

R44 Newscopters Supply Dallas-Fort Worth News



R44 Newscopters fly for 3 of 4 major DFW TV stations.

The Robinson R44 Newscopter now serves as the primary news and traffic reporting helicopter for three of the four major television stations in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) metropolitan area, and is the backup helicopter for the fourth network. With a population of nearly seven million, the DFW area covers 10,000 square miles and is the fifth largest television market in the U.S.

Robinson Dealer SKY Helicopters (Dallas, TX) owns and operates six R44 Newscopters, and for more than ten years, has used R44 Newscopters to provide coverage for TV stations around the country.

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Family Escapes in R22 from Erupting Volcano

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Okmok Volcano caldera months before the eruption.

Photo: © 2008 Julian Olivares

Robinson Helicopter Company Breaks Production Record Again



The R44 Raven II led Robinson production to another record breaking year.

ROBINSON continues to be the world's leading manufacturer of civilian helicopters. Robinson again breaks its own record producing 893 civil helicopters in 2008 surpassing its prior record of 823 set in 2007.

Without question, the R44 is the reason for Robinson's continuing success and record-breaking numbers. Introduced in 2002, the Raven II, a more powerful version of the original R44 now accounts for 60% of the company's aircraft sales. The original R44, later designated the Raven I, accounts for roughly 20% of aircraft sales. Finally, the R22 with 164 ships produced in 2008 still maintains its niche in an increasingly competitive market.

Robinson's focus for 2009 will continue to be product development and maintaining its record-breaking production.



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Pilots Safety Course Marks 26th Year



Pilots Safety Course Staff

Back row: Leo Bell, Bryan Robinson, Jared Kassman, Pat Cox, Matt Nachreiner, Ken Obi, Guillaume Maillet, Nancy Wood, and Bob Muse **Front row:** Derek Sako, Doug Tompkins, Tim Tucker, Daniel Huesca, and Simon Jones

January 2009 marked the 26th anniversary of the FAA's approval of RHC's Safety Course. The first of its kind, the course is the longest operating FAA approved Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic.

As flight training became more affordable, the number of student pilots increased along with the number of student-pilot related accidents. In 1983, Frank Robinson started the Robinson Safety Course in an effort to make flight training safer.

Initially, the once a month course was restricted to certified flight instructors (CFIs) and was taught by Frank Robinson, Tim Tucker, Rod Anderson, and Terry Strange. As more students became certified pilots, the demand for additional safety training increased. In the late 1980s, the enrollment was expanded to include private and commercial rated pilots. To date, over 14,000 pilots have attended the course.

Now held twice a month, the 3½ day course focuses on accident prevention, aerodynamics, mechanics, and the importance of good pilot judgement. One full day is devoted to maintenance and pre-flight inspections, teaching pilots how to recognize critical telltale signs of potential problems. Later in the course, each student flies with a Robinson pilot to practice maneuvers such as autorotation, low RPM recognition and recovery, controlling the aircraft without using the governor, and low-G mast bumping.

Since 1992 and as a result of its success in the U.S., Chief Safety Course Instructor Tim Tucker has conducted 55 courses in 20 countries on six continents, teaching accident prevention to those unable to travel to the Robinson factory.



Robinson pilot Simon Jones goes through a preflight with a student.



Chief Safety Course Instructor Tim Tucker teaches a Pilots Safety Course at the Robinson factory

Robinson First in Customer Support

For the sixth year in a row, *Professional Pilot Magazine (Pro Pilot)* named Robinson Helicopter Company first in customer support for piston helicopters.

Robinson was rated first in spares availability and cost of parts. Additionally, those surveyed were pleased with Robinson's technical support, technical manuals, and fast response times to AOG orders.

The Pro Pilot Helicopter Product Support Survey had separate divisions for piston and turbine helicopter manufacturers.

Governor Earns Helicopter Rating



Governor Perdue (right) with Blue Ridge Helicopters' Ron Carroll

Georgia Governor George Perdue added Private Rotorcraft Helicopter privileges to his pilot's license. The governor received flight training from Robinson Service Center Blue Ridge Helicopters.

R44 Appears in NYC's Times Square



In January, a red R44 appeared in an Izod ad that was displayed on a 60' x 80' billboard in New York City's Times Square.

First Scandinavians to Cross Atlantic in Single-Engine Helicopter



Pilots Hetland and Hansen during a refuelling stop.

