



# PHPA ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MEMBER NEWS

SERVING INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE MEMBERS SINCE 1967

## OCTOBER 26-27, 2011: PRESIDENT LARRY WELK TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Larry met with HAI and legislative staff and attended the Capital Hill round table with members of Congress and legislative staff. He also met with HAI President, Matt Zucarro. Out of these meetings came the impetus for community groups and helicopter operators to work together so as to preclude new legislation; this theme continues today in PHPA's work on behalf of the southern California helicopter community. Larry also met with the Eastern Regional Helicopter Council (ERHC) a very powerful and well organized helicopter

operators' and pilots' organization that was (and still is) fighting the battle of the heliports and fixed flight paths over and around Long Island. That fight - the matter of mandated routes for helicopters - has spread to the west as we all know.

## JANUARY 19, 2011: CONGRESSMAN BERMAN MEETING WITH FAA / HAI / PHPA IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS ABOUT HELICOPTER NOISE

U.S. Congressman Howard Berman invited the PHPA, various San Fernando Valley home owners' associations, and the FAA to the Studio City library for the purpose of discussing a proposed regulation to raise the altitude of helicopters over the county of Los Angeles and to define fixed flight paths. There were representatives from the PHPA, the FAA, the media industry, the public helicopter users, and four homeowners' associations (HOA). The PHPA was represented by President Larry Welk and Ricarda Bennett, Legal Counsel. Also attending from the FAA were Bill Withycombe, Regional Administrator for the Western-Pacific Region, Dale Bouffiou, Operations Center Manager, Lynn Ray, Vice President of Air Traffic from FAA Headquarters, Washington D.C. plus Steve May and John Goldfluss. Representatives from HAI came from Washington, D.C.: Matt Zuccaro, President of HAI, and Ann Carroll, Legislative Analyst for HAI,



Larry Welk meets Congressman Howard Berman

Stan Rose, Safety Director and Chris Dancy, Director, Communications & Public Relations. The public helicopter users were represented by pilots and lieutenants from the LAPD, LAFD and LASD. Alan Purwin of Helinet and Arnie Kliner, Manager of KABC TV representing the media industry, also participated in a group discussion on the effects of the noise on the community. Berman agreed to the PHPA and HAI proposal that the FAA conduct a noise study to determine where geographically the noise complaints are coming from and how many separate individual people were complaining.

## JANUARY 20, 2012: HAI AND PHPA SAFETY SEMINAR

A Safety Seminar was sponsored by HAI and PHPA at the Van Nuys Airtel. Matt Zuccaro, President of HAI, and Stan Rose, Director of Safety, and Larry Welk, President of PHPA all spoke along with many other speakers. Board Members Tom Short, Steve Rousello, and Edward Story were there along with pilots from Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, two representatives of Helinet including Alan Purwin, Arnie Kleiner, President and General Manager of KABC / KLOS and pilot Scott Reiff with the news director. There were over 100 people there at an event that was also billed as a FAA Team event for those who wanted credit for attending.



**MAY 30, 2012: PHPA HOST LOCAL TOUR OPERATORS MEETING**

Meeting was held at the Van Nuys FlyAway. Forty (40) pilots attended and discussed, noise complaints, proposed tour routes and changes to altitude where possible. As a result of this meeting, Simon Davis, of Elite Helicopters, flew different routes and altitudes in the days following and Larry Welk personally monitored noise levels from various backyards. As a result some of the tour operators are now flying at 2000 MSL over the Beachwood Canyon area or the Hollywood sign area. The group agreed to get together again regarding routes and altitudes. One tour operator has reported very low level fixed wing flights being encountered in this area.

**OCTOBER 26, 2012: PRESIDENT LARRY WELK ATTENDED THE HAI TOUR OPERATORS PROGRAM OF SAFETY (TOPS) ANNUAL MEETING**

in Arizona. This was an opportunity to learn how the operators handled various operational problems typically associated with helicopter tours. It was a gathering of major tour operators including Hawaii, New York, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas and more. We provided a Los Angeles-oriented legislative update and received updates from New York and Las Vegas. Issues in addition to the noise were the Presidential TFRs and safety of flight.

