

The logo for Phoenix Helicopters, featuring a stylized teal helicopter rotor with four blades.

Phoenix

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WINTER

NEWSLETTER

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2015 with Phoenix

As we have come to the end of the year and are well into winter it is time to reflect on activities at Phoenix and what we can all expect for the coming months into next year. There has been a total of seventeen PPL passes, four successful trips to far afield and new aircraft to mention but a few activities. With more of the same in addition to some ambitious new trips and pleasure flying events, 2016 promises to provide plenty of activity for all.

Since the last newsletter congratulations go to:

PPL Skills Test:

- February – Andrew Waite
- February – Matt Fedrick
- February – Will Thorne
- March – Philippe Perreaux
- March – Jonathan Deibel
- April – Ivan Snell
- April – Matt Madden
- June – Graham Portbury
- July – Mark Kelliher
- July – Tom Newey
- July – Austen Short
- September – Ian McGregor-Paterson
- October – Phill Barnet
- October – Ben Machin
- October – Mike Moorey
- October – Mat Reid
- November – James Rowland

CPL Skills Test:

- April – Max Tebbitt
- October – Tim Crisp
- October – Sam Richards



The skills test amounts to the culmination of plenty of hard work and dedication. A huge congratulation's goes to all the students who have passed and also to their instructors, it is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved and we look forward to seeing you self-fly hire in the future. With more students completing their solo work there will be more to come for sure.

Phoenix Trips

Duxford

After a morning of waiting for the weather to clear Phoenix students, instructors and staff finally managed to depart for the first group trip of the year. Taking three R22's and two R44's, the formation departed for the Imperial War Museum Duxford.



Le Touquet

June saw the formation in flight again. A helicopter convoy of eight aircraft, including two R44's and six R22's, flew over the channel to the beautiful French town of Le Touquet-Paris-Plage. The trip was a great success, brilliant flying, a music festival and good company. Big thanks to all our students that came along!



Wales Mountain Flying

Having proven to be a highly successful trip last year, our numbers had increased for this year's Mountain Flying weekend with 20 of us in total descending on Wales. Split between seven aircraft (and one car) the formation departed North-West bound for the mountains. The weekend provided some fantastic flying with spectacular scenery and mountain top landings. A special thank you to John and Philly Sargent for flying in early to cater for everyone, the food was certainly a hit!



RNAS Yeovilton

Organising trips is always luck of the draw when it comes to the weather. Choosing a date in December wouldn't be everyone's best guess for sunny skies but our luck was in. Visiting RNAS Yeovilton three of the R22's made their way towards the South-West for a look around an active airbase and the Royal Navy Lynx squadron. A quick trip around the museum and visit to the LARS facility it was back up into the sunshine, racing the sunset to make it back for last light.



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Aircraft News

G-OAVA

2015 saw the return of the beloved G-OAVA fresh from rebuild. With all new avionics, leather seats, a fresh paint job and upgraded blades she is a real joy to fly and has already seen the success of three CPL passes and many PPLs since her return to action.



G-VVBL

We are also pleased to welcome G-VVBL to the fleet. She arrived just in the nick of time for the trip to Wales. The aircraft is a "Raven 2" model, which utilises a fuel injection system as oppose to the traditional carburettor system in previous R44's. The fuel-injected engine produces more power and eliminates the need for carb heat.



Five Years Flying

Five Year Anniversary

Phoenix Helicopters reached a significant milestone in its young life turning 5 years old in February. The company was formed back in February 2010 by Chief Flying Instructor Paul Andrews, who having had many years' experience in the Helicopter industry, was keen to put his own ideas into action.



To celebrate the 5th anniversary Phoenix arranged a Helicopter party for the fleet of Robinson Training Aircraft. The morning wasn't as we had hoped, overcast with patches of low cloud, but by midday the weather at Blackbushe cleared and the crew of three R22's and an R44 were on their way to join the rest of the team down at Goodwood.



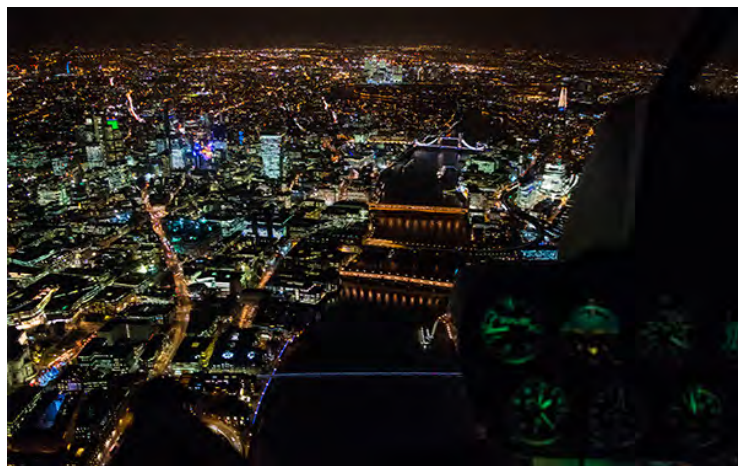


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Who says December isn't a good time to fly?

Apprentice Tom Preece has completed his night rating as part of the CPL course with a spectacular flight through London as it settled down for the evening. Finishing the rating



in December it was the perfect time to see the capital lit up like a Christmas tree. After a picturesque sunset at Blackbushe, Tom set off on the stroke of darkness with CPL instructor Paul Andrews.

Tom Preece is reaching the end of his apprenticeship culminating in the CPL course. As part of the CPL course applicants are required to complete their night rating consisting of five hours night

flight including five solo circuits. The evening weather was kind and after seeing a brilliant sunset, Tom and Paul were ready to depart in G-OAVA on their ambitious routing.

The planned route took them through the UK's busiest airspace and on frequency with three major London Airports. Departing Blackbushe it was straight onto Heathrow radar to join the Heli lanes and head towards central London. They were able to see all the major sights from a completely new perspective as seen in the day and there was certainly a festive feel to the flight. Winter wonderland was brilliantly lit up, the London eye sparkled with Red and the Shard towered above them all in bright white. Upon reaching Vauxhall they were then transferred to London City to hold west of London Bridge allowing for their departing traffic. It was then "best speed" required; sneaking through the gap to the Isle of Dogs before the next jet departed for sunnier climes.



Tom is now into the final part of his CPL course and well on the way to becoming a fully qualified commercial helicopter pilot.

What to expect from Phoenix in 2016

Flight Instructor Courses

Phoenix were approved by the CAA to conduct flight instructor courses mid 2015 so you are sure to see a few instructor student success stories in the New Year.

Phoenix Trips

2015 has been a great year with many student trips arranged however we are planning even more in 2016! Some trips are yet to be confirmed but below are some of the convoys we've got planned so far...

Duxford War Museum – 13th Feb

The Helicopter Museum – 25th March

Alton Towers – 6th-7th May

South France – 28th-30th May

Le Touquet – 18th-19th June

Wales Mountain Flying – 27th-29th August



More 'Self Fly Hire Heroes'

On the Phoenix website we have been congratulating anyone who is a PPL pilot that is hiring the helicopter and challenging themselves. Lots of these PPL pilots are in the hour building stages, working towards their CPL licences. Some flights are celebrated because

they involve challenging airspace, some are interesting private landing sites and some are on there because they are considerably further away from base than most flights.



We are expecting lots of new and interesting flights to be flown in the New Year. Remember, you can always take a safety pilot.

