ROBINSON® news

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Durable HID Landing Lights Available for New Helicopters

Long-lasting, energy-efficient Xenon High Intensity Discharge (HID) landing lights are now available as an option on new R44 Raven II, R44 Raven I, and R22 Beta II helicopters. Current list price is $850 US.

HID Lights Last Much Longer than Conventional Bulbs

HID bulbs use a high-voltage electrical arc to ignite Xenon gas within the lamp to generate light. The absence of a metal filament eliminates susceptibility to vibration and increases bulb life.

Compared to less than 20 hours of use for conventional landing lights, HID lights have an expected operating life of more than 2200 hours, allowing the lights to be on continuously for safety and in-flight visibility. Also, HID bulbs use only 35 watts verses 100 watts per conventional bulb.

Installation of the HID lights adds one pound to the weight of the aircraft. Due to modifications required in the instrument console, HID landing lights are not available as a field retrofit kit. For more information, contact your Robinson dealer.

This issue features:

Helipad Improves Helicopter Safety

The Robinson helipad improved the safety of the Stone Mountain Memorial Park's Helicopter Operations.

After years of making do with a ground-level, public parking lot from which to operate their helicopter, safety concerns compelled Stone Mountain Memorial Park's Department of Public Safety to install a Robinson Rooftop Helipad.

The new Robinson-built helipad from which Chief Kelley operates the helicopter.

The helipad improved safety by moving the helicopter operations away from pedestrian-accessible areas, creating safe approach and departure paths, and increasing clearance from trees, telephone poles, fences, and other obstructions.

Located 16 miles from Atlanta, Georgia (USA), Stone Mountain Memorial Park is the state's largest park, encompassing 3,400 acres of campgrounds, hotels, golf courses, and entertainment venues. It attracts nearly 4 million guests each year, with occasions like the park's July 4th celebration and Yellow Daisy Festival each drawing over 200,000 visitors.

To maintain order during large events, Police Chief Chuck Kelley relies on an R44 Raven II helicopter, which the department rents from Blue Ridge Helicopters (Lawrenceville, GA), a Robinson Service Center. Since 1985, Kelley has employed a helicopter for monitoring traffic, assessing parking, and directing ground-level responses.

In addition to being the police chief, Kelley is the department's helicopter pilot. He flies mostly during the special events held at the park, but also conducts a few search-and-rescue missions each year.

While pleased with the helicopter's performance, the practice of using a public parking lot as a base for helicopter operations worried Kelley for a number of reasons.

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NASCAR Champion Bill Elliott Relies on R44 Raven II for More Family Time

NASCAR driver Bill Elliott loves to fly whether it's around a race track at breakneck speeds or through the sky in his R44 Raven II. Since his debut on the NASCAR circuit in 1976, Elliott has participated in more than 750 races, won 44 times, grabbed the pole on 55 occasions, and has been named the National Motorsports Press Association's "Most Popular Driver" a record 16 times.

NASCAR champion Bill Elliott (yellow shirt) receives keys to a new R44 Raven II with air conditioning from David Hynes of Robinson dealer Hampton Roads Charter Service, Virginia, USA.

Like many NASCAR drivers, Elliott started flying helicopters to avoid traffic jams at the race tracks. Now, he uses his helicopter for recreation and time management so he can devote more time to his family, participate in the racing activities of his son Chase, and attend to his other business ventures in the Atlanta, Georgia (USA) area.

NASCAR champion Bill Elliott's famous Number 9 car.

Atlanta is plagued with tiresome traffic and gridlock, which doesn't sit well with the auto racing champion who frequently visits the city. To save time and to avoid aggravation, Elliott flies there in his air-conditioned R44 Raven II.

As an experienced pilot (with 700 hours in helicopters and over 7000 hours in airplanes), Elliott knows a proven track record is as important in aviation as it is in car racing. Elliott was attracted to the R44 because the large number of R44s in operation throughout the world attested to its performance and airworthiness. Additionally, he liked the Robinson approach of derating the engine to lengthen operating life, increase reliability, and reduce maintenance requirements.