**APRIL 16TH, MAY 7TH 2012:**

**ON-GOING EFFORTS TO SAVE THE LAX HELIPORT, PHPA REPRESENTATIVES APPEARED BEFORE THE LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS, (LAWA), BOARD OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS ON AND AGAIN ON**

LAWA, the managing entity for Los Angeles Airport is contemplating not reopening the public use heliport on the top of the parking structure between American Airlines and the Tom Bradley International Terminal. It was closed in the summer of 2011 because of the tall cranes used in construction of the new Bradley Terminal. On April 16th 2012, PHPA representatives appeared before the LAWA Board and were well received. The PHPA delineated the economic hardship this closure continues to inflict on our membership and the rest of the helicopter community. On May 7th 2012, PHPA member and president of Robinson Helicopters, Kurt Robinson, spoke before the LAWA Board of Airport Commissioners. The PHPA also spoke and presented documents in support of his appearance. To date the cranes at LAX are still in place and the future of the LAX heliport, a vital piece of public infrastructure, remains uncertain. PHPA has retained the organization's Legal Counsel to be in touch with LAWA on this matter and pursue whatever can be done to keep the heliport open. The PHPA will continue efforts in regard to reopening the LAX helipad. If you are interested in keeping the only public use, publically owned heliport in Los Angeles County open, the PHPA would like to hear from you.



Please write to **Jeff Mort** ([jmort@lawa.org](mailto:jmort@lawa.org)). Jeff is the LAWA Chief of Airside Operations Manager in charge of matters related to the LAX Heliport. Please copy the **PHPA** ([ed.story@phpa.org](mailto:ed.story@phpa.org)) on this matter. We would like to hear from you, if you are interested in keeping the only public use, publically owned heliport in Los Angeles County open! Most importantly, LAWA should hear from you!

**JUNE 30, 2012: PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN HEROES AIR SHOW**



After cancellation of AHAS in June 2011 due to the original Carmageddon in that summer, PHPA was instrumental in regenerating enthusiasm for this local and very sophisticated helicopter event at Hansen Dam. PHPA hosted pilots' meals and refreshments for this admission-free event which hosted thousands of the public for a chance to talk directly to private and public service helicopter crews, get acquainted "up close and personal" with the ships, and get pictures of their toddlers and "future pilots of America" in many and various cockpits! This is a very popular event that now takes place in six additional cities throughout the United States.



## AUGUST 6, 2012: CONGRESSMAN BERMAN

Congressman Berman called a Special Meeting with the FAA and various San Fernando Valley Homeowners Associations. The meeting took place at Millikan Middle School in Sherman Oaks where over 17 from home owners associations and 22 individuals spoke about how helicopter noise disrupts their lives. One of four politicians to speak, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky spoke about his unfortunate experience at the Hollywood Bowl when a “very large” helicopter flew over. (This was subsequently found to be a out of area military helicopter quite possibly not familiar with the area protocol.) The FAA represented by both Bill Withycombe, Western Pacific Regional Administrator (local) and Lynn Ray (Washington D.C.), were on the stage to listen to the comments. The PPHA and various public air support agencies were there to listen to the various concerns and talk with the various participants. The Manager of KABC TV, Arnie Kliner, spoke defending helicopter operations as did Chuck Street, former President of PPHA

## AUGUST 13, 2012: PPHA AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

The Hollywood Bowl event was re-established! The Hollywood Bowl hosted PPHA at a rehearsal concert and for a catered dinner following. This was free to all PPHA members. FAA Regional Administrator Bill Withycombe, and Operations Center Manager Dale Bouffiou were invited guests. The purpose of the re-established annual Bowl event is to show the pilots what a helicopter flyover sounds like to the audience during a Bowl concert. Bill Withycombe addressed the sixty-five (65) attendees regarding plans for review of Congressional interest in altitude and route restrictions for helicopters in the Los Angeles basin.

