

## R44 Pilot Finds Missing Family

Acting on a hunch and searching from his R44 Raven, John Rachor, of Medford, Oregon found CNET journalist James Kim's wife and daughters alive a week after the family had been reported missing on November 30, 2006. After visiting friends in Seattle for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Kims had been driving to Gold Beach, Oregon when they became stranded on a snow-covered logging road in the wilderness of south-west Oregon.



John Rachor in front of his R44 Raven from which he found Kati Kim and daughters Penelope and Sabine.

When Rachor read in the newspaper about the missing family and of their intended destination, he had a gut feeling about where to look – the area around Bear Camp Road. "I know that area really well. I have a vacation home in Rogue River Canyon so I fly over it once a week," said Rachor. He also knew people often mistook a broad, paved logging road for the route to Gold Beach and ended up in the Siskiyou National Forest. Rachor adds, "There's a steel gate that blocks the road, but it's opened by hunters, snowmobile riders, and hikers."

Aware the search-and-rescue (SAR) helicopters hired by the Kim family were concentrating on areas close to the coast and other SAR teams were looking elsewhere as well, Rachor played his hunch and went looking in his R44 Raven. When asked about what motivated Rachor to conduct the search at his own expense, he responded, "I would like

*continued on page 4*

### This issue features:

- R44 Pilot Finds Missing Family..... pp1,4
- Kazakhstan Police Get R44 Raven II ..... p1
- Silver State Helicopters Takes a Stand on Safety ..... p2
- Champion Flying Team Visits Robinson ..... p2
- Following Robinsons Around the World..... p3
- Quantum Helicopters Moves to New Facility ..... p4

## Kazakhstan Buys New R44 Raven II Police Helicopter



Kazakhstan's New R44 Raven II at roll call with Police Officers and Patrol Cars.

Marking the first time the Republic of Kazakhstan acquired a foreign-made helicopter for law enforcement, the Internal Affairs Ministry deployed a Robinson R44 Raven II helicopter to support its police force in the city of Astana.

In a ceremony on December 14, 2006, Astana Mayor Askar Mamin presented Major General Dozumov, head of the Internal Affairs Department of Astana, with the keys to the blue-trimmed white helicopter. The R44 Raven II was demonstrated for the country's parliament.

The R44 Raven II was standard-equipped; however, in addition to the standard com radio and transponder, a dual audio controller and police radios were installed along with a public address system and siren.

The sale was handled by Aero-plan, Robinson Helicopter's dealer in Kostanai, Kazakhstan.



Kazakhstan Police with R44 Raven II.

# Silver State Helicopters Takes a Stand on Safety



*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.*

- Benjamin Franklin

An old saying that we have all heard, but not one we always practice. However, Jerry Airola, owner of Silver State Helicopters, paired adage with action when he called a company-wide, stand-down May 8-12, 2006 and convened a safety meeting at Silver State's Las Vegas headquarters. Over 160 helicopters and 300 employees flew in, some from as far as Washington and Texas.

"The meeting was held before the start of summer in order to raise pilot awareness that flying in the summer is different than flying in the winter. There's less margin for error," said Tim "Topper" Nelson, Silver State's general manager for its Pacific region.

## FOCUS ON SUMMER FLYING

While the meeting focused on summer flying hazards, it also addressed risk management and improved cockpit communication in the air and on the ground. The four days featured presentations by industry safety experts including Tim Tucker, chief instructor for the Robinson safety course.

With 29 flight schools, over 200 helicopters (primarily R22s), 2500 students, and more than 225 certified flight instructors (CFIs), Silver State collectively flies an average of 14,000 hours every month. Being aware of how heat and humidity affect a helicopter's propulsion and lift capabilities is especially important when piloting the R22, which is Silver State's primary training helicopter.

"With the R22 you're always flying at or near gross weight – the student, the CFI,

and full fuel – so the density altitude really affects its performance. A CFI can't be complacent when teaching in the R22," said Steve Ballint, general manager of Silver State's North Las Vegas flight academy and CFII.

## PROMOTING RISK MANAGEMENT

Silver State discussed the company's two leading causes of accidents: (1) summer autorotation training and (2) pilot decision making. Silver State found that the majority of its accidents were judgment-related, when CFIs over estimated their student's skill level and their ability to recover safely.

An area of specific concern to Silver State is the number of accidents that occur while practicing autorotations. Depending on the number of lessons given during the day, a CFI might have demonstrated many autorotations by the end of

the day and be fatigued from the cumulative effort. This condition when coupled with inexperienced student pilots doing difficult maneuvers in summer conditions creates ideal conditions for mishaps. In response, Silver State now limits the temperature for practicing emergencies, and following a CFI demo, restricts students to no more than four practice autorotations per training block (1½ - 2 hours).