The R44 Raven II's ability to go 2200 hours between overhauls with just regular oil changes and scheduled services suited Elliott, unlike other helicopters that require replacing life-limited components having a variety of different service lives.

Another parallel Elliott draws between racing and flying is the importance of preventative maintenance. Robinson does not accept "on condition" replacement of critical components. It's essential to replace life-limited components before they reach their approved service lives. There's no waiting until something starts to break before replacing it because the consequences could be deadly.

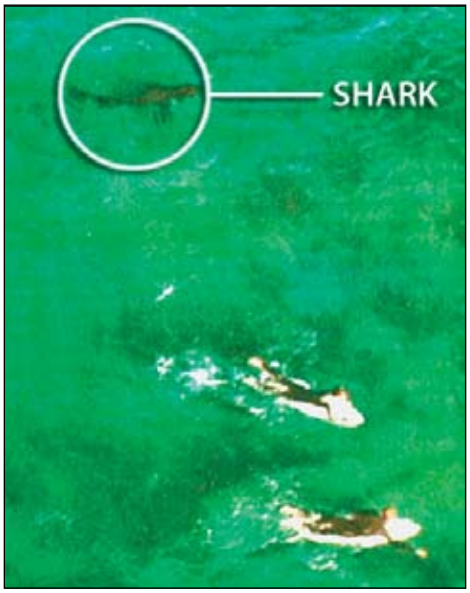
Elliott finds a lot to like on the R44, from its smooth handling to the dependable engine, but what Elliott likes best is the additional time it gives him with his family.

R44 Pilot Prevents Shark Attack

While flying a charter over South Africa's Plettenberg Bay, Glen Brown used his R44 to divert a Great White shark from attacking two surfers.

After spying the shark approaching the unaware surfers, Brown flew the R44 low over the water while his passengers gestured to the surfers to warn them of the lurking danger. Thinking the passengers were being friendly, the surfers waved.

As the shark continued stalking the surfers, Brown hovered the R44 between the predator and its prey. Positioned just above the water, he used the rotor wash to deter the shark. Finally, the surfers understood and started for shore. Brown remained on guard until the surfers were safe.



Number of R44s in UK Tops 300

Popularity of the Robinson R44 is growing at a rapid pace in the UK. Britain's Civilian Air Authority reports the number of R44s registered now exceeds 300, with an average of four R44s added monthly to the roster. Demand shows no signs of waning due to the favorable exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and English pound.

Pilots Fly from California to UK in R44

In an epic 16-day journey spanning 7,000 miles, Charles McCann and Glenn Reindel flew an R44 from Long Beach, California to Lanark, Scotland. They flew across the U.S., into Canada, across Greenland, over Iceland to the Faroe Islands, and then concluded their trip in the backyard of McCann's home in Scotland.

Disabled Pilot Solos in R22

Even though disabled with FSH Muscular Dystrophy, Louise Scotter (UK) is a fixed wing pilot, skydiver, and one very determined lady. Louise went for a ride in an R44 at a fly-in held by the British Disabled Flying Association. One flight and Louise had a new challenge - piloting a helicopter. Louise trained in an R22 with Central Helicopters (Tollerton, Nottingham, UK) and has now soloed.

R44 Pilots Set Record

Joey Petersen and Rick Bourne (Boulder City, Nevada, USA) set a new U.S. National Aeronautic record of 18 hours, 31 minutes, and 1 second for landing and taking off in 13 western states (NV, CA, AZ, NM, OK, TX, UT, CO, ID, MO, WY, OR, and WA). The R44 performed flawlessly for the 2002 miles!

Airborne Unit Dedicates Third R44 Police Helicopter

On June 21, 2007, a new R44 Raven II Police Helicopter officially entered the ranks of Region One Air Support, making it the unit's third R44 law enforcement aircraft.

Named *Air 77*, the new helicopter joins *Air 45* and *Air 44* in patrolling a 50 square mile area of Southern California's San Gabriel Valley. The three R44s patrol seven days a week, safeguarding 400,000 citizens.

