



# MAIN ROTOR

Fall 2016



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Professional Helicopter Pilots  
Association (PHPA) California

## PHPA MISSION STATEMENT

- Promote safety and understanding among helicopter pilots
- Coordinate efforts toward improving communications methods of operation within the airspace system or any other area that will contribute to the safety and education of all pilots
- Provide a forum for identifying and seeking resolution to local problems of interest to the membership
- Promote community relations between the public and the helicopter industry

# President's Message

By Morrie Zager



To my fellow PHPA members:

Much has happened since my last update to all of you in December.

On April 21, 2016, we hosted our Annual Meeting at the 94th Aero Squadron at KVMY and presented a well-deserved lifetime achievement award to our long-time friend, Pete Gillies. The meeting was a great success! A good time was had by all and I was honored to present the 2016 Board of Directors to the membership in attendance.

Your Board members have continued to host FFAST Team Pilot Briefings at many airports across the Los Angeles basin and beyond. The purpose of these meetings is to meet and greet with helicopter pilots, educate them about the great work your PHPA is doing, and discuss hot-button topics such as the latest updates relating to helicopter noise legislation attempts and what we, as good stewards of the helicopter community, can do to mitigate noise voluntarily so that we can avoid regulation.

As an extra bonus, we provide all attendees with a free meal! I hope to see you at some of the upcoming pilot briefings.

In May, we met with the head of the Hollywood Bowl to discuss what, if any, our outreach efforts last season (2015) did to improve helicopter overflights of the Bowl during concerts and other events. I am extremely pleased to report that due to all of your diligence in avoiding the Hollywood Bowl during concert season (May 1- October 31, between 6 pm and midnight) the Hollywood Bowl reported a noticeable reduction in the frequency of flyovers during concert times! We received a letter from the management of the Bowl and were happy to forward it to the FAA to help demonstrate our resolve to make significant progress in reducing helicopter noise. I cannot stress enough how much I appreciate the helicopter community working to be good neighbors! Watch for those spotlights and strobes when flying in the area of the Bowl!

Speaking of significant progress: On January 16, 2015, the FAA reported to Congress that due to the efforts of the PHPA, helicopter pilots, the helicopter operators and their organization, LAHOA (Los Angeles Helicopter Operators Association), significant progress relating to the reduction of helicopter noise had, in fact, been made! The anti-helicopter homeowners groups took exception to that and, on October 20, 2015, filed a petition for four SFAR's with the FAA in order to attempt to regulate us. They also successfully petitioned several cities to officially announce their support for the SFAR's.

Due to all the hard work over the past several years, your organization, with your support and cooperation, successfully fought off these SFAR's and on May 20, 2016, the FAA announced the rejection of ALL the SFAR's!

As you may have seen in my Press Release in May, "The PHPA cautions helicopter pilots and operators not to become complacent! This is not the time to abandon the hard work we have already done over the past year to demonstrate our ability to collaborate with the stakeholders in the area to mitigate noise. On the contrary, this is the time to remain extra-vigilant and build upon our efforts to continue to be good stewards of the community and remember helicopters are noisy to the communities below. We must not alienate ourselves from the LAAHNC (anti-helicopter homeowners group). They are a well-organized group of like-minded individuals who will certainly continue their crusade to regulate us."

I continue to meet monthly with the FAA and the LAAHNC to discuss the data received on the FAA's automated helicopter noise complaint system. The LAAHNC brings to the table what they perceive as the more serious bothersome helicopter activity and the pilots and operators who sit on the other end of the table research them when we can and attempt to provide some information

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# Farewell to a Friend

By Ricarda Bennett



Charles T. Aaron, son of Chuck Aaron, went on his final flight on June 21, 2016 around the pattern of Camarillo Airport in a black Bell 212 (Huey) which was accompanied by a formation of Russian Yak 52 aircraft flying low with trailing smoke and a fleet of nine helicopters. The memorial service was held in Chuck's hangar at Camarillo. The flyover was coordinated by longtime friends of the Aaron family, Ken Williams, Ventura County Air Support, and Steve Stafford, of Studio Wings.

On an early morning motorcycle ride in Malibu Canyon on June 13,

something happened which caused the bike to go straight when the road curved and Aaron crashed on the side of the mountain. Thus ended the dreams of starting a flight training business together with his father who had recently retired from helicopter acrobatic flying around the world for Red Bull.