## COMPANY-WIDE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Safety Seminar is just one part of the company-wide safety program that Ron Luhmann, Silver State's director of safety, is spear-heading. Luhmann, a retired U.S. Navy Commander, CFII and Aviation Safety Officer, emphasizes preparation, risk management and improving cockpit communication between all flight team members, in the air and on the ground.

## Champion Precision Flying Team Visits Robinson

In October 2006, the Russian 2005 World Helicopter Championship team toured the Robinson Helicopter factory, escorted by Henry Austin, Robinson Customer Support.



Back row: Maxim Zherebin, Alexander Mazalov, Pavel Karyakin  
Front row: Yevgania Bukshpur, Galina Rostava, Ludmila Sorochinskaya, Olga Ovsyichuk, and Robinson Helicopter's Henry Austin

The Russian pilots and crew members were invited to the U.S. by the Center for Rotorcraft Innovation to demonstrate precision flying skills at Rotor Rally 2006 and to promote American participation in the 2008 World Helicopter Championship.

The Rotor Rally 2006 flight demonstrations were incorporated into this year's Rotorfest hosted by the American Helicopter Museum, located in West Chester, Pennsylvania.



## Following Robinsons Around the World

### Helicopter Pilots Aid Victims of Mexican Hurricane



In September, Hurricane John pounded Mexico's Baja peninsula, flooding villages and cutting off access to the outside world. In support of the Mexican Red Cross, Baja Bush Pilots used several Robinson helicopters to distribute food and clothing. Pilots flew countless hours moving supplies and ferrying relief officials.

### Santa Claus Arrives in R44



On December 2, 2006, Santa Claus arrived in an R44 at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, CA. The community band performed Christmas carols and kids got a chance to tell Santa their wish lists.

### R44 Newscopter in the UK Earns Contract with the BBC



After an intensive four-month evaluation, FlyingTV, located in the UK, earned a three-year contract to provide the BBC with a range of aerial filming services. FlyingTV's two dedicated R44 Newscopters proved that they were capable of delivering high quality content.

### The Helicopter Horseman



Horse fertility expert Jason Abraham, of Canadian, Texas, hosts a television series called "The Helicopter Horseman" on the RDF network. It features 20 minutes on horse-related subjects and 10 minutes on the R44 Raven II helicopter.

### Plane-Girls Add Excitement to New Gold's Gym Opening



The Plane-Girls from Georgetown, Texas added flair to the grand opening of the new Gold's Gym in Killeen, Texas. They flew a Robinson R44 Raven into the gym's parking lot on Saturday, August 26th. The flying team greeted prospective new members on behalf of the gym, pitched aviation, and conducted tours of the helicopter for children.

### Flying High in the U.S.A.



Mark Young's R44 Raven II at 13,600 feet atop Mount Holy Cross, Colorado, USA.

## R44 Pilot Finds Family

*continued from page 1*

to think that people would do it for me if I were missing."

His search encompassed a 10-square mile area of dense forest, which made it hard to see the ground. Two and half hours into his flight, he found tire tracks in the snow, but was unable to follow them because his helicopter was low on fuel. Rachor informed the SAR command, then flew home.

The following day, he returned and discovered footprints leading from the road into a steep ravine. Rachor contacted the SAR ground teams now working in the area then commenced following the tire tracks that he had seen the previous day. A few miles later, Rachor came upon Kati Kim. "She was waving an umbrella and running around to make herself seen among the trees," said Rachor. Without enough clearance to land, Rachor radioed Mrs. Kim's position to the SAR command, but hovered overhead until rescue workers arrived.

Unfortunately, two days before Rachor found Kati Kim and her children, James Kim had set out on foot in a desperate effort to find help. Not equipped for the terrain and the weather, James Kim succumbed to exposure and was found dead in a rugged ravine. Reflecting on the search and rescue, Rachor said "It turned out well; I just wish it had turned out better."

## Quantum Helicopter Moves to New, Larger Facility



*R44 Raven II takes off from Quantum's new home.*



*A UH-1H lifts off amid a R44 Raven II and several R22s.*

On October 20, 2006, Quantum Helicopters of Chandler, Arizona held an open house and helicopter fly-in to celebrate their move to a new, larger facility based at Chandler's new public heliport.

The open house attracted over 300 guests made up of friends, customers, employees, and families. Eighteen Robinson helicopters were present.

Quantum's new office and hangar complex is four times the size of their previous facility. The new Chandler Municipal Heliport offers 34 parking pads, a large turf training area, and taxiway access to the rest of the Chandler Airport.

A Robinson operator and a factory-authorized service center since 1993, and a dealer since 1997, Quantum owns and operates 12 Robinson helicopters in its accredited flight training program.



*Quantum Helicopters' new location features 34 helipads to serve its customers.*

