



## **Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference**

DATE: **September 29, 2003**

TO: **Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference  
Regular and Associate Members**

SUBJECT: **Minutes of Regular Meeting - Sept 17-18, 2003  
Houston, Texas- Clarion Motel**

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Dave Milling**

The 25 year anniversary barbecue was a great success. Thanks to all who helped to make an enjoyable evening.

The Chairman presented discussions regarding the HSAC elections coming up. Elections for the HSAC position of Chairman and Treasurer are due. A call for nominations was been made and candidates notified. New HSAC officers will be Gary Tucker, Chairman and John Davis Treasurer and will be installed at the first meeting of 2004.

Sign-in cards are available for all members, and each member is encouraged to assure accuracy of the information. It is critical that the email address be correct, as the plan is to conduct the election process electronically.

### **Safety Presentation – Bob Williams- GOM safety statistics data presentation**

Bob Williams presented to the membership an over view of the statistics of the GOM area of operation. The presentation included all the data collected over the past with emphasis on the last five years. The first half of 2003 data was also included in the presentation. In summary, the accident rate is trending up. At present the rate is higher than it has ever been. Mr. Williams is recommending that HSAC benchmark ourselves and evaluate where we should become more proactive.

### **Safety Presentation- Bill Stiles**

Bill Stiles presented to the membership a discussion regarding offshore crane operations that could impact helicopter operations. It is critical that good communications between all involved is maintained. The HSAC produced crane stickers can be obtained from Tom Surhoff

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT- JOHN DAVIS** - Mr. Davis briefed the membership on the status of the new dues structure. John asked that any companies that could and wished to make donations to HSAC to please contact him. There is still a need for HSAC to have its own TV, VCR, and computer projector. Renting these items at the various hotels is very expensive. Presentations were made of certificates for financial support to HSAC. Members, both Associate and Regular were presented certificates of appreciation from HSAC celebrating the 25th anniversary.

### **Vice Chairman Report- Casey Lowery-**

The HSAC web site has an order form from which all HSAC produced products are available. Members can receive one cd at no cost, but other parties will be assessed a \$10.00 fee for shipping and handling.

Mr. Lowery announced Dave Milling is retiring from the post of Chairman effective at the next meeting. Dave has contributed to HSAC success over the past 20 years.

### **HSAC/FAA INTERFACE- BILL STILES**

**FAA report-** Don Day briefed the membership on the upcoming expiration of the letter of agreements. The new codes will be provided in the upcoming months, prior to December.

With the departure of Kelly Teague at Baton Rouge FISDO the committee is requesting volunteers.

The FAA is looking forward to a position paper from HQ regards GOM issues of communication, weather and surveillance.

Mr. Day introduced to the membership Mr. Richard Healing from the NTSB. Mr. Healing is the newest appointee to the board.

Terry Cole- HSAC/FAA committee.

Mr. Cole briefed the membership of meetings attended by Mike Hurst, Mark Fontenot and Mr. Cole in Washington, DC to work with the FAA on the FAR 135/125 rewrite.

## **STANDARDIZATION & SAFETY –GARY TUCKER**

Mr. Tucker introduced Frank Colby with the Gulf Coast fish spotters. Mr. Colby reminds the members that fish season continues through November.

New HSAC frequency cards were distributed.

A working group will be formed to look at the last 5 years of accident data in the Gulf of Mexico. The group will conduct as detailed as possible review these accidents. The goal to develop a plan where HSAC can be more proactive in preventing future accidents. Gary Tucker, Bob Williams, Mike Hurst, and Ted Winslow have volunteered to lead up the team. A meeting will be held in Lafayette, Louisiana in conjunction with Gulf Coast Safety and training seminar on Oct. 14 at the Best Western Acadian Hotel.

## **GOVERNMENT LIAISON – RICK OEDER**

Mr. Oeder introduced Jim Hicks with NORAD. Mr. Hicks discussed the recent joint exercises that were conducted in the GOM. These were similar but smaller than the exercises done two years ago. The warning areas worked well and communications were excellent. Preparations for the Houston Texas, Super Bowl in January are under way.

Coordination with Houston center with the new codes is ongoing and scheduled for completion by December 15. The Morgan City aerostat is back in operation.

Mr. Oeder briefed the membership on Coast Guard and Customs new regulation issues. The Coast Guard proposed regulations has been stalled at present.

Peter Bowden presented results of meetings held with Customs personnel over the passenger manifest issues. There are new regulations that will be implemented that will impact offshore transport. It is recommended that all carriers obtain advice from the local customs officials to assure compliance. Peter can be contacted for additional information..

## **HELIPORTS AND AIRWAYS – GARY GUERRERO**

[WWW.HSAC.ORG](http://WWW.HSAC.ORG) is the web site that has been redesigned by Kirk Harrison at ChevronTexaco.

The committee is looking for any diagrams of shore base (heliports) locations. Co-Chairman Mark Fontenot and the IFR work group are looking for FAA volunteers to continue the work conducted with the Baton Rouge FISDO. There is discussion regarding the Coast Guard needing a new tower in the Sabine Pass area.

The group is assisting the FAA in developing a Mission Need Statement. This effort may include asking members to perform some political action work to achieve funding for FAA/Industry projects.

### **Introduction Ann Carroll- HAI-**

Ms. Carroll is the HAI point person on FAA appropriations for low level altitude weather, communications and surveillance for the Gulf of Mexico. HAI has been working together with FAA for the past several years on obtaining funding so that FAA can provide the basic services they provide on shore. A meeting will hold with the FAA at HAI office in Washington on Oct. 16 2003 at 1300 hours local time. As many industry participants as possible should plan to attend.

A discussion as to groups that could benefit from these types of services was held. Coast Guard, Fisheries, as well as the 3000 + employees working in the oil and gas industry offshore could see safety enhanced by this type of funding.

**HSAC-API RPL-2 Helideck Guide** - The committee is working to harmonize these two documents. A draft document was presented to the steering committee for review. The plan is with in the next two weeks to present the draft to API..

## **INDUSTRY LIAISON – TOM SURHOFF –**

### **Bird strike Awareness- Jeff Cummins**

Mr. Cummins made a presentation of Bird stike potentials and risks. Each year in excess of \$3 Billion of damage is caused to aircraft by bird strikes. Only approximately 15% of the bird strikes are reported therefore this is a conservative estimate. Some recommendations to mitigate risk from bird strikes include look for NOTAMS about migratory bird movement, and fly at higher altitudes for as long as possible.

The GOM area is considered a high risk area due to the numbers of migratory birds both residing and transiting the area.

## **Bell Helicopter Safety Discussion --Don Maguire**

Mr. Maguire presented to the membership a safety presentation that encompassed lessons learned from the past two years of Bell 407 incidents. Corrosion is a condition that the industry must deal effectively with to maintain safety performance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**HSAC Bylaw** Changes to HSAC Bylaws were adopted and approved by the Regular Membership. A copy can be obtained on the web sight.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The steering committee is requesting that members please ask maintenance leaders in there organization about issues that HSCA could work on behalf of the industry. It is believed that a technical maintenance committee be formed as a standing committee of HSAC.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

## **MEETING INFORMATION**

The next meeting will be held in January in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Minutes Submitted by: Ted Winslow

Minutes Approved by: Gary Tucker