Charles was just beginning his career as a helicopter pilot. "He had a wonderful passion for learning everything he could about flying," said Ken Williams who was one of his mentors instrumental in helping him get his first job with Island Express. Charles was a caring and

sensitive person who was a keen observer of people and an avid listener.

There were many people there that day who came from all over the United States to support the family. Those I recognized were Lee Benson, retired L.A. County Fire, Pat Quinn, retired L.A. City Fire, Chuck Street, and Caitlyn Jenner.

Chuck wrote a moving tribute; "My son's last flight here on earth. He was such a gentle giant and my best friend. I love you Charles. You will be in my thoughts every day for the rest of my life. I was so proud of you."



# The PHPA Lands at American Heroes Air Show

By Jim Paules



On Saturday June 18 PHPA members deployed to the American Heroes Air Show at Hansen Dam in the heart of the San Fernando Valley ---- For several years now the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association has been part of this admission free helicopter only aviation experience.

The many attending PHPA crews took the opportunity to discuss the diverse roles of rotary-wing aviation in law enforcement, fire safety, communications, military and homeland security with members of the community, the media and elected officials.

The annual Heroes Air Show hosted 18 helicopters from local & regional private owners, public safety organizations, military and homeland security. In addition to the imposing HH-60 Pavehawk from the USAF 66 RQS based at Nellis AFB in Los Vegas, STAR Helicopters – one of the attending PHPA Corporate members – was center stage with rides for event guests at a modest charge.

PHPA President Morrie Zager was on-site also with his LASD Aero Bureau team of aircraft. The hoist rescue demonstration by Aero Bureau AIR-5 helicopter provided an exciting view of helicopter capabilities.

As a Key event partner this year, PHPA's financial support assisted many event elements including the Naturalization Ceremony for new U.S. citizens and the free presentation space provided to recruiting teams from aviation, law enforcement and fire / first responders.

This admission-free event is a great opportunity for the PHPA to distribute information to both the helicopter owners' community and share information with the public about the unique role which rotary-wing aviation plays everyday to the Southern California community.



LA County Fire Hawk arrives at the Air Show



The U.S. Customs & Border Protection UH-60 arrives from their Air & Marine Interdiction base at North Island, San Diego, CA



Orange County Fire Authority UH-1



Photo by Jim Paules

Top: LA Sheriff's Department Air-5 Rescue and SWAT demonstration

Right: S-76C EMS helicopter from Children's Hospital Los Angeles, operated by Helinet Aviation





# Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles Closes Its Doors

By LT Timothy M. Mosher and LCDR Dakata B. Brodie

Photos courtesy of Skip Robinson

After 53 years of dedicated Service to our Nation, and the people of Southern California, Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles (ASLA) will be closing its doors in summer of 2016. "Hollywood's Real Heroes" as Air Station Los Angeles is known inside Coast Guard circles, has resided on Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) property for 53 years. The Coast Guard plans to shift operations 50 miles west and establish a Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Naval Base Ventura County, located in Point Mugu, CA.

## Who we are...

Commissioned as a small search and rescue detachment in 1962, ASLA operated two HO-4 helicopters with nine officers and 20 enlisted members out of a small facility on the southeast corner of LAX. The following year, the unit was outfitted with the HH-52A "Sea Guard" until 1987 which saw the arrival of the HH-65A "Dolphin." Today the air station operates three MH-65D helicopters with 17 officers, 43 enlisted and three civilians on a larger leased complex west of the original hangar. Charged with over 300 miles of coastline from Morro Bay to Dana Point, the unit is responsible for an area covering 20,000 square miles; this includes seven island national parks, the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and the Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach—the largest cargo seaport in the United States.

## Our legacy...

Over the past half-century, ASLA has played a critical role in Southern California's more significant events. On the night of January 13, 1969, ASLA responded to Scandinavian Airlines Flight 933 that crashed six miles west of LAX in Santa Monica Bay; 30 lives were saved from combined Coast Guard air and surface rescue assets. In 1984, the unit supported the City of Los

Angeles in hosting the XXIII Olympic Games, providing security for over 1.4 million people in attendance. Ten years later, the LA basin was rocked by the 6.7 magnitude Northridge Earthquake, and ASLA swiftly aided in rescue efforts for a city of 17 million people with over \$40 billion in property damage. In this past year, ASLA flew over 157 Search and Rescue (SAR) sorties saving or assisting a total of 54 lives. In addition to SAR, ASLA deployed for nine Rotary Wing Air Intercept presidential protection missions, safeguarded 7,000 square miles of marine protected areas, intercepted 266 bales of illicit narcotics, and received the 2015 ATC Mobile Standardization of Excellence Award for demonstrating exceptional performance in all aviation duties.

