

Virginia Helicopter Association

VHA Meeting Notes: 1st April 2007

The April meeting was excellent, as proclaimed by all. As sometimes occurs, weather got to be an issue, particular to those flying in from distance. Listening the previous day to the Weather Brief brought concerns of heavy rain and thunderstorms, however, the actual meeting day was pretty good, and the convection never developed. Henry Schwartz flew down from Stafford and reported very hazy conditions, but nothing more.

Attendance was around the twenty mark, and we had some notable first time people in attendance.

In particular Dr. Mark Robeson, President, American Helicopter Society, Int'l. (AHS) made a brief presentation on the AHS. He also addressed the coming Forum-63 in Va. Beach, the first week of May. We talked briefly about the possible ways VHA members might offer voluntary assistance to the AHS Forum, in exchange for admission. Well done Mark. It was a pleasure.

Ms. Jean Walthrop, the Williamsburg Airport (KJGG) owner made a brief presentation of the recently constructed hangars at KJGG. They have two hangars designated for helicopters, and they will rent for \$250.00. Please see Jean, or let me know if anyone has an interest.

In addition, Bob Cummings, a Black Hawk pilot from Ft. Eustis Felker Field (KFAF) joined our meeting for the first time. Bob is a sailing friend of mine and a long time personal friend and colleague of John Musser's. A sincere welcome to Bob.

Also, not to say the least, Dale Moore, a long time friend and R-22 Pilot/Owner was able to join us. Dale has a very cramped weekend, and it was a pleasure to have him.

Craig Moen, and Iain Ronis of Sky Connect, LLC (Currently members of VHA) were present, and offered to make presentation of their technology at our May meeting. A definite welcome to Craig, and Iain.

OPENING: Bob Reid officially started the meeting at 1400 Hrs. After a brief welcome to new visitors, Dr. Mark Robeson, President, American Helicopter Society, Tidewater Division, gave a brief presentation of the American Helicopter Society. He also spoke to the coming AHS Forum-63 coming to Virginia Beach, the first week in May.

MAY MEETING FLY-IN to TANGIER: Dr. Neil Kay has offered to host a fly-in lunch to Tangier Island for our next meeting, and while Neil was unable to make this meeting, he had called last night to once again make this offer. After some very positive discussion, we decided to make a go of it. I will give Neil a call tomorrow, and begin the planning to make it happen. It will take a fair degree of coordination, but I think we are up to it. We shall see.

VHA LOGO SHIRTS: Bob presented Dr. Nichols with a golf shirt, with his personalized helicopter logo. Bob has set up the mechanism to make shirt orders, and will be making up a call via e-mail for orders from the membership. Should take place next couple of days.

John Musser then made presentation on the status of the development of a model ordinance for Helicopter Use at Residential Property for York County. John and Bob had met with York County administrators on Friday, and the out come was shared with the group. Thus far all administrators have been very supportive of the work VHA has accomplished, and at this point the County Administrator will present the Model to the Board of Supervisors for review. We had a great deal of open discussion from across the membership. Many opinions were expressed. All good. The work that has been accomplished to date, particularly that from John is commendable.

VHA/HAI/VDA HELICOPTER AIRSHOW: At this point the meeting was directed to the pending Fall American Heroes Air Show. As a first step the following members have stepped forward to represent the VHA Steering Committee:

- 1) John Musser
- 2) Andy Gibbs
- 3) Ray Jarman
- 4) Charles MacFarlane
- 5) Bob Reid
- 6) Dan Bohlke
- 7) Henry Schwarty

Also, part of their charge was to nominate the Coordinator of the Project. John Musser, and Mark Gladney have been selected for that responsibility. With these two guys at the pivot points, I think we have an excellent chance at success.

The next American Heroes Air Show will be at Atlanta, on the 29th of April. We need to get as many of the Steering Committee down to this function as possible. Andy has previously suggested we do one of his charter planes to this function.

Also, several members recognized the need to site visit the Great Meadows Air Show Site. Hopefully that will be scheduled next week (the date, not the visit).

Many concerns were raised concerning the complexity of conducting the Air Show. All very good points. Unfortunately, Pat Robinson, and Randy Burdette were not able to make this meeting. They have probably more first hand information about the particulars of conducting this event than anyone else. However, that will change as John and Mark begin to communicate with these individuals, and the other American Heroes Air Show coordinators. In particular, Mr. Jim Pauls, the Voluntary Executive Officer, has been doing these Air Shows for thirteen years, and has committed his expertise to ours. I think we can do it. No, I know we can do it. It may not be perfect the first go around, but that will always be the case "First-time-around".

John, don't forget you have a Steering Committee, so use us. ADJOURNMENT: 1600 Hrs.