

# Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference



DATE: **May, 20, 2004**

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

SUBJECT: **Minutes of Regular Meeting - May 20, 2004  
Lafayette, Louisiana- Hotel Acadian**

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Chairman -Gary Tucker**

The Chairman recognized Bill Stiles and presented a plaque for his efforts and contributions to HSAC. Bill is planning retirement from Shell Offshore this June. Bill challenges the organization to continue the work in the spirit of cooperation. Also make every effort to get buy in to HSAC recommendations at the pilot and mechanic level in the field.

The Chairman presented new HSAC Treasurer, Joe Gross with BHP-Bilidon

The Chairman thanked the membership for the work these three days. The work groups were well attended and progress is made. Special thanks to members of the FAA work group for their presentation.

Sign-in cards are available for all attendees, and each encouraged to assure accuracy of the information. It is critical that the email address be correct

## **Safety Topic- Casey Lowery**

Mr. Lowery presented to the membership a case study of an incident investigation involving managing obstacle clearance. The topic included references to human factors in the every day business of flying helicopters in the GOM environment. Flight crews should be encouraged to report helideck obstructions in a timely manner so that corrections can be made

Mr. Lowery presented a case study of how a helideck obstruction could be removed by pilots reporting these. Pilots need to be encouraged to report obstructions so that timely repairs can be made.

## **GOM Special Work Group, Presentation – Bob Williams-**

Bob Williams presented to the membership an over view of the work being conducted by the HSAC special work group. This work, started last year, includes the review of accidents over the past five years with the intent to get to the root cause. The presentation included all the data collected. The membership was presented with identifications and lists that the group feels is indicative of accident causation. As a result of analyses, and a great deal of discussion, HSAC has developed a number of RPs and safety alerts. These will be posted on the HSAC.org web page.

The special work group will present the work to an organization called OOC. Offshore Oil Operators. This organization, much like IADC, International Association for Drilling Contractors, is also concerned with safety.

## **Safety Presentation- Kelly Teague**

Kelly used to work at the FAA Baton Rouge Louisiana FISDO. Now he is working with the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. An FAA group headed up by Bob Tallmadge will be investigating GOM helicopter accidents. Kelly has been asked to facilitate meetings with the goal to drill down to the root cause of the accidents. HSAC has been requested to provide a team of up to eight members to participate in this work. Kelly encouraged the membership to be proactive in developing company safety management systems.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT- JOE GROSS**

Mr. Gross presented to the membership the address that HSAC donations are sent to. The New Year \$500 donations are now applicable. Also a form can be sent with HSAC invoice for those who need this documentation.

### **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 accessed a \$10.00 fee for shipping and handling.

Mr. Lowery announced we are looking for new location to hold the next meeting in Houston. Please check the web site for location announcement.

### **Government Liaison- RICK OEDER**

**NORAD report-** Jim Hicks 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. At our next meeting he will provide an up to date organization chart.

### **Hurricane Hunters Presentation-Wesley Ardt**

HSAC members were briefed on activities of this group based at Biloxi Miss. June 1 is the official beginning of Hurricane season for the COM and Atlantic/Caribbean basin. The web page [www.hurricanehunters.com](http://www.hurricanehunters.com) has additional information and contact information

### **NTSB Presentation- Richard Healing**

Mr. Healing presented to the membership his views on issues that are moving forward with in the NTSB. Work is progressing on definition consistency regarding incident and accident classification. Member Healing also discussed crew fatigue issues with the membership, and encouraged members to look into health, usage and monitoring equipment.

Rick Oeder provided the membership an overview of some lessons learned regarding the ERA S-76 A++ accident.

- Assure your emergency response plan is updated and current
- Have all HERDS and any other equipment tested and prepared
- Review plan for PINGER locator to assure compatibility with different vessels.

### **FAA 135/125 rewrite/ TSA interface- TERRY COLE**

In meetings in Washington DC the rewrite is moving forward rapidly. All recommendations made by the Rotorcraft work group have been accepted. Not many responses have been received by the FAA from industry as to items industry wants addressed.

FAA has been mandated by congress to address the flight and duty issue. It is believed there will be minimum impact to our type of charter work.

The new security rules addressing the GOM will go into effect July 1, 2004. Go to the TSA web page and navigate to General Aviation Security.

### **STANDARDIZATION & SAFETY –TERRY KAUFMAN**

Mr. Kaufman reminded the membership that June 1 is the start of hurricane season. Planning for personal and family evacuation should be made in advance.

Frequency cards were distributed.

**HSAC-FAA INTERFACE – TOM WORKMAN**

**HELIPORTS AND AIRWAYS –MARK FONTENOT for GARY GUERRERO**

Co-Chairman Mark Fontenot and the IFR work group are looking for FAA volunteers to continue the work conducted with the Baton Rouge FISDO.

Mark introduced Dr. Mark Buntin of the FAA –GOM work group. Dr. Buntin briefed the membership on the work conducted on behalf of all GOM industry users.

Letter of agreements are to be executed with Houston center in order to move forward the establishment of the required systems to bring communications and weather to users.

Dr. Buntin briefed the membership on ongoing test work being done with ADS\_B.

**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 –**

**Fish Spotters Report- Frank Colby**

Frank reports that the season has begun with fish spotters every day.

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY LIASON- KENNY HUETE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Chairman requested the membership communicate if the present schedule of three meetings per year is adequate. Work groups and committee meetings are now more often.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

**MEETING INFORMATION**

The next meeting will be held in September in Houston, Texas

Minutes Submitted by: Ted Winslow\_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Approved by: Gary Tucker\_\_\_\_\_