## The next chapter...

Although the Air Station operations are physically moving, there will be no loss of Coast Guard operational coverage on the Southern California Coast. Air Station San Francisco's (ASSF) area of responsibility currently spans 300 miles of California coastline from Fort Bragg to Morro Bay, CA. Beginning in late May 2016 upon the closure of ASLA, ASSF will stand up Forward Operating Base (FOB) Pt. Mugu, located onboard Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) near Oxnard, CA. The FOB will assume ASLA's area of responsibility that includes 285 miles of coastline from Morro Bay to Dana Point including the Channel Islands. FOB Pt. Mugu will be under the operational and administrative command and control of ASSF and will be staffed primarily with temporary aircrews from ASSF, although there will be a small permanent party assigned to FOB Pt Mugu. Initial operations out of FOB Pt. Mugu will begin in mid to late May upon the closure of ASLA and will include one ready aircraft 24/7. By July 2016, there will be 2 aircraft deployed to the FOB at all times, with 2 full ready crews performing all typical Air Station missions and training for the FOB area of responsibility. CG Air Auxiliary members will provide regularly scheduled logistics flights





The last HH-65 Dauphin departure out of Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles



Photo courtesy of the US Coastguard

between the FOB and ASSF and assist in manning the Communications Watch Stander position. Until then, the consummate professionals at Air Station Los Angeles will continue to stand the watch with a commitment to excellence, and have the honor of closing the doors on this historic and special unit in the heart of Los Angeles.

*Semper Paratus*



The crew of the last HH-65 Dauphin departure out of Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles

# What's Happening with Our Members?

## Mindy Nye

Meet Mindy, a new PHPA member who came to L.A. from Hawaii. She is currently training to earn her Private Pilot Helicopter certificate and flies out of Camarillo Airport with Orbic Helicopters, and Hawthorne Airport with Star Helicopters. She told us recently "I'm still learning the art of hovering. It's my hope that I can continue all the way through to getting my CFII."

When asked what one of her professional goals she replied "If I could fly for anyone, it would be for the Los Angeles Children's Hospital."

Welcome to PHPA Mindy, we are happy to have you as a member and look forward to watching your progress in the helicopter industry.



## Doug Williams

Doug is an elementary school teacher, avid helicopter industry supporter and PHPA volunteer. He has gotten the bug for helicopters so badly that he is actually building his own helicopter and we hope to report on his progress and see it flying soon.

Also, Doug has recently begun an interesting job; he is a USFS Airspace Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service. He is tasked with creating and publishing Temporary Flight Restrictions over fires, and one of a very few people who designs the dimensions of a TFR when the fire becomes so large that the typical round TFR boundaries cannot provide the safety demanded of fire-fighting aircraft operations. So when you see those odd shaped octagon TFR boundaries over a fire, there's a pretty good chance that one of our own made it.



## Steve Goldsworthy

PHPA Board of Directors member Steve "Goldy" Goldsworthy was honored by Jim McDonnell, Los Angeles County Sheriff, as the 2016 recipient of the LASD Volunteer of the Year award. Goldy has been a member of the Montrose Search and Rescue Team for over five years and was also honored by being chosen as the Search and Rescue person of the Year in Los Angeles County in November 2015.

Goldy has a long history of volunteer public service and as an active member of the PHPA. He is constantly busy with his SAR team, conducting rescues in the San Gabriel Mountains. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank him for his service.



