



**CHAPTER ONE** held a Membership Meeting on Tuesday 9 July 2013 with twelve members attending. The meeting was held at the Robinson Helicopter Company in Torrance, California.

The agenda for the event included a General Membership business meeting, new officer elections and a tour of the Robinson facility. (Note: Our tour of the Robinson manufacturing facility was limited to accommodate a maximum of twelve Chapter One participants.) Due to Robinson scheduling an opportunity for another tour for a much larger Chapter group is being considered after January 2014.

The Business Meeting was called to order, members welcomed and reports on Financial status by Treasurer Tom Cronin, review of Minutes

of the last Chapter meeting by Secretary Kirsten Larsen, and review of today's and future planned events by President Barry Shope were presented. A call for expanding volunteer support for obtaining speakers, membership out-reach, and new venues for tours was also discussed.

Nominations and elections of new Chapter One officers was also accomplished for the 2013-2014 term. Beginning 15 July the Officers of Chapter One are: Ms. Nikki Illingsworth- Secretary, Mr. Tom Cronin- Treasurer, Mr. Les Shobe- Vice President, and Ms. Michelle Cooper- President

The outgoing officers will be transitioning their roles with the new officers over the next two weeks and all stated that they remain available to assist the Chapter. Outgoing President Barry Shope welcomed the new officers then thanked Kirsten, Mike Beckage (VP) and Tom Cronin for their tremendous volunteer support and dedication to the Chapter during his two-year term. Planning for the next meeting this summer was also discussed regarding engaging a leading industry speaker in the crash protection technology field. The meeting was then adjourned and the tour of Robinson Helicopter commenced.



**Robinson Helicopter Company History-** (from [www.Robinsonheli.com](http://www.Robinsonheli.com)) - Unable to interest any of his employers in his concept for a small, low-cost helicopter, Frank Robinson resigned from Hughes Aircraft and in June of 1973 founded Robinson Helicopter Company (RHC) in his Palos Verdes home. The first R22 prototype was built in a tin hangar at the nearby Torrance Airport, and in August of 1975, Robinson flew the R22 on its first flight. In 1979, after 3 1/2 years of testing and technical analysis, the R22 received its FAA Type Certificate. The first R22 was delivered in late 1979 and soon became the world's top selling civil helicopter. The R22 holds the most world records in its weight class including speed and altitude.

Preliminary designs for a five-place Turbine helicopter began in 2001, but it was in 2005 that engineering began in earnest after Robinson reached an agreement with Rolls Royce to develop the RR300 turbine engine. Five years later, on October 25, 2010, Robinson's five-place R66 Turbine received FAA certification.

Frank Robinson logged many hours in the R22 and R44 helicopters before his retirement at 80 in 2010. He is a full member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and a Fellow of the American Helicopter Society. His story and accomplishments have been recognized with numerous, prestigious awards and honors as well as countless magazine covers. Without question, Frank Robinson has been the driving force behind the company's success.



Chapter One toured the very state-of-the art 600,000 square foot facility housing the entire manufacturing assembly and test operations. Robinson employs 1100 staff and produces between 50-80 helicopters per month with approximately 70% of its Sales being exports. Since 1988, Robinson Helicopter Company stated, it has manufactured more helicopters than any other helicopter manufacturer in the world.



**Pictured Above Left & Center : Robinson Helicopter final assembly area - rotor installation and flight test prep**

**Pictured Above Right: Barry Shope presents the Chapter's Certificate of Appreciation to Robinson Helicopter Tour Host Mr. Keith Botel.**

**Right: (L-R) Chapter Members - Barry Shope, Scott Lund, Anil Khadilkar , Gordon Cress, Tom Cronin, Craig Fong, Rob Ziegler, Michelle Cooper, Tom Lasser, Lynette Honsey, Les Shobe, Kirsten Larsen.**

