

Robinson Deliveries Up 58% in First Quarter

Robinson Helicopter Company deliveries of R22 and R44 helicopters during the first quarter of 2003 were 58% higher than during the first quarter of 2002. Leading the increase was the R44 with 57 deliveries followed by the R22 with 30, making a total of 87 new helicopters produced by Robinson during the first three months of 2003.

To accommodate the increased demand, Robinson added 100 more production workers, raising its total workforce from 600 to 700. Even with the additional workers, R44 Raven II production is sold out nearly five months in advance.

The popularity of the new Raven II surprised everyone. With its higher air-speed and altitude performance, plus additional payload, the Raven II found an eager market and has already become the top selling helicopter in the world by a substantial margin.



R44 Raven production lines working overtime to keep up with demand.

First Raven II Newscopter Delivered in Dallas

Robinson Helicopter Company delivered its first digitally-equipped Raven II ENG Newscopter to Sky Helicopters of Garland, Texas at Heli Expo in February. On display at the event, this Newscopter was the 30th ENG helicopter delivered by Robinson.

The new Raven II Newscopter pairs Robinson's new digital gyro-stabilized camera system with a newly redesigned workstation for the camera operator. The right rear seat is replaced with a camera laptop control storage tray, VTR, and an additional panel for equipment. Panel equipment includes the directional microwave control, TV tuner, microwave receiver, AM/FM radio, and a new option this year, a multi-band police, fire, and EMS scan-

ner. In addition, a larger 8.4-inch color monitor with higher resolution provides the operator with detailed pictures from the nose and two standard micro cameras.

Everything is more accessible to the camera operator. Many times the operator is working in low light or live situations where you can't take your eyes off the monitor long enough to make adjustments to the *(continued on page 4)*



Sky Helicopters President Ken Pyatt flies his new Raven II Newscopter over the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metro area.

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Robinson Opens Online Accessory Store

Robinson announces a new online accessory store. Making its debut in early April, the store provides a faster way to order Robinson Helicopter Company accessories from anywhere in the world.

The store is located at the company website, www.robinsonheli.com, under the Products heading. The store features everything in the Robinson Accessories catalog and additional items, including pilot operating handbooks, maintenance manuals, and subscription services.

Once customers have completed their orders, they are offered the choice of either printing the order and faxing it to Robinson or completing the order online. If completing online, customers will enter credit card information and will receive an e-mail confirming receipt of the order.

Although you can still order from customer service during regular business hours, this site offers customers a faster and easier way to order accessories any time, day or night.

The online store is currently only available for accessories and manuals. Replacement parts and A.O.G. orders



Order your accessories now from the new online store.

should be made directly through your customer service representative.

Also, customers should note that calculated shipping charges are for US

orders only. Foreign orders will be sent freight collect. For questions or assistance, contact customer service at customerservice@robinsonheli.com.

Robinson Safety Course Changes

A record 731 pilots attended the RHC Pilot Safety Course in 2002, a steep increase from 2001's 568 students. 2003 promises to be even busier.

In response, Robinson is increasing enrollment and changing the format of the course starting this May. RHC is adding 10 pilots to each class, for a total of 60 students per class. Another course has also been added, for a total of 12 classes per year.

Additionally, the course days have been changed to Monday through Thursday morning with "fly-later" times being Thursday afternoon and Friday. This new format allows students who receive their flight instruction on Thursday or Friday to return home sooner rather than waiting through the following weekend to fly. In the past, the course was offered Wednesday

through Saturday with "fly-later" slots available the following Monday and Tuesday.

These changes are in response to a sharp increase in demand for the factory safety course and to suggestions from past attendees.

The Pilot Safety Course covers safe helicopter operating procedures relative to all helicopters and specific safety, operating, and performance information on the Robinson R22 (continued on page 3)



Pat Cox covers the maintenance section of the RHC Pilot Safety Course on Wednesdays now as a part of the new schedule. Pilots will no longer have to stay the weekend in order to fly later.

Safety Course

(continued from page 2) and R44 helicopters. The course is open to anyone with at least a private helicopter rating and at least 3 hours in Robinson helicopters.

In addition to three days of classroom instruction, a factory tour, and a catered lunch, students receive over an hour of dual instruction in either the R22 or R44 helicopter covering emergency and safe operating procedures with one of Robinson's highly skilled instructors. The Pilot Safety Course also meets FAA requirements for Certified Flight Instructor renewal.

Make sure to enroll early as classes often fill up three or four months in advance. Prices for the course are \$350 if you fly in the R22 and \$450 in the R44.

For more information or to enroll in the course, visit the website for a list of available dates and an enrollment form at www.robinsonheli.com or call (310) 539-0508 ext. 151.

Smart Student

For Brian Marlow, learning to fly required a 2-hour drive each day to his flight school, Classic Helicopter Corp. in Seattle, Washington.

With so much time invested in commuting, he made his time at the school as useful as possible, and also sought ways to study and review at home. One thing he knew would help was a mock-up of the instrument panel so he could practice scans and become more comfortable with the instruments.

