

R66 Float Option Certified



The R66 Marine shown with floats stowed

ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY'S float option for its 5-place R66 was FAA approved on November 14, 2014. Designated the R66 Turbine Marine, the R66 pop-out float option is similar to the R44 Clipper pop-out float option (in fact, the same float tubes are used) and like the Clipper, offers an additional level of safety for over-water travel.

The float option adds approximately sixty-five pounds to the helicopter's empty weight. When not in use, the float tubes stow in low-profile protective covers along the landing gear skids minimizing drag and allowing easy cabin entry and exit.

Designed primarily for emergencies, pop-out floats may be deployed at speeds up to 80 knots. The floats activate by a lever on the pilot's collective that releases pressurized helium from a tank located under the aircraft's right rear seat. The six-chamber floats inflate within 2-3 seconds allowing the pilot to make an immediate water landing if necessary.

The R66 Turbine Marine is also approved for limited, periodic training and amphibious use at reduced gross weight.

Base price for the R66 Turbine Marine is \$875,000.



The R66 Marine shown with pop-out floats inflated

Royal Jordanian Air Force Buys Eight R44s



The first four R44s for the Royal Jordanian Air Force

The Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) chose the R44 Raven II to replace its fleet of aging Hughes 500D helicopters.

Equipped with Garmin and Aspen glass avionics, and Bendix King's military KTR909 UHF transceiver, the white R44s will be used for primary flight training at the King Hussein Air College in Mafraq, Jordan.

The decision to use the R44 came after a four-member delegation led by Brigadier General Walid Jaradat

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Robinson R44 Newscopters Cover the World Cup



Six R44 Newscopters helped bring the FIFA World Cup to fans around the world.

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R44 Pilot Rescues Eleven People from Raging River



Smith with South Africa's Sea Rescue Service Award

On March 5, 2014, Coena Smith from Modimall, South Africa used his R44 to rescue eleven tourists from the Mogol River located in the province of Limpopo.

After receiving word that a tour bus had been washed downstream while attempting to cross the flooded river, Smith jumped in his R44. Flying overhead, he saw people clinging to tree branches while struggling to stay above the fast moving water. Smith, an experienced pilot, with the help of a neighbor lifted the passengers, one by one, to safety.

Smith received South Africa's Sea Rescue Service Award on September 28, 2014, in recognition of his bravery.

R44 Participates in Ice Bucket Challenge

With Ice Bucket Challenges all over the news, it was only a matter of time before an R44 got into the act. The challenge involved dumping a bucket of ice water on your head to raise research money for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Canadian hockey player Paul Bissonnette took the idea to new heights. After accepting the challenge from a former teammate, Bissonnette's friends boarded an R44 and, while in a hover, poured freezing glacier water over the hockey player as he stood atop a mountain wearing nothing but a Speedo and ice skates. The stunt cost Bissonnette \$175 and raised \$1000 towards the cause.

R66 & R44 Team Up to Find Missing Hunter

On October 27th, the same day authorities called off a five-day search for missing hunter Dave Stornetta, Dave Everson, in an R66, found Stornetta and his dog in a northern California canyon.

On Wednesday, October 22nd, Stornetta, his dog and his son Kyle set out for a day of hunting in the Yolla Bolly Wilderness of Trinity County. When his father did not return to camp for lunch, Kyle reported him missing. The Trinity County Sheriff's office launched a search of the area that included fifty volunteers, four dog teams, and air support from the California Highway Patrol. After five days, without any sightings, the official search was called off.

Not willing to give up, Stornetta's family reached out to Dave Everson of Air Shasta, Robinson's dealer in nearby Redding, California. That same day, Everson with Kyle and two spotters in an R66 and Air Shasta pilot Casey Ross in an R44 set out to search the area. Following a trail of smoke left by Stornetta, Everson eventually came to a densely wooded rocky canyon. From 600 feet above the canyon, Everson spotted a pair of waving hands. With his helicopter full, Everson radioed Ross. A skilled helicopter pilot, Ross was able to navigate the wooded canyon. A small clearing allowed him to set the helicopter on a rock while Stornetta jumped on board. Stornetta and his dog were tired, cold and very hungry but otherwise in good condition.



Air Shasta's Dave Everson, rescued hunter Dave Stornetta, and pilot Casey Ross

Public Heliport Opens in DeSoto, Texas



Ribbon cutting ceremony at DeSoto's new heliport

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in DeSoto, Texas on August 27th to celebrate the opening of a new public-use heliport. The venture was a collaborative effort between several public agencies and SKY Helicopters, Robinson's dealer in Garland, Texas. The heliport sits on nineteen acres and includes 35,000 square feet of hangar and terminal space along with a 24-hour, self-serve fuel farm providing 100LL and Jet A fuels.

