January 3, 2013

Happy New year to all the” rotor heads” out there!

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support this year, getting the South Florida Chapter of the American Helicopter Society up and running – and in such a splendid fashion!!

We had an excellent Activation Event in September at the Embassy Suites in Palm Beach Gardens. Approximately 70 people were in attendance to hear Kevin Bredenbeck and Steve Weiner talk about the “Development of the Sikorsky X2”. The silent auction raised over $800 and was a great success. Charlie Weeks was the lucky winner of an X2 model.

Allow me to introduce our executive for the next two years:

President - Phil Alldridge
Vice President – Jackie Banas
Event Chairman – Dave Walsh
Secretary – Mike Scheppa
Membership Chairman – Max Koessick
Treasurer – Steve Cizewski

In addition, Noah Becker has agreed to be our Webmaster and Rosie Abeyta is our official historian!

October we were invited to visit Flight Safety International at Palm Beach International airport, and were treated to a tour of the training facilities and, for many of us, a few minutes at the controls of an S-70! (Look for the March ’13 event to have a crack at flying the s-92A!!)

The momentum continued in November with a meeting at the Stuart JetCenter, where Gregg Ambrose gave a talk on the “History of the S-61”, followed by a tour of the S-61T assembly facility. This was a great fly-in event and we were joined by the Martin County Sheriff (OH58A), Cloud 9 Helicopters (two R22’s, an R44, and a 300D) and “Turbo-Eddie” with his R44. Combined with burgers and hot dogs, a better aviation evening could not be had!

Now for 2013!!

Events kick off on Saturday January 19th at Rene St. Julien’s home at the Treasure Coast Airpark, and anyone is invited to fly in to the event! Lt. Col. Lee Anderson will give a talk on the “CV-22 – From Cancellation to Combat Operations” and once lucky attendee will win a flight in an RV-7! This will be a day to remember, and costs only $10 including lunch!!! RSVP to SouthFloridaAHS@Gmail.com – and call Dave Walsh at 772-631-9138 if you intend to fly in. Walk-ins are always welcome. Meeting starts with coffee and donuts at 10 A.M.!!

February’s meeting will be on a Saturday also, as we will be visiting the Bristow Academy in Titusville (http://www.heli.com). Bristow is one of the leading schools for helicopter flight training in the nation, and this will be a great opportunity to see their operation. Check out our website and Facebook pages for more details as they emerge and mark your calendars for February 16th at 11 a.m.
In March we hope to return to FSI at Palm Beach International, and we hope to get access to the S-92A simulator! Mark your Calendars for March 20th, and stay tuned....

In April, we will meet at Cloud 9 Helicopters (http://www.cloud9helicopters.com/) at North County Airport (F45) near West Palm Beach. Russ Stiles will present a history of the RAH-66 Comanche helicopter!

We are also discussing how we can attend or support “Bensen Days” at Wauchula Municipal Airport (CHN) in April, but their web site is down! If anyone knows anything about the event, please contact Dave Walsh (DWalsh@Sikorsky.com) or myself (PAldridge@sikorsky.com).

That’s all for now – thank you to all who have supported the Chapter this year, and hopefully we will expand and improve as the years go by!!

Phil Alldridge

President, AHS South Florida Chapter

PAldridge@sikorsky.com