RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER

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Volume XXIII, Issue XII, December 1987



HELITAC

5 Dec., Sat. Landells Aviation, Desert Hot Springs

By Kevin Walker



For many of you who have been long time supporters of RMRU, articles on our monthly trainings may seem to be reports on same old things, tracking, technical, winter skills, and yes, helitac. Even though

for the most part we indeed do these trainings again and again, there is a very important reason. Our lives and the lives of others may depend on our ability to perform these skills in a safe and timely manner. Helicopter skills are placed in a high priority.

Same as with other things we do, fellowship is important. Before starting the organized training, we spent time enjoying old war stories and tales of past adventures with our hosts. With us this day was mountain pilot, Steve DeJesus and Elaine Landells, close friend and owner of Landells Aviation.

We started off by having Steve tell us about the helicopter, its strong points, and of course, its weak areas. Hazardous areas were discussed such as tail rotor, a very delicate yet deadly location if dealt with improperly. Next we spent quite a bit of time around the ship while in a static mode. Here members could learn and hone their skills for entering, exiting, and loading equipment in a safe environment.

After all present had a chance to do the static portion of training, we moved outside. Steve rolled out one of Landells Aviation's Bell Jet Rangers, went through his pre-flight check and then fired up the ship. We paired up in twos, one new and

one experienced member. Using our prefab training rock, members practiced guiding the pilot and ship into position using hand signals. Once in postion, whether it be a one runner touch down or full hover above the rock, another pair would enter the ship and then be moved away approximately 100 feet where they would exit the ship in a hover about five feet above the ground. All present got a chance to go through the procedure at least three times.

After Steve had the ship cooled and shut down we critiqued the morning's activities, and then adjourned to lunch. After lunch we traditionally take all equipment out of the two vans for cleaning and inventory. While this was going on though, members Kevin Walker, Rob Gardner and pilot Steve DeJesus, infamously known as the "Three Amigos" entertained the group with their unique style of humor. I'll let it go at that. As it has been before, a very successful training. To Steve for his time and skill as a pilot, the staff for maintaining the ships so they're

ready when called on, and Elaine for giving us the time and use of her helicopter service, we say thank you. • RMRU

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HELITAC

6 Dec., Sun. Western Helicopters, Rialto

By Kevin Walker



Now why would we go train the very following day with helicopters you might ask. Two reasons... One, different pilots. And two, a different type of helicopter. Landells Aviation uses the Bell Jet Ran-

ger exclusively, Western Helicopters on the other hand also uses the Hughes 500 series aircraft, each distinctly different, and each with their own strong points.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

STATIC — RMRU members are seen discussing safety procedures and also practice entering and exiting the helicopter in a static mode. This gives everyone time to practice and hone skills in a safe environment.

Training followed the same format as with the previous day except for actual flying. On this day after static practice we moved several miles away to the hills behind the San Bernardino County Sheriff's training center. Here members had a chance to practice entering and exiting the helicopter in what is called a tow-in landing. This is where the pilot places the tips of both skids into the hillside, making the ship quite stable while working around it.

Doing back to back trainings proved to be very beneficial to all, allowing us to work with the two different types of helicopters. And to our hosts at Western, chief pilot Pete Gillies and pilot and chief of operations Dorcey Wingo, we warmly say thanks for a successful day two of helitac.• RMRU

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The RMRU Newsletter is the official publication of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc., a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education. The RMRU Newsletter is published 12 times per year by the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc., and is intended primarily to inform the regular and sustaining members.

If you would like to receive the newsletter on a regular basis, and at the same time become a sustaining member, send your tax deductible donation of \$35.00 or more to:

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit Post Office Box 5444 Riverside, CA 92517



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

MOVING INTO POSITION — Pilot Steve DeJesus moves helicopter 16U (Uniform) over the RMRU practice boulder. Receiving hand signals for RMRU member Bob Sairs (blocked), with Kevin Walker there to assist, while Walt Walker, Eric Townsend and Larry Carter stand by.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

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EXITING — RMRU member Glenn Henderson exits the helicopter while Steve DeJesus holds the machine in a hover.

entering and existing the helicopter in a dialocal



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

TOW IN — Pilot Pete Gillies holds the helicopter against the hillside in what is called a "tow in", while Larry Landweir kneels to the left, and Bill Blaschko prepares to load his pack and then enter the helicopter. This method is preferred when there is a need for the pilot to maintain his position for more than a short period of time as the ship is quite stable.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

RMRU AT WESTERN — RMRU members took time to gather around heliocopter 69F (Foxtrot) for a group photo. Seated is Bob Wintz, Bud White, Larry Carter, pilot Pete Gillies, Dona Halcrow, Steve Bryant, Rob Gardner, Joe Erickson and Larry Landweir. Standing; Jim Fairchild, Walt Walker, Eric Townsend and Kevin Walker (in the ship), Bill Blaschko, Mary Bowman and pilot Dorcy Wingo.

\$USTAININGMEMBERS

JULY 1987

Terry & Susan Henderson

Dr & Ms Guy M. Hunt

Paul W. Sutherland, MD

Edward Dillingham

Jay & Jeanne Wallis

Florian Boyd

The Elliott Pope Preparatory School

John Murdock

Sierra Club, Mt. Baldy Chapter

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*Karolyn Stanovich

*Bill Briggs

*Bruce R. Dodd

*Dr & Mrs Robert Williamson

*Mike Daugherty

*Judith A. Caldwell

*George Kretsinger

*Nomad Ventures

*Rotary Club of San Jacinto

*Charles D. Erickson

†Augusta Willoughby Little Bishop

AUGUST 1987

James & Priscilla De Spain

Lawrence Carter

Joanne C. Dupont

Richard & Karin Greenwood

James Sadoyama

Lois E. Lane

Rotary Club of Arlington

Hemet Breakfast Lions Club

OCTOBER 1987

Gordon G. Christiansen

Elizabeth Szoke

Tim Perkins

Steve MacLlelan

NOVEMBER 1987

Mrs Bill Ward

Bob & Jan Fischer

Leslie & Karen Venable

Robert W. Matheny

Charles Latimer

*Idullwild Property Owners Assc.

*D.S. Carburetion

*James B. Murphy

*Magnon Electric, Inc.

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†Kaufman & Broad

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†E.L. Yeager

DECEMBER 1987

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Ross & Grace Sweet

Cliff Lundquist

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C/O Jim Holbrook

Steve & Linda Zappe

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*Jack Bamberger

*Avis M. Anderson

the Day

*Mr & Mrs David Harrah

*Al & Yaeko Kishaba

*Thrifty Corporation

*Dr & Mrs Norman Mellor

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*Century Club, donation of \$100 or more. †Summit Club, donation of \$500 or more.