

Surpassing the Six Thousand Mark

Robinson Helicopter Company continues its success as a leader in the civil rotary wing market with the completion of its 6,000th helicopter. Ship S/N 10699, an R44 Raven II, was presented to John Wadlow of Airborne Energy Solutions and flown back to Alberta, Canada for use in their charter fleet. Delivery of the helicopter marks yet another milestone for Robinson.

After 25 years and 6,000 helicopters, Robinson continues to grow at a remarkable rate. The company now has 1,200 employees and recently added a new 220,000 square foot manufacturing facility. To meet the growing demand, Robinson will be increasing production from 15 to 20 helicopters per week. Last year, sales were at an all time high, with 2005 showing no signs of slowing

down. Total production to date is 2,207 R44 and 3,837 R22 helicopters.

Airborne Energy Solutions has been a successful Robinson dealer and maintenance facility for 20 years. Formerly called Aerial Recon, the company has grown in size and now employs over 200 people.

Airborne has a fleet in excess of 50 aircraft, 33 of which are Robinsons. The delivery of S/N 10699 is Airborne's 34th Robinson helicopter to be used in their charter fleet. "The Robinson aircraft work along side other aircraft in the commercial market place and actually give customers more for their money with no loss in safety or



Accompanied by Robinson Helicopter Company's marketing management, Frank Robinson hands over the keys of Robinson's 6000th helicopter to John Wadlow.

performance. I believe it is the safest, most reliable aircraft in my fleet," said Eric Gould, CEO and Founding Director of Airborne.

For more information about Airborne, visit their website at www.airbornesolutions.com.



Spencer-Bower uses Robinsons for flight training at his New Zealand school.

Safety is no Accident

With almost 40 years of flight under his belt and an exceptional safety record, Simon Spencer-Bower continues along his path of excellence and passes on his knowledge to new pilots. This former recipient of the Director of Civil Aviation Award has kept to a common goal throughout his entire career: continued execution of safe flying.

Early in his flight career, Simon flew fixed wing aircraft, obtaining his private and commercial ratings. In 1980, he learned to fly helicopters in an Enstrom F28A and that same year set up Canterbury Helicopter Training. He began by operating an Enstrom and later a Hughes 269. By 1983, Simon had obtained both his commercial and instructor helicopter ratings and in 1985 bought his first Robinson R22. He has been using R22 and R44 helicopters ever since for air transport, commercial operations and flight training. Simon became Chief Pilot as well as Chief Flying Instructor and continued his success by opening a second operation called Wanaka Helicopters. (continued on page 4)

Inside this issue...

2

Award Winning Season at Robinson

3

Following Robinsons Around the World

4

Tips for Safety and Performance

The Aviator's Award

The Southern California Aeronautic Association (SCAA) has added Frank Robinson to the distinguished ranks of major aerospace leaders to receive its renowned *Howard Hughes Memorial Award* (HHMA). Robinson was selected for his "significant contributions to the advancement of aviation or space technology."

Robinson is the 26th Howard Hughes Memorial Award recipient. He received his HHMA medallion from 2001 Award Recipient, Sam Iacobellis, during a gala reception and dinner at the exclusive Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. Last year's winner, Neil Armstrong, expressed congratulations calling Robinson "an accomplished engineer" and "an exceptional entrepreneur, building a company from nothing to a position of preeminence in its field."

Former HHMA recipients include familiar names such as Jack Northrop, Jimmy Doolittle, Kelly Johnson, Chuck Yeager, Barry Goldwater Sr, Pete Conrad, and Jack Real.

Robinson began his helicopter career in 1957 working on Cessna's

CH-1 Skyhook helicopter and continuing at several other rotorcraft firms including Hughes Helicopter. In 1973, unable to interest any of his employers in his concept for a small, low-cost helicopter, Frank founded Robinson Helicopter Company. From a modest beginning in his garage, the company now produces more commercial helicopters than any other manufacturer. His two-seat R22 helicopter holds most of the world records in its weight class including speed and altitude. Over 6,000 Robinson helicopters have been delivered worldwide in more than 70 countries.

The medallion is cast from silver mined in Hughes' Nevada mines and depicts Hughes from the era when he was setting world speed records. The medallion was designed by sculptor Joseph Princiottai. Nissen Davis, SCAA's president, was pleased that



(Above) Robinson, a former employee of Hughes, is honored on the 100th anniversary of Hughes' birth. (Left) Robinson joins other famous recipients on the Hughes Memorial Trophy.

"Robinson, who once worked for Hughes Helicopter Company, is the honoree for 2005, the 100th anniversary of Howard Hughes' birth." The Hughes Memorial award originated in 1981.

