

ROBINSON

news

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2013 Production

Echoing 2012, RHC produced a total of 523 helicopters in 2013, slightly exceeding 2012's production of 517. The R44 continues to be the company's top-selling helicopter at 289, followed by the R66 at 192 and the R22 at 42.

Deliveries got a boost with both Canada and Russia issuing type certificates for the R66. Russia took delivery of forty R66 helicopters, while Canada picked up thirteen. Both markets are proving to be strong for the R66.

Historically, the majority of Robinson's sales have been exports and 2013 was no exception, with 70% of sales going to foreign customers.

The company will continue developing enhancements for all models, including new avionic and instrument panel upgrades, floats and a cargo hook for the R66, and alternative fuels for the R22/R44.

Robinson Tops Product Support Survey

Robinson scored the highest overall in *Professional Pilot's* 2014 Helicopter Product Support Survey. From a rating of 7.74 in 2013, the company's 8.11 rating in 2014 was the largest improvement of any OEM (piston or turbine) included in the annual survey. This marked the first time that a manufacturer received an overall score above 8.

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Robinson Introduces Glass Avionics



Eight-hole instrument panel with Aspen Avionics EFD500H MFD (left) and EFD1000H PFD (right). Pilot side console (PSC) holds Garmin GTN 750 GPS/COM/NAV.

ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY introduces a new line of instrument panels and avionics for the R22, R44, and R66. The new line includes Garmin's GTN 600/700 touch-screen navigators, as well as Aspen Avionics' Primary Flight Display (PFD) and Multifunction Display (MFD) systems. Garmin's GTR 225B COM radio, GMA 350H audio panel, GDL 88 universal access transceiver (UAT), and GTX 330ES transponder are also available. Robinson completed FAA flight tests and received approval on all models.

To accommodate the new glass-style avionics, Robinson replaced its 7-, 9-, and 10-hole instrument panels with 6- and 8-hole instrument panels. The 6-hole panel is standard on the R22 and R44 Raven I, while the 8-hole panel is standard on the R44 Raven II and R66. The 8-hole panel is also an option on the R44 Raven I. Both panels allow for glass avionics or traditional instrument configurations.



Six-hole instrument panel in R22 with Garmin 625 GPS in PSC.

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Robinson Dealer Named Flight Instructor of the Year

Gordon Jiroux, of Universal Helicopters, Inc. (UHI), an RHC dealer, is the Helicopter Association International's 2014 recipient of the W.A. Blessing Certified Flight Instructor of the Year.



Gordon Jiroux, President and CEO of UHI

UHI has five locations and provides flight training to numerous colleges, including Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona.

A UHI January press release reported the company logged nearly 25,000 flight-training hours in the past year, mostly in Robinsons, and is approaching ten years accident free. Jiroux attributes this remarkable accomplishment to UHI's strict training and safety standards as well as his steadfast belief that all training accidents are preventable.

Accident Free for 29 Years



Alpha Aviation flight instructors

Alpha Aviation, an RHC dealer and Japan's top helicopter training facility, has been accident free since 1985.

Alpha reports they log 3000 flight hours annually, providing private, commercial, and instrument training to approximately 240 students. The majority of instruction is done in the company's nine R22s. Shizuka and Kenji Saito, Alpha's president and vice president, maintain close contact with each instructor, continually monitoring weather, traffic, aircraft, and student conditions.

Well done Alpha Aviation.

Robinson Safety Class Goes to China



Wilson Liao (center, light blue shirt) and Tim Tucker (center, plaid shirt) with safety course students.

In November, Tim Tucker, chief instructor of the RHC Pilot Safety Course, conducted the first RHC Safety Course in the People's Republic of China. Held in the city of Guangzhou, the course was sponsored by PTE Systems, a Robinson dealer in China since 1993.

One hundred five people attended the three-day course, making it one of the largest foreign RHC safety courses ever held. Attendees included thirteen police pilots from all over China. Mr. Yi Liang, Division Director of the Ministry of Public Security, stated, "This Safety Course is exactly what our police operation needs."

Thirteen officials from China's Civil Aviation Administration, which manages all of the country's non-military aviation, also attended. One of China's oldest and largest flight schools, the Civil Aviation Flight University, sent ten of their flight instructors and one associate dean to the course.

Wilson Liao, founder and general manager of PTE Systems, said "I hope this course will be the first of a yearly RHC Safety Course to be held in China."

Ecuador Picks R44 Police Helicopter

Robinson's R44 Police helicopter was the Ecuadorian National Police Department's pick for its Aerial Police Service.

R44 S/N 13513 is equipped with a FLIR camera, spotlight, and public address system. The aircraft was delivered on September 25th by Robinson dealer, ARICA and is the department's first true police helicopter.

