

Robinson's R22/R44 Sales Move Upward

Robinson Helicopter Company ended 2009 having produced (25) R22s, (58) Raven Is and (350) Raven IIs for a total of 433 helicopters, a modest number when compared to the record 893 helicopters produced in 2008.

RHC attributes the sharp decline in domestic and international sales to the lack of funding offered by banks and financial institutions throughout the world.

Signs of improvement may be evident by the surprising surge of orders received at the beginning of this year. As of 1 February 2010, RHC has received a total of 58 new R22/R44 orders, an encouraging sign in a market that has been hit hard and has struggled for over a year.



R44s prepped for flight tests

R66 Turbine Debuts at Heli Expo



Photo credit: Mike Warren, SKY Helicopters

Robinson's turbine helicopter, the R66, made its debut to an enthusiastic crowd at Heli Expo in Houston, Texas, February 21–23. Robinson began accepting orders for its latest model in early February. The company is hopeful that the modestly priced \$770,000 helicopter will create a new market in the turbine helicopter industry.



Frank Robinson told a standing room only press conference that he is very pleased with the R66's performance stating that it fully met all of his expectations when he flew it. Regarding key upgrades such as floats and air conditioning, he promises that the company is making those options "top priority".

The R66 Turbine resembles and incorporates many of the same design features as its reputable predecessor, the R44. Both designs include a two-bladed rotor system, T-bar cyclic and an open interior cabin configuration. The most notable differences are the turbine's increased reserve power, increased altitude performance, fifth seat and large baggage compartment. Popular upgrades including HID landing lights, leather seats, and a stereo audio control panel, are standard on the R66.

Robinson is gearing up for production by adding 133,000 sq ft of manufacturing space to its Torrance facility. With a growing backlog of orders and FAA certification imminent, Robinson is pushing hard to start production by

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Baton Rouge Adds R44 Police Helicopter

In January 2010, the Baton Rouge Police Department (Louisiana, USA) took delivery of a new R44 Police Helicopter that features an Ultra 8000 FLIR camera with an optional laser designator and a Moving Map System with Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU). These technologies, which are optional equipment installed in the R44 police helicopter, provides air crew with additional tools to support police officers on the ground.

AeroComputers' Moving Map System with IMU works hand-in-hand with the helicopter's Ultra 8000 FLIR, enabling the user to lock the FLIR camera on a fixed street address and to maintain that lock regardless of where the helicopter moves. Also, with the IMU, the R44's crew can point the FLIR at a structure and the structure's address displays on the onboard monitor, making it easy for the observer to direct ground patrols to the crime scene.

The Ultra 8000 FLIR on Baton Rouge's R44 features an optional laser pointer the helicopter observer can use to pinpoint targets on the ground. Ground police equipped with night vision goggles can see the laser beam's path emitting from the helicopter to the target, improving the teamwork between air and ground law enforcement units.

East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Kip Holden said the helicopter will not only help to crack down on crime, but will also help to protect police.

The Police Department has budgeted about 1,000 hours of flight time this year, which on average, will be about 20 hours a week depending on weather and other circumstances. According to Don Kelly, a police spokesman, most of the Air Support Unit's time will be spent supporting ground patrols and assisting them with searches. The helicopter can monitor crowds, provide traffic control and conduct surveillance.



Baton Rouge's new police helicopter features a FLIR camera, Lojack, searchlight and P/A speaker.



AeroComputers' split-screen shows FLIR image of a building (left) and building's map location (right).

Alpha Aviation Receives Contract for Pilot Training

Alpha Aviation, Robinson's dealer in Japan, has won the contract for pilot training at the Teikyo University in Tokyo. The department of Aerospace Engineering at Teikyo University plans to launch a training course for helicopter pilots in 2010.

Students will train in a Robinson R22 and will be able to earn their private and commercial license in three years. Alpha Aviation has maintained its market share in the Japanese flight training business for more than 9 years and is now marking a remarkable 24 years accident-free.

Chopper Bob Signs Off



Mercury Aviation mourns the loss of Bob Rall, 67, affectionately known as "Chopper Bob". Rall, the helicopter reporter and on-air talent for Mercury Aviation and WLBT, NBC's affiliate in Jackson Mississippi, died in his sleep on 5 January 2010.

Rall began traffic reporting in 1995 using a Robinson R22 and a cell phone. In 1998 he upgraded to the first Robinson R44 ENG helicopter. "Chopper Bob" became a household name, flying daily in Mississippi's only dedicated news copter and logging more than 4000 hours.

Operations and Technical Topics

Some pilots have reported difficulty starting fuel-injected Raven IIs when the engine is hot. This is typically caused by heat in the engine compartment after shutdown causing fuel in the lines to vaporize.

For easier starting of your Raven II with a hot engine, try the following procedure:

- Pull the mixture control knob full out to the idle cut-off position.
- With the master switch on, activate the auxiliary fuel pump by turning the ignition switch to "prime" and holding for 20-30 seconds.