## AUGUST 20, 2012: SAFETY SEMINAR AT ROBINSON HELICOPTERS



The Safety Seminar was held at the Robinson Helicopter Company classroom at TOA. Mike Franz, in from Florida, spoke on Scenario Based Training, Tim Lynn had a clogged oil line that resulted in smoke coming from the helicopter and some dramatic air to air footage. He recounted his highly skilled precautionary landing into a parking lot in Hollywood which had gotten wide television and newspaper coverage. Steve Bull spoke of his helicopter’s encounter with a building in El Segundo; he was flying an S-58T on a construction lift job.

The dramatic accident led to the complete destruction of the aircraft. Steve was saved by his ground crew who helped him from the damaged helicopter before it went up in flames. Edward Story, standing in for President Larry Welk, gave a precautionary talk on the rising tide of issues related to noise in the southern California airspace.

## SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2012: CARMAGEDDON II

Once the official dates were announced, PPHA Board Advisor Alex Calder urged the Southern California RTNA (members include local TV & radio stations) to establish a single helicopter pool feed for local media coverage of the event. The use of the pool helicopter resulted in a dramatic reduction in helicopter noise, and offered a powerful message of how noise abatement can be achieved without regulatory intervention. Local politicians took to the airwaves and praised the media, the helicopter operators and the PPHA for these efforts.

## OCTOBER 28, 2012: PPHA PARTICIPATED IN WINGS, WHEELS AND ROTORS, LOS ALAMITOS

PHPA members were deployed in force once again to the Wings, Wheels & Rotors event at the Los Alamitos Army Air Field. Board member Jim Paules, along with general members Sheila Pullup and Matt West worked the PPHA booth meeting guests and discussing the increasingly important mission of the PPHA toward educating the community about the unique value rotary-wing aviation delivers to Southern California every day.



Sheila Pullup, Matt West  
and Jim Paules



OCTOBER 29, 2012: **FAA / PHPA "STAKEHOLDERS MEETING"**



A meeting between the helicopters and the FAA was arranged by the PHPA and held at the Los Angeles Fire Department Aerial Division meeting room at Whitman Airport. Fifty (50) pilots as well as seventeen (17) FAA representatives attended including Bill Withycombe, Western Pacific Regional Administrator, Lynn Ray, Vice President of Air Traffic from FAA Headquarters, Washington D.C., and Steve May, Special Programs Integrator for FAA, Los Angeles. The FAA has been tasked by Congressman Berman with studying the helicopter noise issues and see if there are solutions (now to be carried forward by Congressman Sherman in the wake of his defeat of Congressman Berman on November 6th.) In an effort to gather the data the FAA is scheduling meetings with all the pilots and separately with homeowners and their association representatives.

The action items that PHPA came away with from this meeting are:

1. Consideration of a second meeting with area pilots who may not have attended the 10/29/12 event. Suggestion of possibly incorporating the second meeting into the joint HAI/PHPA/FAAST Team event on 2-23-13.
2. Collect public and private data in hours flown by type (public use, private) in the LA Basin.
3. Need to better promote the positive public experiences related to helicopters.
4. Have an HOA liaison within the helicopter community. Have each HOA have one designated representative.
5. Further pursue concerns of conflicts with fixed wing aircraft when helicopters are flown above normal operating altitudes.
6. Statement that many noise complaints come from the surrounding areas of Van Nuys airport. KVMY has a mandated helicopter pattern altitude of 1300 MSL, with rising terrain North and South of the airport. This altitude is required to avoid the flow of fixed wing traffic at that airport.
7. Update noise sensitive areas and disseminate to pilots? PHPA website, emails to members, Notams, etc?
8. Underside markings impaired due to equipment that may be mounted underneath aircraft as well as cost impacts.
9. Sporting event TFR is TSA, not an FAA mandate. Discussion that due to sporting event TFR's, aircraft have to transition over residential areas, instead of along major freeway routes.



