# **Professional Helicopter Pilots Association**

# PHPA / Main Rotor



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# PHPA Brings Helicopter Awareness Day Back to the Santa Monica Airport.

#### By James Paules - PHPA Board Member

After a several year absence the PHPA landed at the Santa Monica Airport with the Helicopter Appreciation Day HAD event on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Designed to acquaint the community with the unique capabilities helicopters deliver to the community, the HAD was team driven from day one. " Over the years Santa Monica Airport has been a valuable partner with the PHPA," explains PHPA President Robert Butler. "For some time the Airport and the PHPA had been working on departure and arrival profiles so that helicopter operators could



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operate around the airport in a more community-friendly manner."

PHPA also participated in an open house meeting for the community and airport neighbors to the Airport where everyone had a forum to speak their mind on helicopter operations at the Airport. Although no concrete proposals were enacted the meeting underscored one of PHPA corporate missions to encourage dialogue among helicopter pilots / operators, user airports and adjacent homeowners.

LA County Fire Dept Air Squad provided a hoist rescue demonstration for the crowds and all guests were treated to an up-close and personal view of the important work helicopters do every day in Southern California. *Jim Paules PHPA Board Member* 

# PHPA Results are Announced for Board of Directors.

PHPA Vice President Jim Davidson announced the results of our annual elections at the last schedule Board Meeting. Per the PHPA Bylaws half of the Directors are nominated and elected by a direct vote of our general membership each year. The following incumbents were re-elected to serve another two year term on the Board of Directors.

#### Jim Paules BOD Seat # 10

Jim is an Executive Officer as the PHPA Treasurer and works as the Editor of the PHPA Newsletter : "The Main Rotor" and volunteerproduces the annual American Heroes Air Show

# Members Elected to the Board for the First time include:

#### CDR James Sommer, .U.S Coast Guard

Previously stationed at USCG Air Station Atlantic City, Jim has been a long time PHPA general member, has previously served the Board on the Membership Committee and has been active in developing aircraft participation at numerous PHPA events over the years.

We're also happy to welcome to the Board of Directors **Mr Guillaume Maillet**, Chief Pilot for LA Helicopters. Based at Long Beach Airport LA Helicopters has been a long-time corporate member of PHPA and provides premiere flight training, tours & charter services. You can find out more about LA Helicopters at their website:

#### www.LAHelicopters.com

# PHPA Board Member Steps Up to New Duty with the U. S. Coast Guard.



James P. Sommer – one of our newest Board members – has also taken on new duties associated with his career in the U.S. Coast Guard. Promoted to Captain, Jim will be the Commanding Officer at the extensive USCG Integrated Support Command based on Terminal Island in San Pedro, California.

Home to 17 Tenant Commands, the ISC provides medical, personnel, engineering, finance and administrative resources for Southern California, Nevada and Arizona.



Captain James Sommer (right) accepts new duty with USCG *Photo courtesy of Morris Cohen* 

#### A Special Note to LAPD Air Support Division

I would like to send special thank you to the LAPD Air Crew that was flying Northwest over Forest Lawn Glendale on 2 October @ approximately 1315 and made a hard right hand turn to avoid over flying the graveside service I was attending of a good friend and associate. Nobody really noticed the maneuver but if they had over flown the service everyone would have noticed in a bad way.

Thank you for showing CARE AND RESPECT for the family and friends during a very tough time.

Respectfully, Bill Graham



### PHPA Lands at Long Beach Airport



By Ricarda Bennett

The PHPA annual meeting was held at the new da Vinci Ristorante on the Long Beach Airport. This was an evening of networking by renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. About 40 helicopter pilots and associates enjoyed the opportunity to listen to pilots currently working in different areas of the helicopter industry and then participated in a brief question and answer exchange.

Robert Butler, the president, provided an overview of the past years events and future plans. Jim Davidson, the vice president, introduced several experienced pilots who were recruited to give an overview of their life as a helicopter pilot.

The first speaker was Roy Cox, who has worked at Mercy Air for 17 years, first as a pilot and in the past few years as the Program Director for Air Methods the parent company. He oversees the LifeNet/ Mercy Air program. He noted that the employment opportunities Air Methods varies with the flight hour requirements at the different helicopter bases.

Bob Spencer, a flight instructor from Western Helicopter at Rialto advised new helicopter pilots to follow your passion for flying but link it with a business that can generate income. He suggested interviewing pilots who work in the different helicopter sectors, find out how one qualifies and then see if the requirements fit their personal interests.

Dorsey Wingo became a pilot for the adventure of it. He followed the wind. His interest led him to become long line pilot where he worked in the logging industry. In the later years of his life he wrote a book about his adventures called "Wind Loggers". Dorsey can look back on his life through his pilot's log book. This book is the source of lots of stories - some of which he shared with us this night.

The last speaker was Jim Davidson - who has flown in just about every helicopter profession except for the power companies. He has flown for the EMS helicopter providers and is currently working for Orange County Fire Authority fighting fires.

In between listening for your raffle ticket number to win some great prizes, everyone was able to circulate and talk to student pilots about what the future might hold.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Ricarda Bennett PHPA Board Advisor

## PHPA Members Drop into the Hollywood Bowl

On Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> PHPA members made their annual visit to the Hollywood Bowl.

Approximately 50 members and their guests enjoyed perfect weather to participate in a Hollywood Bowl rehearsal, a lunch and power networking with industry contacts. Several attending PHPA members were recognized with certificates noting their long careers in the helicopter industry.

Long time PHPA member Glenn Grossman was also on hand with several examples of his outstanding photography of exciting helicopter operations.

Thanks to Event Coordinator Bill Graham and to Board member Jeff Miller for arranging the annual fly-over.

Our thanks also to Patina for providing our members with their usual great meal and Hollywood Bowl Manager Mark Ferber.

Jim Paules PHPA Board member



PHPA member Bill Graham offers members the new PHPA poster that reminds pilots to avoid the Hollywood Bowl during the Summer's performances.

Photo Courtesy of PHPA member Morris Cohen

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<b>PHPA</b> Executive Officers & Board of Directors	
Robert Butler	President
Jim Davidson	Vice President
James Sommer	Secretary
James Paules	Treasurer
Alan Frawert	Warren Horton
John Gilkerson	Jeff Miller
Ray Prouty	Guillaume Maillet
Jim Wo	oodaman
Board A	Advisors
Ricarda Bennett	Alex Calder

### PHPA President's Message

For the PHPA to satisfy its' mission statement, we need individuals to participate in the networking functions, attend the safety and educational programs, and volunteer to assist your elected leaders to fill the positions on our committees. Only by doing this, can we assure the continued success of our programs. Without the leaders of our public and private sector operators; without the helicopter enthusiasts and interested community members, the PHPA cannot succeed in serving our membership to our full potential.

I look forward as I continue my first term as your President, but what I look forward to the most is welcoming each of you to our events and accepting your offers to work side by side your fellow members as we work together to make this next year the biggest and best year that the PHPA has had.

# Robert Butler

President, Professional Helicopter Pilots Association

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