together during a period of constant head winds from California to Hawaii.

Against the odds the aircraft carried sufficient fuel to cross the 2100nm leg and land in Hilo 16 hours later.

You'd think the Bonanza would out-perform the Commanche, but during the climb and initial cruise phase the Commanche was the better aircraft.



After burning off several hours worth of fuel, the Bonanza emerged as the quicker aircraft, but initially the Commanche was the better climber – cruiser.

The Bonanza was flown by Michael Cook and the Commanche by Garry Mitchell, both dedicated Australian Air Ferry pilots.

Australian Air-Ferry

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