

January 2018



Fellow Twirly Birds:

We look forward to seeing you at the Twirly Bird reception on February 27, 2018 in the Pavilion Room at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas. The Westgate is the former Hilton Hotel adjacent to the Convention Center. The reception doors will open at 17:00 so that you can join us just after the first day that the Heli-Expo show floor is open. We will start the formal portion of the reception at about 18:00 and should conclude by 19:00 so that you can attend other evening events if you wish. .

Ken and Jim Roberts, Trans Aero Ltd., have joined the elite group of Life Member Twirly Birds. This dynamic duo will receive their life member pins at the reception.

After my plea for suggestions and assistance with the unexpected cost of the Reception in Las Vegas we received a check from Twirly Bird, Danna Henderson.

Danna was kind enough to share some of her helicopter history with us.

“Hi Steve,

My helicopter experiences mainly involved writing about them not flying them. In early 1960, I was a reporter for Aviation Daily and had a couple of hundred hours in Cessna 120/140s. Jean Ross Howard was working around the corner at Aerospace Industries Assn., trying to create new Whirly-Girls, and she persuaded Bob Trimble to teach me to fly a helicopter, so I went to Yreka, CA, flitted around in a Bell 47D, and managed to autorotate and fly squares well enough after a bit to be awarded a rotorcraft rating by Bob on April 26, 1960AB (after Bell), according to the amusing certificate on my office wall. In 1961, I was one of the WGs, including WG#1 Hanna Reitsch, who visited JFK at the White House—you may have seen the photo.

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Other notable experiences included flying around Washington, D.C, with Joe Mashman in a Huey Cobra, pretending we were strafing the cars on the Shirley Highway. On a trip to Venice I bought Joe a little green glass cobra that he kept in his office until he died.

At the invitation of Clif von Kann, I went to Fort Rucker in 1964, maneuvered around the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault range in an OH-13 without shooting down any other helicopters, and was made an Honorary Army Aviator. I covered the infamous LOH (light observation helicopter) competition extensively for the Daily, culminating in an eight-page special edition.

I could also tell you some stories about early HAA conventions, but won't. I spent most of my 50-year career writing about airlines for Air Transport World but continue to be semi-active in the Whirly-Girls."

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I want to recognize and thank, Roger Gould, who took it upon himself to register our Twirly Bird domain name in 2002 and giving it to the Twirly Birds. Roger also maintains the website and posts pictures, newsletter etc. All of this effort is at no cost to the Twirly Birds, however at great cost to Roger's mental health as he receives old clippings, faded photos, and unintelligible newsletters with expectations that they will immediately appear on the Twirly Bird website.

Roger completed Army flight training in 1962 , served two tours in Viet Nam, retired from the Army and went on to work in a variety of interesting positions including helicopter flight test programs. Roger is a founding member of the Viet Nam Helicopter Pilots Association.

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The following recent news, from Australia, raises the question about Twirly Birds becoming rare birds.

"A new rescue drone was barely out of the box before it was put to use in a real rescue at Lennox Head on Thursday.

Two teenage boys were seen in distress about a kilometer north of the patrol area at Lennox Head, on the New South Wales far north coast.

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The 17-year-old and 15-year-old boys were about 700 metres offshore in a swell of about 3 metres.

A member of the public reported seeing the boys, and within two minutes the new drone had located the boys and dropped an inflatable flotation device to them.

The boys clung to the rescue pod and were able to swim to shore.

Surf Life Saving NSW said the boys were exhausted but unharmed.

The rescue drones were only unveiled at Lennox Head Thursday morning, as part of a collaboration between Surf Life Saving NSW and the State Government.

The Government announced last month it would invest \$430,000 in drone technology as part of a trial on the NSW north coast.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said that investment had paid off when the technology was used in the dramatic rescue.

"This is a world-first rescue," he said.

"Never before has a drone fitted with a flotation device been used to rescue swimmers like this."

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November 16, 2017 In this episode of Behind-the-Scene @ NTSB, we chat with Clint Johnson, Chief of the Alaska Regional Office, in the Office of Aviation Safety. We discuss the importance of general aviation to the communities in Alaska and the impact of the work done by the NTSB. Clint also shares how he became an Aviation Investigator and what got him interested in aviation.

Clint is the stepson of Twirly Bird Rex Bishopp. Rex is the cousin of well - known Twirly Bird, Jim Ricklefs. Small world.

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We are pleased and proud to announce that Twirly Bird, Roy Morgan, is the 2018 Les Morris award recipient.

Twirly Bird, Sergei Sikorsky, will honor us with his presence at the Twirly Bird reception where he will present the award to Roy.

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In 2016, Twirly Bird Marty Pociask interviewed Roy for the Helicopter Foundation International Heritage Series in Rotor Magazine. Roy's interview is attached to this newsletter and reprinted with the permission of the publisher.

Please join us in Las Vegas as we honor Roy and recognize his lasting contribution to the helicopter emergency services.

Fellow Twirly Birds...we need member feedback regarding news about yourself, about other Twirly Birds, or nominations for associate members.

We really need your participation by letter, phone, or e-mail.

My e-mail is [srs@jma.com](mailto:srs@jma.com). Or if it is easier, just call me at 408 348 5780

KEEP YOUR ROTOR IN THE GREEN!

Steve Sullivan