DECEMBER 5, 2012: **MEETING FAA WITH HOA'S, ATTENDED ALSO BY LARRY WELK, PRESIDENT OF PHPA**

Larry was the only helicopter pilot there. The meeting started out with concern by the HOA folks that he was there but he said he would be happy to leave but was there to respond to any questions. When the meeting ended he was invited for a beer by the fellow who had challenged him. Also attending from the FAA were Bill Withycombe, Regional Administrator for the Western-Pacific Region, Dale Bouffiou, Operations Center Manager, Lynn Ray, Vice President of Air Traffic from FAA Headquarters, Washington D.C. The FAA people gave a very detailed but clear explanation to the community of how carefully air traffic is designed from the ground up through the flight levels. They explained how the airspace is layered and that moving the helicopters higher would have a domino effect which would also move the other aircraft higher. Lynn Ray also explained that it is unsafe to mix slower aircraft with faster aircraft. Bill Withycombe summed up the meeting by recommending to the home owners that the fastest way to get any changes would be to meet with the helicopter pilots directly with the understanding that there would need to be compromises from both sides.

Update: Soon after this meeting, the president of one of the home owners associations extended an invitation to the PHPA to meet with him and five other HOA representatives from the greater Los Angeles area to discuss what changes could be made and how these might take place. Stay tuned for updates.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

We represent PHPA on **Southern California Airspace Users Working Group ("SCAUWG")** which is coming up with new charting improvements for coordination of fixed wing and helicopter activities in So Cal. (Edward Story, current Board Member; Pat Carey, past Board Member)

**Heliport Design Advisory Circular AC-2C** has been revised, but not in a good way, HAI and the entire helicopter industry (operators, hospital associations, emergency medical helicopter services, and pilots associations) - are asking for a retraction and major revisions even though it is only two months old. PHPA is represented by Ricarda Bennett, Legal Counsel to PHPA is the Chairperson of the International Heliport Committee.

### Each year at Heli-Expo

A representative of the PHPA attends the Affiliates Committee Meeting; Ricarda Bennett, PHPA Legal Counsel, attended last year. This is a meeting of HAI affiliates (including PHPA as an affiliate) and there is a discussion of the problems encountered over the past year. There are affiliates from all over the world in attendance.

### Fire briefings

PHPA Each year the PHPA has hosted an annual Fire Briefing bringing together all the various City, County, State and Federal firefighting agencies along with ENG representatives, local helicopter companies and interested individuals. This is a face to face meeting and update on current requirements, procedures and frequencies need to safety operate in or close to numerous TFR's that occur during our fire season and to discuss fire season airspace management issues. Presentations are given by local Fire Department aviation personnel on the complex airspace and communications procedures in effect over wild land fire incidents in the greater Los Angeles area. This briefing provides clarity and promotes safety for all PHPA operators who by necessity fly in the vicinity of LA's wild fires. The "Fire Traffic Area" that goes into effect around the airspace of a local wild fire involves many different types of responses from public agency/contractor - fixed and rotary wing aircraft of all makes and models. The safety / operational / communication information disseminated at the briefing assists all operators in working seamlessly with the public agencies and mitigates the risk of "near misses" and traffic conflicts or difficulties in proper focus and effective operations by LA County Fire, Cal Fire and/or the U.S. Forest Service.



## **PHPA WEBSITE**

[www.phpa.org](http://www.phpa.org): Our website has been updated with several major improvements, which include:

- Online dues renewals using Paypal
- PHPA.org login for members (update your personal information, email preferences)
- Online PHPA application for new members
- Online event RSVP
- Easier access to PHPA HOTSPOT (noise abatement) information.

Take a look! There is current news on Berman's (now Sherman's) Noise Bill, airspace matters and helipad issues.

## **FACEBOOK**

Our Facebook Page has been set up by Desiree Horton, a member of PHPA. It is waiting for full operation for a creative administrator who can coordinate with the PHPA Board and with our website Administrator, Alex Calder.

## **HELISUCCESS ATTENDANCE, LAS VEGAS**

Every year PHPA members participate in the HeliSuccess Career Development Seminar and Networking event, and 2012 became our best attendance yet. A contingent of our members attended the event in Las Vegas, Nevada that is run by Lyn Burks of Rotorcraft Pro Magazine. The event hosted speakers from many of the industry's key players such as Air Methods, Papillion and ERA Helicopters. Our PHPA members along with attendees from around the US learned key skills to further their careers in the industry and provided a unique opportunity to ask questions to employers and network.