Piloting an R44 Clipper II, Norwegian Arve Hetland and Greenlander John Høeg Hansen became the first Scandinavian pilots to fly from the American west coast to Europe in a single engine helicopter. They completed their journey at Norway's Stavanger Airfield Sola on 21 July 2008.

Sheriff's Department Adds R44 Police Helicopter

The New Hanover County (North Carolina) Sheriff's Department added an R44 Police Helicopter to its force. The black helicopter was funded by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security and money seized from drug activities.

Heli-Girls Named Best Junior Team at 2008 World Helicopter Championships



Flying an R22, Heli-Girls Bettina Schleidt and Gisela Freund were named best junior pilot team (less than 250 flight hours) at the 2008 World Helicopter Championships held at Eisenach-Kindel Airfield, Germany.

Family Flees in R22 from Volcano

Okmok Volcano on Umnak Island in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska erupted without warning on Saturday, 12 July 2008 forcing rancher Lonnie Kennedy and his family to flee in the ranch's R22 Beta.

At 11:00 a.m., Kennedy heard the volcano rumbling. At 11:43 a.m., Okmok exploded, shooting ash and rocks 45,000 feet into the sky. Immediately, Kennedy contacted the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard promptly dispatched a rescue helicopter and two cutters.



Photo: © 2008 Burke Mees and Alaska Airlines.

Okmok's ash plume as seen from an Alaska Airlines flight at 35,000 feet above sea level.

Located near the base of the 3,500-foot volcano, the ranch is home to seven adults and three children. The R22 Beta is essential for living at the isolated ranch, which is 65 miles from Dutch Harbor, the nearest sizeable town. Kennedy uses the R22 to herd 3,000 head of cattle over the million-acre spread and to transport supplies.

To ensure his family's safety while waiting for the Coast Guard, Kennedy used the



Photo: © 2008 Julian Olivias

Kennedy uses the R22 Beta for herding cattle and for transporting supplies for the ranch.

R22 Beta to shuttle them one-by-one to neighboring Unalaska Island, six miles away. After transporting his wife, three children, daughter-in-law, and grandchild, conditions became too dangerous to fly, stranding Kennedy's son Ross and ranch hand Tom Hardman.

Through radio communication with the Coast Guard, Kennedy learned ash had grounded the Coast Guard's turbine helicopter, but that the fishing boat *Terrigail* was on her way.

After collecting Hardman and Ross Kennedy, the *Terrigail* picked up the group on Unalaska Island and transported them to Dutch Harbor.

Ten days later, Kennedy returned to Unalaska Island to retrieve the ash covered R22. A thorough cleaning and inspection of the aircraft revealed a little pitting to the bubble, but no other serious damage. Kennedy flew the helicopter back to the ranch and began rounding up the cattle scattered by the volcano.

R44 Helps Secure Water Supply Network

Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) replaced its airplane with an R44 Raven II to patrol its network of pipelines, rivers, and dams in north central Texas. TRWD supplies water to over 1.7 million people in a service area spanning 11 counties, including the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area.

TRWD purchased the helicopter through Robinson Dealer SKY Helicopters (Dallas, Texas). Authorized Robinson Service Center, Epic Helicopters (Fort Worth, Texas) provides R44 maintenance and pilot training for the TRWD.



A TRWD employee enters information into a hand-held computer during a patrol in an R44 Raven II.

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R44 NEWSCOPTERS SUPPLY DALLAS-FORT WORTH NEWS

The R44 Newscopter's low operating cost, High Definition (HD) camera, and ENG equipment have gained the attention of news organizations around the world.

"By avoiding the high operating cost of older turbine helicopters and innovative resource sharing we are able to provide live HD video to TV and web customers at greatly reduced prices," said Ken Pyatt, president of SKY Helicopters.



The R44 Newscopter's passenger/ENG workstation shown with optional Panasonic P2 Mobile HD recorder.

406 MHz ELT Availability in Robinson Helicopters

On 1 February 2009 the International COSPAS-SARSAT search and rescue satellite program stopped processing distress signals from 121.5/243 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) beacons.

For COSPAS-SARSAT satellites to recognize distress signals, aviators must switch to ELT beacons broadcasting on the digital 406 MHz frequency.

Robinson offers the Kannad 406 AF-Compact ELT. For more information, please contact Technical Support at customerservice@robinsonheli.com.



The Kannad 406 AF-Compact ELT.