Have something to share? Send your story along with a pic to: [info@phpa.org](mailto:info@phpa.org)



# PHPA Annual Meeting and First Lifetime Achievement Award

By Tony Byrnes

The 2016 PHPA Annual Membership Meeting was a great success and a fun event. On April 21, 2016, your Board of Directors were very happy to host a large turnout of members at the Van Nuys 94th Aero Squadron for safety education, conversation, dining and awards. The turnout was not unusual when considering the fact that the program slated Pete Gillies of Western Helicopters, as the featured speaker and included the presentation of the very first Annual PHPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

PHPA President Morrie Zager kicked off the evening with opening remarks and dinner. Toward the conclusion of dinner, he addressed the attendees on the PHPA State of the Association. In his address, he reported on PHPA's ongoing initiatives including:

- The Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Initiative
- FAA/Team Safety/Noise Seminars produced with Chuck Street, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Helicopter Operators Association, and conducted in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties
- Reduction of helicopter noise over the Hollywood Bowl
- The FAA's determination and report to Congress that significant progress had been made by the helicopter industry toward the reduction of helicopter noise in Los Angeles County
- The rejection of the application to the FAA for the creation of Special FARs made by the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition.

At the conclusion of his remarks, President Zager asked Jim Davidson to the lectern for the first award presentation of the evening.

Jim is a member of the Board of Directors and our most recent Past President. He has been active as a member for over 30 years, on the Board of Directors for many years, and stepped up as President when we needed him, many times. He's been a guide to the Board, a leader in



*Pete accepts his award from Dorsey Wingo*



*Bob Spencer, Dorsey Wingo, Eric Fraser with Pete and Pat Gillies*

PHPA's efforts to reduce the impact of helicopter noise and concurrently stave off threatened noise regulation, and a great friend and advocate for the helicopter industry here.

For his service and valued leadership, President Zager then presented Jim Davidson with the PHPA Excellence in Leadership Award, for well-deserved recognition of Jim's work with PHPA.

It was then time for the introduction of the evening's

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*Great turnout*



*Pat Gillies and Chuck Street*

# PHPA Annual Meeting

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Featured Speaker.

Pete Gillies is well-known throughout the helicopter industry domestically and internationally. He is an accomplished professional helicopter pilot and flight instructor. The topic of his presentation was a subject which has been widely discussed in industry media publications recently, and of great concern to Pete — “Cyclic Back.” Pete developed his lecture in response to a couple of helicopter accidents in 2002, in which the pilots failed to use aft cyclic when they entered autorotation, and consequently landed without sufficient rotor RPM.

His presentation was very informative and timely. Decades of experience training pilots in touchdown autorotations has given him a singular insight into these maneuvers and an elder statesman’s command of the audience.

Editor’s note: Pete discusses “Cyclic Back” in The Rotary Wing Show Ep. 41. [www.rotarywingshow.com](http://www.rotarywingshow.com)

Finally, it was time for the main award of the evening; presentation of the PHPA First Annual Lifetime Achievement Award.

President Zager began with an introduction of the new award to the audience. The PHPA Lifetime Achievement Award was created to recognize those PHPA members who have made meaningful contributions to the helicopter industry in Southern California. The recipient was kept confidential until the Annual Meeting to raise the interest of the attendees and our membership, and to surprise our honored guest.

President Zager then handed over the announcement to another industry icon Dorsey Wingo. Dorsey addressed the crowd on the career and long friendship that he and our honoree had enjoyed since 1967. Dorsey then announced that Pete Gillies was the PHPA’s First Annual Lifetime Award winner!

Pete received a rousing standing ovation as he made his way to the lectern, and was surprised that he was chosen to be the honored guest. Many friends and colleagues spoke on Pete’s behalf including Dorsey, Bob Spencer, Chuck Street, Rick DiMarinis and Tony Byrnes. We at

PHPA were honored to acknowledge Pete for his long and distinguished career and his equally accomplished service to the PHPA.

It was a great evening and the PHPA plans to make next year’s event even better.

**ATTENTION**

**ALL PILOTS**

PLEASE DO NOT FLY OVER THE  
**HOLLYWOOD BOWL**  
BETWEEN MAY 1 AND OCTOBER 31, 2016  
**FROM 6PM TO MIDNIGHT**  
WHEN WHITE STROBE LIGHTS ARE ON

PILOT, PLEASE CHECK LOCAL ATIS FOR MORE INFORMATION

LA PHIL

## President's Message

from page 2

relating to the reason for the flight, etc. It's a tedious process, but it shows we are committed to collaboration with the citizens we fly over.

