



TIGER TALES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NH FLYING TIGERS RC CLUB

OCTOBER 2026

From Your President:

Our next club meeting will be held at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, Derry NH, on Wednesday, October 28, 7PM. We'll review the 2027 budget and also begin nominations for club officers. Nominations will continue through our November meeting, with a club vote. The president position is up for grabs if you'd like to step up! I'd like to thank everyone who helped out this year with club events, field maintenance, and our training program. We had a successful year thanks to our volunteers. We'll watch the weather and keep the field open as long as possible. It was a pleasure serving this club as your president over the past three years.

Paul Pazolt

From Your Vice President:

Just in time for Halloween, is a good ghost story. This ghost story starts on the evening of December 29th, 1972, with Easter Airlines Flight 401. Flight 401, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, was traveling from New York to Miami on a routine flight.

At the controls were Captain Robert Loft with over 29,000 hours, First Officer Albert Stockstill with over 5,800 hours, and Flight Engineer Donald Repo with over 15,000 hours of experience. The flight proceeded normally until the final approach into Miami. Albert Stockstill was the pilot flying for the leg and when he cycled the landing gear to the down position the landing indicator did not illuminate showing the gear to be in the down and locked position.

The captain elected to abort the approach and requested a holding pattern to give the crew time to diagnose the problem. Miami approach approved the request, and the crew engaged the autopilot in a holding pattern and proceeded with debugging the problem. The crew proceeded to remove the light assembly and even dispatched Repo into the avionics bay below the cockpit. Unbeknownst to crew, during this time someone bumped the control yoke effectively transitioning the autopilot from altitude hold to a shallow decent (called control wheel steering mode). As the crew worked on the landing gear issue, the airplane continued its decent. When the low altitude warning went off at 200 ft there was no indication on the voice recorder that the crew ever heard it presumably because they were so engrossed in the gear problem. Shortly afterwards, Flight 401 impacted the Florida Everglades killing 100 of the 175 people on board including Captain Loft and Flight Engineer Repo.



(Photo of the flight crew of Eastern 401; From L to R, Captain Robert Albin Loft, pilot Albert John Stockstill and flight engineer Donald Louis Repo)

You may think this is where the story ends. However, in the months after the crash there were sightings of both Loft and Repo on other Eastern Airline Flights. It turns out some of the parts salvaged from Flight 401 had found their way onto other aircraft. It was reported that Repo and Loft were heard to utter the statement that "There will never be another crash on an L-1011. We will not let it happen."

One flight attendant on an L-1011 flight reported Repo warning her: "Watch out for fire on this plane." Shortly afterwards an engine failed and had to be shut down prior to catching on fire. On another flight Repo warned the crew of a faulty electrical circuit. When the crew checked, the circuit was in fact faulty. More reports came in of Loft seen performing pre-flight checks and warning other crews.

Eastern Airline's CEO, former astronaut Frank Borman, called the reports "garbage" and ordered all salvaged parts to be removed from Eastern Airlines aircraft and any employees reporting "Ghost Stories" were to be fired. After the parts were removed, there were no new reports of seeing either Loft or Repo. However, no other Eastern Airlines L-1011 flights ever experienced a crash landing.....

John

September's Meeting was cancelled because of weather, so no meeting minutes.

Newsletter submissions deadline November 18th Next Meeting October 28th at Marrion Garrish Community Center at 7:00pm See the Calendar at our website for up-to-date activity information: www.nhflyingtigers.com	Club Officers President: Paul Pazolt Vice President: John Stevens Secretary: Rich Kieley. Treasurer: Pat Clark Field Marshal, B. St.: OPEN Safety Officer: Paul Pazolt Training Coordinator: Paul Lockwood Event Coordinator: John Lavery Webmaster: John Lavery Compliance Committee: John Clark, Mike Miller. Jerry Catt Newsletter Editor: Will Widgren Send all correspondence to: Pat Clark, NHFT Treasurer 7 Hillcrest Road Goffstown, NH 03045
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