"I looked all over, but couldn't find one on the market," he explains. "If I wanted to review the instrument panel, I could either put together something of my own or take the helicopter home. Designing my own was decidedly less expensive."

With a background in design, he drew a panel during his private pilot training and brought it to the school to share with his instructor. When his fellow students saw his work they wanted their own, giving Marlow an idea on how to not only study harder, but help pay for those flight hours.

Through his company, Lantec Northwest LLC, Marlow started produc-

RHC Quick Stops

HSI Available in Most VFR R44 Panels

An HSI is now available in the 7- and 9-hole panels of the R44 Raven series. The KING KCS 55A (TSO) HSI weighs 8.7 lb. and costs US\$12,000.

The HSI contains a slaving control which provides precise compass heading automatically for both the HSI and ADF indicator. There is no need to manually set the directional gyro to the compass.



Improved Bolt Stretch Tool Now Available

An improved bolt stretch tool is now available for measuring bolt stretch on the main rotor bolts during installation.

The new tool is a more user-friendly version of the existing tool and is available through customer service.

For the R22, the part number is MT122-1 and the cost is US\$240. For the R44, the part number is MT122-6 and the cost is US\$283.



ing and selling laminated instrument panel posters to his flight instructors and other students at the flight school.

"I first designed a VFR R22 Beta panel because that is what I was flying at the time," he says. "Then the instrument students started asking for one to study their instrument scans. Then the R44 pilots wanted one of the R44."

Marlow didn't advertise and only designed and sold posters to fellow students through word of mouth, even designing individual helicopter owner's panels on request.

Marlow's simple design illustrates the instrument panel set ups for many Robinson helicopters.

The company currently offers an instrument panel poster for the R22 Beta and Beta II Instrument Trainer configurations. Raven II posters in both VFR and IFR configurations are expected later this spring, Marlow says.

The first posters were of exact configurations of Classic's aircraft with a list

of local radio frequencies printed next to the panel. They have since evolved to a universal poster that allows instructors and students around the world to teach and study the cockpit setup.

The posters are 11 x 17 inches and include Limit Manifold Pressure and Vne charts.

They are available at aviation website www.thunderhorseaviation.com, which discovered Marlow's designs when a representative called Classic looking for panel posters for its customers.

Do You Have a Story?

Share your R22 or R44 experiences for possible publication in the Robinson News.

E-mail your stories and any photos to pr@robinsonheli.com or mail to Robinson News at Robinson Helicopter Company.

Newscopter Raven II Visits Russell Crowe

(continued from page 1) microwave or change settings on the audio panels.

Sky Helicopters has contracts with Dallas' television stations to provide back-up ENG helicopter service when their aircraft are in maintenance or as an additional eye in the sky when big stories are breaking on two sides of town.

The Raven II Newscopter will replace Sky's current R44 Newscopter, which was moved to Houston to fly its own contract.

"We're excited about this helicopter because it has the new generation camera and the features television stations are asking for," says Ken Pyatt, president of Sky Helicopters. "The new higher quality digital camera system adds increased clarity and detail to ENG operations and enhanced low-light capability."

Australia's first Raven II made an appearance at Russell Crowe's wedding on April 7, 2003. Operated by Blue Sky Helicopters in Sydney, the aircraft was one of only a handful of helicopters carrying paparazzi over Crowe's private ranch wedding, and was the only piston helicopter.

The Sydney Morning Herald quoted paparazzi photographer Jamie Fawcett in relation to his choice of aircraft: "Fawcett says he and his team tried to have as little impact on Crowe's wedding as possible - his choice of a Robinson helicopter was partly based on the aircraft's low noise output."

Blue Sky Helicopters owner Mark Fitzsimmons, who has a background in aerial photography, developed a good reputation over the years as a photo pilot not only with print media organizations but other local and international



Russell and Danielle wave to the helicopters.

photographers.

Fitzsimmons says Fawcett needed to get the very best shots, but didn't want to cause a disturbance to the event. "The Raven II was the obvious choice as it allowed us to complete our task with minimal imposition on the wedding happening below."

The huge presence of paparazzi at the Crowe wedding was expected and the pressure was on to deliver the product with maximum safety, especially as there were other media helicopters in the area covering the event.

"As the wedding approached, I knew I only had a small window of opportunity to position the aircraft to assist Jamie in getting the shots. As always, the machine performed flawlessly," Fitzsimmons added.

In addition to aerial photography and filming, Blue Sky also performs scenic flights over Sydney, heli-tours to destinations beyond, charter, and fire-fighting support.

Pilot/Mechanic Referral Service

Looking for an R22 or R44 pilot or mechanic? Looking for a job as a pilot or mechanic?

Robinson offers a referral service for owners and operators seeking qualified pilots or mechanics and for pilots or mechanics seeking employment.

To enroll, pilots and mechanics fill out a Referral Enrollment Form and employers fill out a Job Referral

Form. Both of these forms are at www.robinsonheli.com, under the Employment heading. Completed forms can be faxed to RHC at (310) 539-5198.

Upon receiving a job referral form, Robinson will fax pilot/mechanic enrollment forms of those meeting the job requirements to the employer.

All applications will be held for 90 days.



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