Twelve Ecuadorian police pilots attended a two-day familiarization ground course taught by Jose Barajas, a pilot and El Monte, California police officer. El Monte owns the first Robinson R44 Police Helicopter and has operated R44 police helicopters since 1988.



Ecuador's Aerial Police with new R44 Police Helicopter

R66s Fly Around the World



Michael Farikh, Alexander Kurylev, Dmitry Rakitsky, and Vadim Melnikov on their around-the-world flight.

On September 15th, a pair of Robinson R66 Turbine helicopters landed just outside Moscow, marking the end of a six-week, around-the-world expedition. The historical flight was a first for the R66 and for Russia.

The expedition was organized by Aviamarket, a Robinson dealer in Moscow. Aviamarket was eager to test the R66, as it had just received certification in Russia on March 15th. Michael Farikh and Alexander Kurylev flew S/N 0323 while Vadim Melnikov and Dmitry Rakitsky flew S/N 0164.

The journey began on August 2nd when the four pilots, and documentary filmmaker Dmitry Kubasov, left Moscow's Bunkovo Heliport heading west. The two helicopters zigzagged across Europe from Norway down to the tip of Africa, circling back up to Scotland. From Scotland, they ventured across the North Atlantic Ocean, via the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland.

Greenland to Newfoundland was the longest day of the expedition, 12.5 hours in the air. The helicopters then traveled through Canada, across Alaska, over the North Pacific Ocean to Siberia, and finally back to Moscow. All in all, the teams covered four continents and two oceans, traveled 39,448 kilometers (24,512 miles), and logged 220 flight hours.

Outfitted with auxiliary fuel tanks, the pilots flew almost 1000 kilometers (620 miles) per day. Temperatures ranged from 40° C (104° F) in parts of Europe down to 1° C (34° F) over Greenland and Canada.

According to Rakitsky, the R66s performed exceptionally well from start to finish, demonstrated a high degree of reliability, and required only routine maintenance.

This is Farikh's and Rakitsky's second groundbreaking flight, having made history in April flying an R66 to the North Pole.

R66 Flies Perimeter of Russia



Igor Gurzhuenko and Victor Sidelnikov (seated)

On September 3rd, R66 Turbine (S/N 0067) touched down in Moscow, completing a 57-day adventure that began and ended at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport.

The adventure dubbed, *Russia 360°*, took Pilot Igor Gurzhuenko and navigator Viktor Sidelnikov along the entire border of Russia.

They flew approximately 28,000 kilometers (17,400 miles), visited 54 towns in 20 Russian regions, and crossed eight time zones.

Kurt Robinson to Keynote IHST Safety Symposium

RHC's president Kurt Robinson and U.S. National Safety Board (NTSB) member Robert L. Sumwalt will be the keynote speakers at the Seventh International Helicopter Safety Symposium to be held in Anaheim following the conclusion of Heli-Expo 2014.

Presented by the International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST), the 1 ½-day symposium will review the progress made towards reducing the civil helicopter accident rate 80% by 2016, a goal set by the IHST.

Safety teams from the U.S., Europe, and Brazil will address current accident trends, industry developments and pilot responsibility.

R22 Pilot Spots Fire



Student-pilot Keaton Snow.

Around 12:30 am, on August 23rd, student-pilot Keaton Snow and Leading Edge Aviation flight instructor Jay Bunning were finishing a training flight in an R22 when Snow noticed flames on the east side of Oregon's Deschutes River Canyon.

Flying closer, the pair saw a fire rapidly making its way up a ravine toward a neighborhood at the top of the canyon. After calling 911, Bunning learned the fire had not been reported. The operator quickly dispatched Deschutes County fire fighters while Snow and Bunning continued to circle overhead. Without a doubt the circling helicopter helped to wake the sleeping residents.

The fire was extinguished without serious damage to property or injury to residents.

Leading Edge is a Robinson dealer located in Bend, Oregon.

Robinson Introduces Glass Avionics

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The GTR 225B is now the standard COM radio on all models, replacing the Bendix/King KY 196A/197A. The GTR 225B and the optional GTN 635, 650, and 750 COMs all offer 8.33 kHz channel spacing, which satisfies impending new regulations.

The GMA 350H audio panel replaces the existing AEM AA12S for dual-COM installations. The GTX 330ES (Extended Squitter) transponder meets ADS-B Out requirements when paired with a GTN series navigator, and the GDL 88 UAT provides dual-band ADS-B In. The GTN series navigators are installed in Robinson's pilot side console, placing the equipment directly in front of the pilot to minimize head-down time.

The new avionics and instrument panels will be displayed at this year's Helicopter Association International convention, February 25-27 at the Anaheim Convention Center.



Eight-hole instrument panel configured with Aspen EFD1000H PFD. Pilot side console houses Garmin GTN 625 GPS (top) and GTN 635 GPS/COM (bottom).

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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



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