Regarding the VOLUNTARY Off-Shore helicopter route: On June 22, 2016, the FAA announced the route which encourages helicopter pilots to fly 750' off-shore at an altitude at pilot's discretion. The PHPA supported the FAA in this endeavor as means to avoid a compulsory route. I'm hopeful everyone saw the route when we announced its launch, but it can be viewed by clicking the

following link:

[http://aeronav.faa.gov/content/aeronav/heli\\_files/Los\\_Angeles\\_Heli\\_11.zip](http://aeronav.faa.gov/content/aeronav/heli_files/Los_Angeles_Heli_11.zip).

Keep a close watch for some upcoming safety seminars we will be sponsoring. I hope to see you there and am certain you will find them both educational and entertaining! We will also plan to have some strictly social events in the

coming months.

I am honored to serve as your President. Please feel free to reach out to me any time at: Morrie.

Zager@phpa.org

Fly Safely!

# Why Join the PHPA?

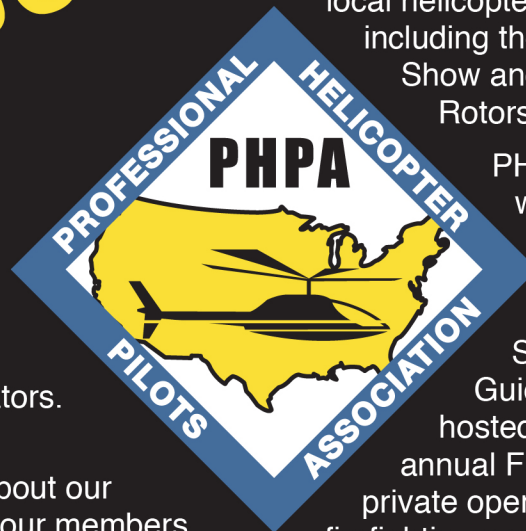
PHPA regularly distributes emails that contain important information to our members.

PHPA provides this website (phpa.org) provides valuable information to helicopter operators.

PHPA "Main Rotor" quarterly newsletters provide updates about our organization, our industry and our members and local operators.

PHPA Safety Seminars allow members to gain valuable knowledge from some of the top leaders in our industry.

PHPA "Helicopter Awareness Day" events are now held in collaboration with other



local helicopter air shows and events including the American Heroes Air Show and Wings, Wheels & Rotors.

PHPA works in conjunction with public service operators to publish safety materials (including our Public Service & Media Aviation Guidelines booklet) and offer hosted events (including our annual Fire Service Briefing) where private operators can meet the firefighting and law enforcement aviation professionals and get updated information about the requirements of flying near their incidents.

PHPA provides a great opportunity to network with other aviation professionals in your community.

*By paying your Annual Membership Dues, you give us the financial foundation that allows us to continue fighting unfair or restrictive government regulations, protecting our heliports, promoting aviation safety and educating pilots, working together with the public, and securing a healthy future for our industry.*

**To join, fill out the Membership Application on Page 12.**

**Mail your completed application and payment to:**

**PHPA, PO Box 7059, Burbank, CA 91510-7059**



# PHPA

Professional Helicopter Pilots Association  
PO Box 7059, Burbank, CA 91510-7059

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RECEIVED BY:  
OFFICE USE ONLY

### PART A — MEMBERSHIP TYPE

- REGULAR PILOT (\$45)
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER (\$45)
- STUDENT PILOT (\$25)
- CORPORATE MEMBER (\$275)

COMPANY / AGENCY NAME

[Grid of 20 empty boxes for company/agency name]

*STUDENT MEMBERS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE RECLASSIFIED AS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AT THE END OF THE BILLING CYCLE*

LAST NAME [Grid of 20 empty boxes]

FIRST NAME [Grid of 20 empty boxes]

ADDRESS [Grid of 20 empty boxes]

CITY [Grid of 20 empty boxes]

STATE [Grid of 2 empty boxes] ZIP CODE [Grid of 5 empty boxes] - [Grid of 4 empty boxes]

COUNTRY [Grid of 20 empty boxes]

### PART C — CONTACT INFORMATION

HOME PHONE [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 4 empty boxes]

WORK PHONE [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 4 empty boxes]

MOBILE PHONE [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 4 empty boxes]

FAX [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 3 empty boxes] - [Grid of 4 empty boxes]

EMAIL ADDRESS 1 [Grid of 20 empty boxes]

EMAIL ADDRESS 2 [Grid of 20 empty boxes]

### PART D — FIRST HELICOPTER SOLO FLIGHT

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### PART E — PAYMENT INFORMATION

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