Ken and Connie Pyatt of SKY Helicopters estimate the heliport will eventually see more than 55,000 operations a year between training, news gathering, commercial work, and tenants. With the heliport's close proximity to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Ken expects DeSoto will enhance SKY's business. SKY operates a flight school and maintenance center in Garland as well as eleven R44 Newscopters, five in and around Dallas-Fort Worth.

R44 Newscopters Cover the Cup



The staff of Helinews with founder Ricardo Malaguti (front row center, blue shirt)

In June, all eyes focused on Brazil as it hosted the FIFA World Cup. The quadrennial event's final game is the most viewed sporting event on Earth. Many of the images shown on television were captured by R44 Newscopters owned by Helinews, a prominent aerial news reporting agency in Rio de Janeiro. For four weeks, Helinews had R44 Newscopters stationed in Brasilia, Bela Horizonte, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Because FIFA did not allow helicopters to fly over the games, the helicopters provided supplemental HD footage of Maracana Stadium, Copacabana Beach and Christ the Redeemer for ESPN and ABC's Good Morning America.

Founded in 2007 by Ricardo Malaguti, 35, a commercial helicopter pilot, Helinews specializes in aerial news broadcasting, traffic reporting and TV filming. The company's fleet consists of six R44 Newscopters and one R22. Malaguti chose the R44 for its cost/benefit ratio and because R44 Newscopters are sold turn-key ready, avoiding after-manufacture modifications which can be costly and time consuming.

Malaguti sees the World Cup as a dress rehearsal for the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympics that will be held in Rio De Janeiro.

Reindeer Flies

Every autumn reindeer herders in Jamtland, Sweden move their reindeer herds from mountain grasslands to winter forests. During this year's migration, one very young calf hitched a ride in an R44.

A snowmobiler spotted the tiny calf struggling to keep up with the herd. Reindeer calves are normally born in May, but this little guy was born in September. The snowmobiler picked up the calf then radioed pilot Trond Renå who was herding the animals with an R44. Exhausted, the young reindeer remained calm as Rena placed him in the R44's back seat and fastened his seatbelt. The calf flew in the R44 for the rest of the day. At the end of the herd's migration, it was decided to shelter the calf over the winter until he's ready to rejoin the herd.

Renå is flight operations manager for Jamtlands Flying AB in Sweden, which has assisted in the yearly migration of the reindeer for 40 years. Jamtlands Flying operates three R44 Raven IIs.



Reindeer calf in back seat of R44

R66 S/N 500 Delivered



Kurt Robinson congratulates new owner Irek Salihov

R66 S/N 0500 rolled off Robinson's production line on March 14, 2014. The helicopter was delivered to Aviamarket, one of four Robinson dealers in Russia, and was displayed at the Heli-Russia Exhibition in Moscow, May 22-24.

Robinson Helicopter's President, Kurt Robinson attended the exhibition and officially handed the keys to the helicopter's new owner, Irek Salihov, Chairman of Jadran Oil. To date, approximately 575 R66s have been delivered worldwide.

Kurt Robinson Attends Helitech International



S.P.'s Marco Schneider, RHC's Kurt Robinson, S.P.'s Peter Behr and Astrid Ayling

Kurt Robinson was on hand for the R66's debut at the Helitech International Show in Amsterdam, October 14-16. Robinson dealer, S.P. Helicopter Services of the Netherlands displayed an R66 on loan from Sloane Helicopters of the UK. S.P. Helicopters took delivery of its first R66 in November.

In addition to lending support at the show, Kurt participated an International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST) meeting on October 13th. Also, on the show's last day, Kurt attended in a Safety Workshop hosted by the IHST and the European Helicopter Safety Team.

China & EASA Certify R66



In April 2014, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and China's CAAC certified the R66. Certification in both countries was significant for Robinson, as foreign markets have historically represented two-thirds of the company's sales.

With EASA member states and China on board, the R66 is now certified in over fifty countries (including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Russia, South Africa, and the U.S.)

Robinson continues to focus on strengthening its presence in foreign markets. To date, Robinson has approved 115 R66 service centers worldwide of which sixty-eight are dealers.

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Royal Jordanian Air Force Buys Eight R44s



RHC safety course instructor flies with Jordanian pilot

of the RJAF visited Robinson in March. Deciding factors included the R44's low maintenance and operating costs along with positive feedback about the R44 from a neighboring country's air force, according to Colonel Imad Ghwein.

The first four R44s were delivered in November, with the second four to follow in early 2015. To prepare for their arrival, ten RJAF pilots and twelve mechanics attended Robinson's safety and maintenance courses, respectively.

Glass Avionics Online Primer



Avionics course introductory screen

A basic primer for Robinson's glass avionic options is now available at www.robinsonheli.com. Located under the *Courses* pull-down menu, the primer explains the features of Aspen's Primary and Multi Function Display systems as well as Garmin's GTN series navigators.

Robinson recommends owners and pilots watch the primer to familiarize themselves with the new equipment. Ferry pilots are required to watch before delivering aircraft.

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