

PHPA Main Rotor



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PHPA members support the Winter Olympics



Article by PHPA Board Member Hanjo Kell.

HELINET AVIATION SENDS NEWS HELICOPTER TO OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Van Nuys based helicopter operator HELINET has sent a AS 350 ENG/News helicopter to Salt Lake City. The aircraft will spend the entire month of February at Skypark (BTF) airport to cover local news and events around the olympic facilities for NY FOX affiliate FOX 13 KSTU . UOPSC (Utah Olympics Public Safety Command) is enforcing the strictest security for

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NO WHERE TO GO

By James Paules with Lee Benson

PHPA members team up on Cliff Rescue

Recently PHPA members from the LA CO. FD Air Squad and local television station KCAL 9's ENG helicopter teamed up during the rescue of four teenage boys stranded in the steep terrain of Brand Park Glendale on Monday night February 4.

The boys, aged 14 to 17, had set out for a hike at about 11 a.m. and ultimately found themselves stuck on the terrain. At 6:14, they placed a call to 911 from a cell phone that one of them was carrying, according to Capt. Robert Doyle of the Glendale Fire Department.

A spotter from a police helicopter located the group at about 7 p.m. Urban Search and Rescue and fire and police personnel were deployed for the rescue

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Plus - A new Bonus Feature on flight safety themes from PHPA board member Keith Johnson .

Check out the new information
on the PHPA Web Site

www.phpa.org

criminal background checks are normal procedures for all pilots flying in the nine enforced TFR's (Temporary Flight Restrictions).

One example is the TFR around the Olympic Village , consisting of a 45 NM radius and an altitude of 18.000 FT. Authorization for a one hour planned flight in the area can take up to 5 hours .

Enjoy the games.

Hanjo Kell c/o Helint Aviation Van Nuys,CA

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CALENDAR OF PHPA EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT: HELICOPTER AWARENESS DAY

PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED

TIME

Please check the PHPA Web site for the most current event information and schedules

www.phpa.org

PHPA Lands at Heli - Expo in Florida

Contributed by PHPA Board Member Ricarda Bennett

Welcome to Orlando, Florida, the land of conventions and other amusements. I attended more than the usual number of meetings and events - as secretary for three of the HAI Committees this year - I had more than a spectator's view of the inner workings. The combined efforts of the HAI staff and the member volunteers keeps the flow of information going between the law makers and the end users. Here are a few brief notes:

- **Heliport Committee:** The Heliport Committee oversees a variety of loosely related heliport issues. This committee reports on the latest heliport openings or closings across the United States as well as technical heliport design issues. For example, there was a spirited discussion on the latest progress of the revised FAA Advisory Circular on Heliport Design. HAI and AHS are working along with the FAA to develop criteria that will give the pilot a safe place to land the helicopter. The Fort Lauderdale, public use heliport, will be open in a few months. It is elevated above the top floor of a downtown parking structure. Citijet, a proposed charter service in North Carolina, has been working for 4 years to develop a network of heliports and they are still at it.

Electronic News Gathering (ENG)Committee:

I interviewed the new chair for the Committee: Mike Dillon. Larry Welk was elected as the West Coast vice chair for the committee. As one could guess, the bulk of the meetings discussed what happened after

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According to LA CO FD Senior Pilot Lee Benson, their Air Squad deployed from their Fire Camp 2 near JPL based on a request for help from Glendale FD. The Bell 412 with Benson at the controls arrived on scene around 7:30 and found the boys in a precarious perch. The crew included Pilot Lee Benson and Firefighter Hank Reimer as hoist operator and Jim Cook as downside man on the line.

By the time Air Sqd 12 was on scene it was dark and a Santa Ana wind condition was light but definitely noticeable. "These kids had gotten into a tough spot," Benson recalls. "They had climbed down from a ridge line but couldn't climb back up - they just had no where to go..."

Also deployed to the rescue and already on-scene when LA CO FD arrived was PHPA member Larry Welk, pilot and reporter for local television station KCAL - 9. A veteran of many rescues, Welk knew a night hoist rescue in the mountains with wind wasn't going to be a walk in the park.

In addition to the state of the art communication equipment, Welk's A-Star aircraft also features a 30 million candle-power NightSun spotlight. While Gil Leyvas, the cameraman aboard, worked to exclusively broadcast the rescue live to KCAL viewers, Welk maneuvered his aircraft in place to illuminate the surrounding topography.

Throwing light onto the mountainside proved important for the LA CO FD crew. "Larry did a great job in illuminating the scene around us," Benson noted. "Because of the wind conditions we had to basically put the nose of the aircraft into the dark hillside and I

had few visual cues to use as reference points outside the aircraft. "

With KCAL 9's light on the hillside and Benson's own NightSun illuminating the scene directly below the aircraft, there were two reference points outside the cockpit to adjust his hover against. "Larry's light lit up the rocks to my left and gave me a clear visual reference point to gauge my movement against". Benson added that Welk's assistance also helped to quickly assess the area as clear of wires and other obstructions - a special concern in any flight operations in our Southern California canyons.

With the scene properly illuminated, the crew concluded that a hoist rescue would be the fastest way to extract the boys to safety and rigged the external Breeze Eastern hoist. Due to the steep topography and position of climbers, the hoist had to be done with a 115' line. The four boys were successfully extracted and flown to nearby facility for medical review.

Benson notes that this was not the first time LA CO FD pilots have benefited from the assistance from the ENG community. "This kind of cooperation is indicative of the professional relationship we enjoy with the local media / ENG helicopters in Southern California, " he explained. " They've done a great job and we appreciate the significant contributions they've made to a number of previous operations ".

PHPA congratulates private and public operators that work together everyday to deliver information and protect lives, property and the local environment.

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9/11 and what could be done should a similar event happen in the future. Noise complaints were also a topic of debate. The area from Boston to New York has lost heliports as a result of noise complaints. The helicopter associations on the East Coast are very effective in monitoring and discouraging low flying or hovering rotorcraft from any helicopter provider. However, it was noted that there does not seem to be a similar consensus on self-policing noise complaints here on the West Coast. The ENG Committee wants to work more closely with the *Fly Neighborly* Committee to educate pilots on how to operate aircraft to mitigate noise exposure to the voters on the ground below.

- Acoustics and Environmental Committee: The accomplishment for this past year is the "Fly Higher" poster. Suitable for framing, this poster graphically depicts that if you double the altitude of the aircraft the noise level is reduced by

more than half. The PHPA will send this poster out to helicopter operators in the area. If you want one, please email the PHPA with your request and address.

- HAI Affiliates: The PHPA along with 50 other organizations is an affiliate of HAI. I or an officer of the PHPA attends this meeting each year. It is an opportunity to learn what other pilots/organizations are experiencing all over the world. Many affiliates shared their experiences related to 9/11. The PHPA was the only organization that so far had put together a program related to airspace/security; and where do we go from here.

- there were many classes. Some were taught by our very own - Lee Benson on hoist rescues. Eurocopter (EC) has edged out Bell in the helicopter sales, but both are behind our local Robinson manufacturer. You can get a more detailed report in the next HAI Rotor Magazine.

Contributed by Ricarda Bennett

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