



RSVP here!

The VFS Southwest Chapter along with AIAA, SETP, SFTE invite you to join us for a Network Social and



a presentation by
Kevin "Link" Christensen
Flight Controls Engineer, Bell Textron Inc.

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

**Evolving HQR1 Controls:
So Easy a Caveman Can Fly It!**

Since the Cooper-Harper Handling Qualities Rating (HQR) scale was first introduced in 1969, aircraft control systems have evolved to significantly reduce pilot workload and improve handling qualities. In particular, the introduction of automation with advanced fly-by-wire flight controls has made the assignment of the elusive HQR1 a reality. With an advanced flight control automation system, the pilot can focus less on hands-on aircraft control and more on mission execution. Such a system could also minimize the training needed to fly the aircraft. This presentation will cover recent simulation and flight test research aimed at improving handling qualities through the incorporation of advanced control automation.

Kevin Christensen is a Senior Staff Engineer and Associate Technical Fellow at Bell Textron with over 40 years experience in aviation. Kevin also graduated from the US Air Force Academy and served as a pilot in the USAF.

This event serves as our chapter fundraiser event with a silent auction that includes:

- Ft Worth aviation museum tickets
- Custom, Cliff Harrell made, wood Bell 525 and MV-75 puzzles
- Pottery from Ahaus Studios
- A private, in-home whiskey tasting for you and three friends
- And more!!!

Time and Location:

Texas Star, 1400 Texas Star Parkway
6:00 PM – Doors Open
6:45 PM – Presentation
7:15-8:00 PM – Hor D'oeuvres & Social

Price:

Members: \$32
Member Guest: \$37
Non-Members: \$42
Students: FREE

*** Cash/payroll deduction discount of \$2**
Tickets purchase after RSVP deadline will incur add'l \$5 fee.

***Network Social
& Heavy
Hor D'oeuvres***

For additional information on the event or VFS, please feel free to contact one of the following people:

Elizabeth Ward

(817) 280-3806

Angela Buccio

(817) 280-5227

**Please RSVP by completing the online form [HERE](#) or through PayPal at southwest.vtol.org by
5:00pm, Thursday, August 20, 2026**

If you have any issues with the form, please email Elizabeth Ward at eward01@bellflight.com