Since the mixture is at idle cut-off, the aux fuel pump will draw cooler fuel

from the main fuel tank and pump the hot fuel in the lines through the fuel return line back into the fuel tank instead of into the engine.

- Proceed with the normal starting procedure using a normal prime with the mixture full rich.

Embry Riddle Names Universal Helicopters as Exclusive Trainer

On January 29, 2010, Prescott, Arizona's Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace announced its selection of Universal Helicopters (UHI), a Robinson dealer and service center, as its exclusive provider for helicopter flight training.

ERAU with UHI will offer private, commercial, instrument, CFI, and Instrument CFI training using the Robinson R22 and R44 IFR trainer along with the Schweizer 300C. The collaboration between UHI and Embry-Riddle will simplify the process for students seeking helicopter flight training while enrolled in Embry-Riddle's Helicopter Flight or Helicopter Operation and Safety minors.



UHI's Gordon Jiroux and Dr. Frank Ayers, Executive Vice President of Embry-Riddle University's Prescott campus

R44 Pilots Help After Devastating Earthquakes

R44 helicopters proved to be an effective method of distributing aid in two Western Hemisphere countries devastated by natural disasters. On 12 January 2010, a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti then six weeks later on 27 February 2010, an 8.8 quake occurred off the coast of Chile.

When damaged roads and rail lines restricted ground access, Chilean authorities turned to general aviation, especially helicopters, to deliver aid to the stricken communities.

According to Ty Corbridge, one of five pilots working for the Utah Haiti Relief coalition R44s have been most effective for transporting medical supplies and doctors to orphanages and clinics in regions outside of Port au Prince where aid was not reaching.

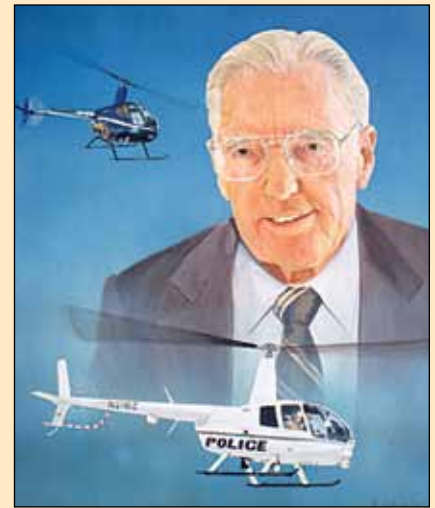


R44 pilot Ty Corbridge assists with dropping food, water and other supplies to needy people in Haiti.



Chilean General Peña and Guillermo Carey, President of AOPA - CHILE, use Carey's R44 to deliver aid.

Museum Honors Frank Robinson



The above portrait commemorates Frank Robinson's induction into the museum's hall of fame.

On November 21, 2009, the San Diego Air & Space Museum inducted Frank Robinson into its international hall of fame for his contributions to aviation and aviation technology.

Also inducted were Astronaut Sally Ride; aerobatic pilot Sean Tucker, aerial videographer Clay Lacy; aerospace innovators Lockheed Brothers and Lockheed's advanced development division Skunk Works, the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels; Cliff Robertson, actor and aviation ambassador; and representatives from the Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII.

Past honorees include NASA astronauts, Russian cosmonauts, the Wright Brothers, Charles Lindbergh, and Chuck Yeager.

Robinson's Safety Course Held in Costa Rica for First Time

In December 2009, Academia de Enseñanza Aeronáutica (AENSA), Robinson's Costa Rican dealer, sponsored the country's first R22/R44 Safety Course in the capital San Jose. Tim Tucker, Chief Instructor for the RHC factory course, conducted the four-day course. Thirty pilots attended including two from the San Jose Police Department, two aviation inspectors from Costa Rica's Dirección General de Aviación Civil, and some pilots from neighboring countries.

AENSA started Costa Rica's first helicopter flight school in 2003 and currently operates eight R44s and two R22s.



The AENSA-sponsored RHC Pilots' Safety Course, taught by Tim Tucker (front row, third from right) was well attended.

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R66 Turbine Debuts

early summer. If all goes according to plan, R66 deliveries could be as early as fall, 2010.

All Robinson aircraft are sold through the company's world-wide dealer network. Robinson is currently accepting R66 dealer applications. With almost 400 Robinson service centers already established, Robinson anticipates having extensive R66 support in place by late 2010.

R66 Specifications are based on preliminary test data and are subject to change.

Performance:

- Cruise Speed approx 120 kts
- Max Range (no reserve) – approx 325nm/375 miles
- Hover Ceiling IGE..... over 10,000 ft
- Hover Ceiling OGE..... over 10,000 ft
- Rate of Climb over 1,000 fpm
- Max Operating Altitude..... 14,000 ft

Weights:

- Max Gross Weight2700 lbs
- Empty Weight (incl oil & std avionics) 1280 lbs
- Max fuel (73.6 gal).....493 lbs
- Passengers & Baggage (with max fuel).....927 lbs



The R66 Turbine Cockpit (shown with 7-hole instrument panel and optional Pilot's Avionics Console).