Tucker Awarded for Safety Excellence

Timothy C. Tucker received the Helicopter Association International's (HAI) 2004 Joe Mashman Safety

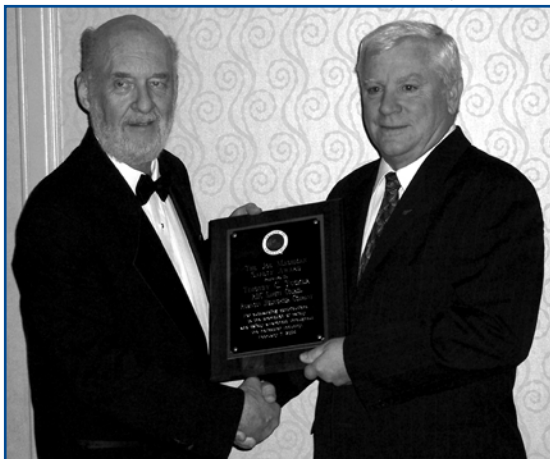
Award, presented February 7, 2005, at the HELI-EXPO's 44th annual "Salute to Excellence" awards ceremony in Anaheim, California.

As Chief Instructor for Robinson's R22/R44 Safety Course since 1982, Mr. Tucker has had a large impact on reducing helicopter accidents. Over 800 pilots a year attend the monthly course, with a record 1,011 pilots in attendance during 2004.

The thirty-four year veteran, with over 18,000 flight hours, frequently donates his time giving free lectures at helicopter safety seminars conducted by pilot organizations and by the FAA. He has assisted a number

of local FAA FSDOs in addressing local helicopter concerns. Working closely with 16 flight schools and 19 law enforcement agencies, he has helped ensure a high regard for helicopter safety in the busy southern California area. He has authored numerous articles for magazines and newsletters, and composed the Robinson R22 Flight Training Guide, which has become the foundation for R22 flight training around the world.

First presented in 1987, HAI's Safety Award was re-named in 1994 in memory of Joe Mashman, noted helicopter pioneer. It acknowledges outstanding individuals with contributions in the promotion of safety and safety awareness throughout the civil helicopter industry.



Robinson's Chief Instructor Tim Tucker awarded for improving helicopter flight safety in Southern California and around the world.

FOLLOWING ROBINSONS



"It was Frank's dream to have a helicopter in every yard. Well, I want to thank all of you for helping me obtain that goal. I am able to keep mine in my yard and fly from home. Thanks again!"

— Ronald Fuller
Chagrin Falls, OH



Aerial coverage of the UK's 2005 general election will be made possible by a Robinson R44 helicopter. The R44, supplied by Flying TV, will provide exclusive coverage of the day's election news to be aired on Newsnight, a late night BBC2 current affairs program.

According to Mike Smith, CEO of Flying TV Ltd., the helicopter will be deployed to all corners of the UK. Covering the same area by car would take more than twice as long.



Pilots Johan Nurmi and John Thomas beat the US coast to coast helicopter total elapsed time record in September 2004 flying a Robinson R22 Beta II helicopter. The record setting time from Los Angeles to Savannah, Georgia and back was 4 days, 12 hours, 55 minutes and 20 seconds (53.9 hours total flight time). The team's next challenge will be to break the around the world speed record this summer.



An R44 delivered the St. Louis Cardinals mascot to centerfield on opening day, for the exhibition game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Springfield Cardinals. Over 10,400 people were in attendance for the big event, which was also nationally televised.

"Thanks for the excellent piece of equipment! Keep up the good work!"

— PRESTON AVIATION



SAFETY TIPS:

Always take time to look

Every pilot knows stories of those who tempted fate. While pilots always intend to do things the "right way," being in a hurry and over confident can get in the way.

One such incident occurred when a pilot was preparing to take off in an R22. Hovering at a rural landing site late in the afternoon, a sudden gust of wind caused the R22 to weathervane. As this occurred the pilot felt as if something hit the aircraft. Unsure, the pilot turned the R22 around and observed a small branch broken from a tree bordering the landing site. The pilot immediately set the R22 down on the ground. However, instead of shutting down and inspecting the aircraft, the pilot simply reduced rotor and engine RPM to 55% and checked the controls. The cyclic, collective and

tail rotor controls all felt normal and there were no abnormal noises. Not finding any obvious problems, and in a hurry to get home before dark, the pilot chose to continue the flight to base approximately an hour away. Upon shut down, the pilot found both tail rotor blades badly damaged, with a large hole in one of the blades.

The pilot was extremely fortunate the blades held together during the flight. Depending on the incident, many damaged parts of the aircraft will not have any indications of impending failure which can be detected from the cockpit. Any abnormal event must be

investigated completely to ensure the airworthiness of the helicopter. Never guess at the true state of your aircraft and never be in a hurry. Always take the extra time to investigate any potential problem.



Simon relies on Robinsons for safe flying.

Tradition of Safety

(continued from page 1) He currently operates exclusively from Wanaka, after closing Canterbury Helicopter Training in 2001.

Over the past 25 years, Simon accumulated over 15,500 hours on all types of helicopters, 10,300 of which are in the R22 and 750 in the R44. Simon's flight schools have trained 235 private pilots and 145 commercial pilots, more than any other New Zealand flight school. Adding to his already impressive resume, in 1992 he became a co-opted NZCAA Flight Examiner. Throughout his career, Simon's focus has always been safety. "Robinson helicopters make it easy for me to maintain a perfect flying record. They are the safest ships I have flown, and the logical choice for flight training."



2901 Airport Drive
Torrance, CA 90505 USA
Phone: 310/539-0508
Fax: 310/539-5198
www.robinsonheli.com