Equipped with the latest crime fighting equipment, *Air 77* has a FLIR Ultra 8000 thermal imaging camera system with auto tracking capability, Spectrolab searchlight, P/A speaker and siren, Motorola 800 MHz radio, and air conditioning.

The addition of the third helicopter enables the agency to increase flight hours and to patrol more effectively.

Started in 1999, Region One Air Support is the joint airborne policing effort by the cities of El Monte, Azusa, West Covina, Montebello, Baldwin Park, and Irwindale.

Region One Air Support's Fleet of Robinson R44 Police Helicopters with the newest, Air 77, in the middle.

Lady R44 Pilot Makes a Difference in Brazil

São Paulo, Brazil, is the world's busiest city for helicopter activity with 5 heliports, 100 takeoffs per hour, 250 helipads, and more than 1000 helicopters.

Such a large fleet requires pilots, one of whom is 25-year-old Clarissa Pereira. An R44 pilot, she is one of only four women pilots in São Paulo. Pereira appeared on the Discovery Channel's Atlas program, which focuses on young people working to better their lives and their homelands.

Becoming one of the first women pilots required perseverance. It took Pereira two years to land her first piloting job. Since then her skill and poise in the cockpit have earned her the respect of her colleagues and the confidence of her clients. Pereira hopes her success inspires other Brazilian women to follow their dreams. In recognition of her accomplishments, Pereira received Brazil's Camara dos Vereadores de Santo Andre Award, which recognizes women making a difference in their country. Pereira knows change takes time, but is dedicated to staying the course for herself and Brazil.

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Helipad Improves Helicopter Safety

One problem was ground debris in the parking lot. When kicked up by the helicopter's rotor wash, the refuse was potentially harmful to people and property in the vicinity, not to mention the helicopter's blades and engine.

Kelley's main concern was the danger posed by the helicopter's tail rotor. He feared someone would walk into it while it was moving and suffer severe injuries.

When Kelley saw an advertisement for the Robinson Rooftop Helipad, he knew he had found the solution he needed for making helicopter operations safer.

Specifically designed for the rooftops of commercial and industrial buildings, the Robinson helipad's deck and attachment hardware weigh less than 1,600 pounds. Made of weather-resistant and noncombustible aluminum, the helipad meets major building and fire codes. Its 24 extruded-aluminum panels fit together in a tongue-and-groove configuration to form a 400 square foot deck that is capable of supporting up to 3000 pounds.

After receiving approvals from park officials and the FAA, Kelley met with structural engineers about how to implement the helipad. With the standard rooftop installation impractical due to the pitch of the Public Safety Building's roof and the cost to modify it, the engineers decided to build a free-standing, steel platform on which to place the helipad.

The new Robinson-built helipad is supported by a free standing, 24-foot high steel platform.

At 24-feet tall, the completed helipad is only accessible by a secured spiral staircase. Its elevated location removes the threat from ground debris. Also, approach and departure paths are unobstructed since the helipad is higher than the adjacent Public Safety Building. Lights enable night operations.

From approval to final assembly, the project took nine months to complete. Helipad installation took only a day and half. The final tally amounted to $80,000, which included the helipad, shipping, platform, lighting, and fencing.

Kelley considers the sum a small price to pay for preventing property damage, helicopter accidents, and, most importantly, harm to people.

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

Heliflite Celebrates 30 Years with RHC

Heliflite Australia celebrates 30 years as a Robinson dealer. In 1977, two years before the R22 even received an FAA type certificate, Robinson named Heliflite as its first Australian dealer. Since then, Heliflite has contributed to establishing the Robinson brand in the Land Down Under.

Milestones include importing Australia's first R22 in 1980; introducing the first R44 in 1994; taking delivery of the 4000th R22 manufactured, and having its subsidiary Pacific Heliflite appointed as a New Zealand Robinson dealer.

2008 RHC Calendars Available

Order the 2008 Robinson Calendar online at www.robinsonheli.com, or call your customer service representative.